



Hindi Khabar – August 2018

हिन्दी शिक्षा संघ (दक्षिण अफ्रीका)

HINDI SHIKSHA SANGH – South Africa



Founder: Pandit Nardevji Vedalankar
Hindi Shiksha Sangh (S.A.)
April 25, 1948



A Karma Yogi (1918 to 1995)

Pandit Ramchandra Mahadev Singh (R M Singh)

The Indian Diaspora has many unsung heroes who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of the wisdom that India symbolises. One such individual is the late Pt R M Singh.

Panditji was indeed an amazing soul. He has contributed significantly as a Hindi activist and community leader in South Africa. His work in Hindi also meant that he developed a close relationship with the Hindi Shiksha Sangh of South Africa. Apart from promoting and teaching Hindi, he and his Yuvuk Arya Samaj participated actively in Eisteddfods, Debates and other events

of the Sangh. He was also an adept amateur actor, especially in Hindi plays. An example of this was the play “Raj Tyaag” in which he acted and travelled with other actors under the auspices of the Sangh throughout the then Natal, Transvaal, Eastern and Western Cape with the seasoned actors as Shri Sisupalji Rambharos, Shri Jagadesanji Deva and the like. This was the first fundraising show the Sangh staged.

For his dedication to Hindi he was awarded the prestigious “Seva Ratna” award by the Hindi Shiksha Sangh. Panditji was a forceful speaker in the debating teams representing Durban and districts. These debates were held against Northern Natal and districts competing for the Swami Bhawani Dayal trophy. Panditji also led the “Kovid Mandal”. An exclusive organisation comprising of members who had passed the Rashtrabhasha Prachar, Samiti, Wardha, Kovid examinations. Later, when the number of Kovid candidates began to dwindle, this august organization was re-named as the “Hindi Mitra Mandal.”

Pundit R M Singh was an ardent activist in the promotion of Hindi. During his tenure as the Principal of the Yuvuk Arya Samaj Hindi School in Clairwood, approximately 480 learners were actively engaged in the study of Hindi. He obtained the Kovid Certificate in Hindi from the Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti, Wardha, Bharat (India) under the tutelage of Pt Nardevji Vedalankar. He later continued to assist Pt Nardevji Vedalankar in various classes including the evening classes held at the M L Sultan Technical College in central Durban.

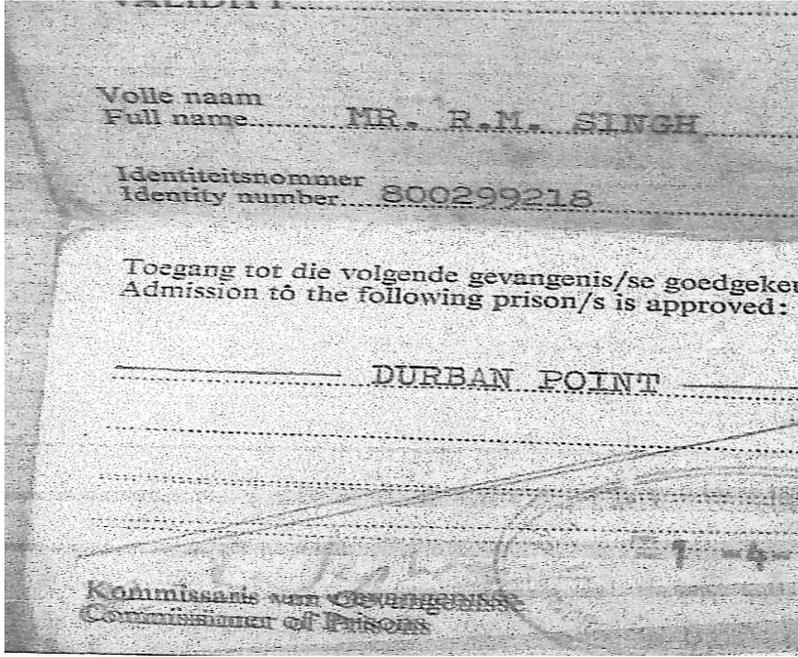
At an early age he was inspired by the teachings of Swami Dayanand Saraswatiji and the Arya Samaj Movement. While he accepted that the diversity in Hinduism was one of its unique strengths, he also was highly critical of the many practices that were based on superstition and unscientific. He believed that the teachings of the Satyarath Prakash as written by Swami Dayanandji was an ideal vehicle for reform in Hinduism and dedicated much of his life promoting and growing the Arya Samaj Movement in South Africa.

In an ardent and successful attempt to improve his knowledge of the Vedas he joined Vedic religious classes that were conducted by the erstwhile Pt Nardevji Vedalankar under the auspices of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha – South Africa.

South Africa. He was among the first to graduate as a Vedic Purohit and became an inspirational leader of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha - Vedic Purohit Mandal. At the same time, he dedicated his time and resources to the work of the Veda Niketan, the education arm of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha. Even today, so many years



after his demise, he is remembered for his accurate “ucharan” (pronunciation) of Vedic Mantras. He also pioneered Vedic religious services to Hindu prisoners at the Durban Point Road prison.



Pandit R M Singh's Certificate for Spiritual Ministration at the Durban Point Prison Services

His legacy is that many of his students have given rise to forthcoming generations of Vedic scholars who continue to proudly promote the teachings of Swami Dayanandji Saraswati and the values expounded by the Arya Samaj Movement.

He served many organisations during his long years of social and religious activism. His was an extremely committed member of the Yuvuk Arya Samaj that was based in his hometown, Clairwood. Yuvuk Arya Samaj enjoyed his wisdom, vision and mentorship for over fifty-five (55) years during which he

served as joint secretary for twenty-six (26) years, President for a year, School Manager, Trustee and Vice President. Members of his family continue to be currently engaged in the work of the Yuvuk Arya Samaj.

Today Hindi thrives in South Africa, despite the many challenges that people of Indian origin suffered. This has been possible due to the diligence, foresight and incredible efforts of people such as Pt R M Singh, truly an unsung hero of Hindi Activism in South Africa.

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Congratulations to Shrimati Devinaji Sewpersad on her Achievement as School Principal



Shrimati Devinaji holds an Honors Degree in Education and Hindi, as well as a Master's Degree in Educational Management. In 1988, she joined Radio Hindvani. She serves on the Academic Committee of Hindi Shiksha Sangh. For the past twenty (20) years, she is the Principal of Mzamo Primary School in Kwa Nyuswa Bothas Hill, Pinetown. Under her leadership, the school can boast of the building of twenty-two (22) classrooms and a daily feeding scheme kitchen, literacy classes for parents, grandparents, and a vegetable garden. Business Women's Association of South Africa has recognised her efforts by declaring her the Winner in the Government Department Category of Awards, at an Awards Giving Ceremony held at Elangeni Hotel, Durban. Shrimati Devinaji is also a senior grade Hindi teacher at the Hindi Shiksha Sangh and on Fridays from 6h00 to 7h00, she presents a Satsang Program on Radio Hindvani,





Delegates from Hindi Shisha Sangh – South Africa at 11th World Hindi Conference August 18-20: 2018 The Theme of the Conference was: “Vishwa Hindi aur Bharitya Sanskriti”

Her Excellency, Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, Bharat (India) officially inaugurated the conference amidst an attendance of about three thousand (3000) delegates. The conference was held at the Swami Vivekanand International Conference Centre in Goswami Tulsidas Nagar, Mauritius. On looking at the daily programme and the issues scheduled for discussion at the break away sessions, evoked a sense of belongingness that problems affecting diaspora countries promoting Hindi were on the table for debate, discussion and finding common grounds and resolutions.

The translation of the topic: “Vishwa Hindi aur Bharitya Sanskriti” means World Hindi and Indian Way of Life, Culture, Civilisation, Beliefs, Traditions, Religion, Habits etc. The dictionary explanation is as follows:

“Culture consists of activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilization and of people's minds.”

“A culture is a particular society or civilization, especially considered in relation to its beliefs, way of life, or art.”

The second day of the 11th World Hindi Conference saw deliberations on relations of Culture and Language with films, media and literature.

Many eminent scholars from both India and Mauritius, renowned lyricist and poet Prasoan Joshi, Goa's Governor Mridula Sinha and West Bengal Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi and others participated in the occasion.

The External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj invoked late former prime minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee and recited some of his poems.

Addressing at the 11th Vishwa Hindi Sammelan (World Hindi Conference), the Minister said, "Those who paid their rich tribute to Atal Ji through his poetries, I deeply thank them. It is a fittingly deserving tribute to a tall leader like Atal Ji."

She continued to recite some of Vajpayee's renowned poems, inviting a round of applause from the audience.

Swaraj underlined that Vajpayee had penned down a few couplets, which were inspired by the political scenario of the country. The EAM further said that the former prime minister was a great proponent of Hindi language and his poems would continue to inspire the masses.

Earlier on Sunday, August 19, 2018, Swaraj inaugurated 'Panini Language Laboratory' at Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) in Mauritius. The lab, gifted by the Indian government, will help MGI in teaching Indian languages in Mauritius.

Swaraj said that similar laboratories equipped with all modern technologies and similar facilities need to be build up in India also to promote Hindi and regional languages. She and Minister of State for External Affairs Gen V K Singh also paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi statue at the institute.



The Prime Minister of Mauritius, His Excellency, Praveen Kumar Jagganath hosted the conference. He kicked off the conference on Saturday, August 18, 2018 with a pledge to develop, enhance and conserve Hindi language in its original form.

Addressing the people assembled at the inauguration ceremony, Prime Minister, Pravin Kumar Jagannath stated, "As there are more than fifty crore Hindi-speaking people in the entire world, the day is not far when the United Nations will accord Hindi the status of "one of the important and recognised languages of the world, " an assumption we can assert with confidence.



However, as India gains political, economic and cultural clout at the international stage, Hindi too is matching step with a step.

Mr Jagannath also pointed out that at the beginning of the year, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also gave his inaugural speech at World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland in Hindi.

"His lecture in the most spoken language in India is a matter of pride for the language and the nation itself. It testifies the importance of Hindi at the global level," said the Prime Minister.

He remarked that Mr Modi's Hindi speech sends a message across that we can embrace the whole world while being connected with our roots. Mr Jagannath opined that India believes in a multi-cultural society.

Indian languages especially Hindi are linked to India's and Mauritius's traditions, values and ethos. The Hindi language is akin to many cultures and similar to many languages. It is a Cultural treasure trove and possesses just not a golden history but also a golden future.

He said that if we have an iota of doubt about Hindi's future vis-a-vis its existence, then we should move the cornea of our eyes around the world. The attendees including the scholars sitting in the hall with enthusiasm, gusto and belief are a proof of the language's brilliant stroke ahead.

The Prime Minister stated that Hindi has carved a niche for itself at the global level. In around forty nations around the world, Hindi is a medium of teaching in six hundred universities.

He said he felt elated when Indian filmmaker Kunal Kohli announced to make a film based on Ramayana and direct it in Mauritius itself. These things testify bonhomie between India and Mauritius.

He would rather call it "Blood relations" and pray for the ties' sustenance. The Prime Minister also reminded people that the first Hindi publication was published in 1907 in Mauritius and it became the voice of the labour class against the atrocities inflicted on them in the country.

There has been a constant endeavour to elevate the status of Hindi language. Since 1994, Hindi is being taught at middle level in schools and in universities.

The Prime Minister also revealed that the Mauritian government has constituted a "Hindi organisation" which in collaboration with social and cultural organisations is doing a commendable job in the development of Hindi language worldwide.

Conference: Day 1 – Saturday, August 18, 2018

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Her Excellency, Sushma Swaraj spoke eloquently with regards to the promotion of Hindi in India and in the diaspora countries, also explained the efforts of India in making



representation to NASA for the recognition of Hindi as the 7th World Language. She also explained her department's effort in getting a daily twitter world news feature in Hindi at NASA. This was also projected on the screen for delegates to have a glimpse of the quality of the twitter messages.

With the demise of The Honourable Atal Behari Vajpaae, past Prime Minister of India, the conference organisers were a little at their wits end. Changes had to be made to the programme to allow considerable time for a "Memorial Event" within the conference programme. This took over two and a half hours which meant that the conference was set back by almost three hours. Glowing tributes were paid to the late Prime Minister. Individuals and organisations were given

an opportunity to pay tribute to the great leader Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. At the parallel sessions, the following were the topics debated:

- i. The inter-relationship between language and folk culture
- ii. The development of Hindi and Indian Languages through technology
- iii. Indian Culture in the teaching of Hindi
- iv. Cultural Thinking in Hindi literature

A quick summary: The importance in understanding Hindi and its grammar and poetical language was of importance in understanding issues of culture and Indian civilisations whereas issues around technology and Hindi was repeatedly emphasised in promotion and written Hindi. Technology is fast taking over the world and it was important that the computer scientist and language developers, work on improving computer programmes for the study of Hindi. India has already entered and completed several programmes and will further continue to develop Hindi learning programmes.

The Minister further stated that India was ready to assist in the development of computer programmes for all levels of study both understanding Hindi – its Grammar and Literature. This further makes India responsible to help diaspora countries to fully assist in the promotion of Hindi. Hence, an important resolution taken was to appoint an attaché at Indian Consulate Offices in the diaspora countries to assist with Hindi promotion in those countries. This will also mean to assist with funding and development of Hindi in those countries. One of the objectives was on the development of language laboratories.

Conference Day 2 – Sunday, August 19, 2018

The following were the topics debated on the second day of the conference:

- i. The preservation of Indian Culture through films
- ii. Mass Communication, Media and Indian culture
- iii. Language and culture
- iv. Children's literature in Hindi and Indian Culture
- v. The future of Technology

A quick summary: The above topics were discussed in the context of preservation of Indian culture, civilisation, Indian way of life and the like. These discussions were underpinned by abstracts from Indian Sahitya (Literature). The great lesson learned was that there were many valuable literary works were also coming from diaspora countries. Many authors, poets and playwrights were doing fabulous work in all parts of the diaspora countries. How one sustains these interests and enthusiasms in an environment of western civilisation influence was something to think about and conquer. One cannot lose these talents from the diaspora countries.



It was repeatedly agreed that the diaspora countries need to develop literature, art, communication, and the like in relation to their countries so that the learner can relate to that kind of literature. All of this needs to be backed by technology and terms of their presentation and production.

India, the Department of Foreign Affairs took responsibility to assist with countries that need help in becoming fully functional in the promotion of Hindi. There will be channels of communication established to interact with the Department for assistance. Depending on the severity of needs and their urgency, the Department of External Affairs will make every effort to work with such organisations.

A detailed report in Hindi on each of the breakaway sessions is available on the conference website.

Conference Day 3 – Monday, August 20, 2018

This was a short day commencing at 10h00 and terminating at about 13h00 with lunch. the programme included concluding remarks by the Honourable Minister, Her Excellency Sushma Swaraj, the Ex-Prime Minister of Mauritius – Sir Anerood Jaggarnath and the Acting President of Mauritius Honourable Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory and awards giving ceremony to persons who have exceptionally contributed to the development of Hindi.

As stated above, the passing away of the Honourable Atal Behari Vajpayee contributed to the scaling down of the long programme. However, the encouraging and positive element was the intense debate on Hindi promotion in the diaspora countries.

Other interesting events at the conference pertaining to South Africa...

The Swami Vivekanand International Conference Centre was pinned from the ceiling with huge portraits of Hindi renowned poets such as Maithli Sharan Gupta, Harvanschrai Bachan and others. Among this constellation of Hindi shining stars was the portrait of revered Pandit Nardev Vedalankar remembering him since 1948, for his untiring effort in promoting Hindi in South Africa, in a land that many dared not to go. It was the wits of the likes of Mahatma Gandhi that would dare to visit South Africa and stay with its people in accomplishing their mission in the country. Each of the facility at the conference was named after a renowned Hindi scholar. The entire dining area accommodating about two thousand (2000) people at one sitting was named after Panditji. This was a unique tribute a person who arrived in South Africa with his family in 1948 and decided to live with its people for the love of his **Bharitya Sanskriti**.

Among the book launches, it was interesting to note the launch of a book on “Pravasi Bharitya Me Hindi Ki Khaani” the story of Hindi in the “Hindi Diaspora” by Dr Surendra Gambhir of American. The book also includes a full chapter on “Dakshin Africa Ka Ganrajaya Me Hindi” by Professor Usha Shukla.

The Mahatma Gandhi Institute published a book on writings from authors and poets from foreign countries. Here again it was a cherry on the top with poetry and prose writings from South Africa - Professor Usha Shukla - Durban, Shrimati Malthi Ramballi - Durban, Shrimati Urmilla Maharaj – Durban, Shrimati Sangita Maharaj - Gauteng and Shrimati Champa Bosistmunie - Pietermaritzburg.

ANNUAL NATIONAL HINDI EXAMINATION IN SOUTH AFRICA
Junior Grades: Sunday, October 21, 2018
Senior Grades: Saturday, November 24, 2018 and
Sunday, November 25, 2018



Hindi Shiksha Sangh (Midlands Region) Hosts "Kal Ki Sitare" August 18, 2018

The Hindi Shiksha Sangh, Midlands Region hosted their musical programme "Kal Ki Sitaare" on Saturday, August 18, 2018, at the Aryan Hall, PMB. The attendance was excellent with adult, youth and children at the event. A heart rendering thank you to all the sponsors for their support, a start to a long lasting relationship. Thank you Manish Nichha, Viroscha Govender, Verusha Naidoo, Mithal Brijmohan, Nivesh Mahabeer, Avish.Mahabeer, Sandeep Seeth, Renitta Sewpersad, Sunitha Hiralall, Aarti Govender, Priendra Chutterpaul, Asheena Larkin, Sue Hiralall. We appreciate it. Thank you to the excellent executive team. You helped make the event being a resounding success. Thank you Ms Thejal Jugwanth for the awesome manner in which you conducted the programme. To the Hindi School teachers and participants, thank you. You were all brilliant. Special thanks to Mr Pravesh Sunker. You were awesome 🙏 Thank you to Radio Hindivani for the live broad





श्रद्धांजलि



Revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee

(Tribute to a Patriot, Leader, Visionary, Philosopher and a Poet)



THRICE ELECTED PRIME MINISTER OF BHARAT (INDIA)

His Excellency, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was born on December 25, 1924, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India. He passed away on August 16, 2018, in New Delhi, Bharat, leader of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and thrice Prime Minister of Bharat. (India). The Hindi Shiksha Sangh – South Africa expresses its condolences on the passing of a committed Patriot, Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Vajpayee was first elected to parliament in 1957 as a member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), a forerunner of the BJP. In 1977 the BJS joined three other parties to form the Janata Party, which led a government that lasted until July 1979. As Foreign Minister in the Janata government, Vajpayee earned a reputation for improving relations with Pakistan and China. In 1980, following a split in the Janata Party, Vajpayee helped the BJS to reorganize itself as the BJP. In 1992 he was one of the few Hindu leaders to speak out against the destruction of the historic mosque at Ayodhya by anti-Muslim extremists.

Vajpayee was sworn in as prime minister in May 1996 but was in office only 13 days, after failing to attract support from other parties. In early 1998 he again became prime minister, in elections in which the BJP won a record number of seats, but he was forced to make a shaky alliance with regional parties. In 1999 the BJP increased its seats in parliament and consolidated its hold on government.

Although considered a pragmatist, Vajpayee assumed a defiant posture in the face of Western criticism of India's testing of several nuclear weapons in 1998. He had earlier been praised for his conciliatory gestures toward India's Muslim minority. In 2000 his government began an extensive program of divestment of public funds from several key state-run industries. In 2002 Vajpayee's government was criticized for its slowness in reacting to riots in Gujarat in which some 1,000 people (primarily Muslims) died. Nevertheless, in 2003 Vajpayee made a concerted effort to resolve India's long-running feud with Pakistan over the Kashmir region. Under his leadership, India achieved steady economic growth, and the country became a world leader in information technology, though the poorer elements of Indian society often felt left out of the economic prosperity. In 2004 his coalition was defeated in the parliamentary election, and he resigned from office.

Vajpayee announced his retirement from politics at the end of 2005. In late December 2014 he was awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.



