

Ministry of External Affairs  
(CPV Division)

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Room No.20, Patiala House Annexe,  
Tilak Marg, New Delhi -110001

No. Q/OI/433/2/2020

November 18, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

The Hague Apostille Convention, 1961, abolishes the requirement of legalization of foreign documents for use in any member country, once an Apostille certificate (including e-Apostille) has been issued by a competent authority of the country where the document originates.

2. It has been brought to the notice of this Ministry that some institutes/organizations/establishments in India demand an apostilled document of a member country to be further attested by the Indian Mission/Post in that country. It is clarified that no further attestation or legalization of an apostilled document should be required in India as India is a member of the Hague Apostille Convention. An apostilled document should, therefore, be treated as legalized document in India by all concerned, in accordance with the international obligation under the Hague Apostille Convention.

3. Copy of a Note on "Issuing and Accepting Apostilles" is enclosed for ready reference. The full text of the Hague Apostille Convention and list of its member countries are available at:  
<https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/specialised-sections/apostille>

4. To avoid unnecessary hassle caused to general public by demand of further legalization or attestation of an apostilled document, all concerned are requested to disseminate the information contained in paras 1, 2 & 3 above, among organizations/academic establishments, which are under their charge/in their jurisdiction or are affiliated with them. The information may also please be prominently displayed on the official websites.

(Devesh Uttam)

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