

Pt. Nardevji Vedalankar
Founder



The Great Visionary, Pandit Nardevji Vedalankar's Message to the World.

A Great New Year Refresher

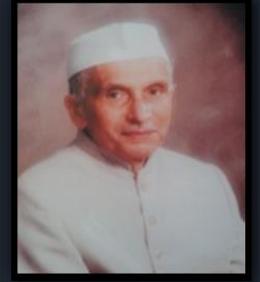
पंडितजी के कार्य, उनकी कटिबद्धता तथा उनकी कर्मठता के बारे में इस देश के लोग तथा पूरा विश्व आज भी याद करते हैं। पंडितजी के युग के बारे में दिवंगत डॉ. पी. एल. पाटिल कहते हैं कि वह समय दक्षिण अफ्रिका में स्थित हिंदी शिक्षा संघ तथा आर्य समाज अभियान के इतिहास का स्वर्ण युग था। पंडितजी के जीवन को किसी पॉवरपॉइंट के संक्षेप बिन्दुओं में समझाया नहीं जा सकता न कि किसी पुस्तक, पुस्तिका या फिर

साहित्य के चमकीले पन्नों में उनके जीवन की महत्वपूर्ण घटनाओं को मात्र अंकित किया जा सकता है। पंडितजी का संसार विस्तृत था, उनके लिए सम्पूर्ण समाज उनका परिवार रहा जिसके साथ उनके आंसू टपके, उनकी मुस्कान बिखरी, उन्हें चोट पहुँची परंतु अन्याय के विरोध में पंडितजी का स्वभाव ऐसा नहीं था कि वे लक्ष्यहीन बनकर, कहीं बैठकर मौसम के बारे में बात करते या यूँ कहें कि किसी अच्छे रेस्तरां में बैठकर भोजन का आनंद उठाते हुए आते जाते लोगों की बात करते रहे। “वे हमेशा व्यस्त थे। वे हमेशा कुछ न कुछ करते रहते थे; कभी गंभीर विषयों पर उनका चिंतन - मनन होता रहा, तो कभी लिखते रहे। वे हिंदी, तमिल, तेलुगु, गुजराती या उर्दू जैसी मातृभाषाओं के बड़े प्रचारक थे, साथ ही वैदिक ज्ञान के माध्यम से धार्मिक प्रचार करते थे और वयस्कों तथा युवकों को अपने दायित्व संभालने के लिए तथा नेतृत्व की बीड़ा उठाने के लिए प्रेरित करते हुए उन्हें सशक्तकृत करते थे।

पंडितजी बहुत बड़े संयोजक थे। नेतृत्व की कौशल के द्वारा वे हमेशा दूसरों के साथ अपने विचारों का साझा किया करते थे और उन्हें गुरु-महात्माओं के सपनों की पूर्ति के बजाय अपने ही सपनों को पूरा करने की प्रेरणा देते थे। पंडितजी लोगों को अपनी शक्ति एवं साहस को विस्तृत करने की प्रेरणा देते थे और उन्हें बिना डर एवं प्रलोभन के बिना सकारात्मक बनने की राह दिखाते थे। पंडितजी दूरदर्शी थे और चूँकि उस समय अनेक लोग अतिवादी सोच वाले थे, इसलिए उनकी इस दूरदर्शिता के कारण वे प्रसिद्ध नहीं बन पाए। वे जातियों, वर्णों, भाषाओं, धर्मों और वर्गों की एकता और उनकी समानता में विश्वास रखते थे। उनका मानना था कि ये तत्व लोगों में अलगाव उत्पन्न करते हैं और इस तरह से एकता एवं भाईचारा की भावना समाप्त हो जाती है, इसलिए उन्होंने लोगों को एकता बनाए रखने की अपील की।

पंडितजी बड़े आसानी से लोगों के संपर्क में आते थे, जो बाकी नेताओं के लिए कठिन था। वे अपने भावनापूर्ण तरीकों से अपने वक्तव्यों तथा भाषणों के माध्यम से लोगों को प्रेरित करते थे। वे अपने श्रोताओं के साथ भावों के स्तर पर सहज संबंध स्थापित करते थे तथा उन्हें दूसरों के प्रति सहानुभूति प्रस्तुत करने के लिए मना लेते थे। लोगों के मन पर राज करने वाले पंडितजी ने अपनी इसी क्षमता के आधार पर अपने समाज में भारी परिवर्तन लाया जो पहले पौराणिक तथा आर्य समाज के दायरों में बंद थे। उन लोगों को एक ही लक्ष्य साधने की दिशा

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Pandit Nardevji Vedalankar

“The work of Panditji, his perseverance, commitment and dedication in whatever he undertook still reverberates in the corners of our country and in parts of the world. The late Dr P L Patel referred to the Panditji era as the “Golden Years in the history of Hindi Shiksha Sangh and the Arya Samaj Movement” in South Africa.

Panditji's life cannot be remembered through bullet points on a power point presentation, between the most important events mentioned and unmentioned or wrapped in glossy covers of books, pamphlets and other such literature. Panditji breathed, worried, laughed, teared, had a family with lots of children and gran children, the wider community and of course marched against injustice.

He wasn't a man who would aimlessly sit around and talk about the weather, so to say, or sit in a comfy restaurant and enjoy the food and the people in and out the restaurant. “He was too busy. He was always on the move, writing, thinking and trying to do things to improve society through being an advocate for the promotion of mother tongue languages whether they be Hindi, Tamil, Gugerati, Telegu or Urdu, religious teachings through Vedic tenets and of course motivating and empowering people both young and old to take responsibility and lead.

१९४८ से लेकर १९९४ के उनके अंतिम समय तक, पंडितजी ने प्रायः लोगों के धार्मिक तथा अन्य दृष्टिकोणों को अलग रखते हुए, उनकी बेहतरी के लिए अपना पूरा समय अभियानों के आयोजन, उनके कार्यान्वयन तथा उन्हें योजनाबद्ध करने में निकाल दिया। वे जो भी कार्य करते थे, यह सुनिश्चित करते थे कि उसपर सही शोध करने पर ही उस योजना को वित्तीय सहयोग प्राप्त हो। लोगों को विखंडित करने के बजाय उन्हें एकत्रित करने वाली योजनाओं को ही पंडितजी प्राथमिकता देते थे। इस प्रकार से, उनके भाषा संबंधी अथवा धार्मिक अभियानों की गहन छाप समाज पर होती थी। वे अपने समस्त संसाधनों को अपने लक्ष्य की पूर्ति में लगा देते थे। ऐसे अभियानों में वे उन लोगों को बिलकुल पसंद नहीं करते थे जो व्यक्तिगत तौर पर या सामूहिक तौर पर बाधाएं उत्पन्न करते थे। चापलूसी वाले प्रशासन के बजाय पंडितजी लोकतांत्रिक ढंग से ईमानदार व निश्चल नेतृत्व पर विश्वास रखते थे।

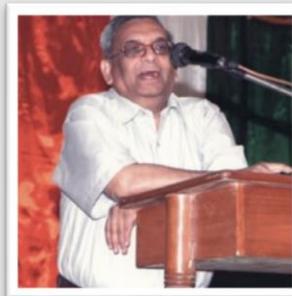
कल हमने पंडितजी की २५वीं पुण्यतिथि मनाई। उनके देहावसान के दशकों बाद भी, हम पंडितजी को इसलिए याद करते हैं क्योंकि वे दूरदर्शी थे, मातृभाषाओं के सबसे बड़े प्रचारक थे तथा उनके धार्मिक प्रवचनों के द्वारा वे हमारी दृष्टि में शान्ति एवं एकता की प्रतिमूर्ति बनने में सक्षम हुए। वे ऐसे व्यक्ति थे जो हरेक के लिए एक बेहतर विश्व की स्थापना करना चाहते थे। वे अपने विरोधियों तथा बाहरी दबावों के समक्ष झुकते नहीं थे। मानवता पर उनकी आस्था, सभी के लिए न्याय, प्रेम तथा प्रगति ही उनके जीवन की धुरी रही। वे अंत तक लड़ते रहे।

हिन्दी की ज्योति जलती रहे

Dr. Vimlesh Kanti Verma – New Delhi, Bharat

(On two occasions Professor Vimlesh Kanti Verma with his wife, Shrimathie Dheera Verma visited South Africa and is an ardent Patron of Hindi Shiksha Sangh (South Africa))

Language holds the common root of Humanity



“Language has two routes, and they progress simultaneously,” said renowned Hindi linguist, Dr. Vimlesh Kanti Verma. “One is the spoken form, and the other is the written form. The spoken dialect is the language of the common man, and it needs to be preserved, because the written form depends on it for its survival,” he added.

“The discourse of all great people was in that of the spoken – not standard – language.” Dr. Verma raised the example of how Lord Buddha insisted on spreading his teachings in Pali, which was used by the common folk. Sanskrit was the language of scholars and puritans at that time. The same goes with Tulsidas, who wrote in the Hindi dialect Awadhi, even though he was a Sanskrit scholar himself.

There are 22 official languages in India, but over 1,600 mother tongues are being spoken across the subcontinent. Included in this figure, are all the language variations – i.e., all the dialectical forms of Hindi. “If we don't preserve these forms, Hindi is going to disappear as a language,” Dr. Verma stressed.

A thought leader in the area of Hindi language teaching and Hindi in the diaspora, Dr. Verma also led the movement to embrace a variety of forms of Hindi into the Hindi mainstream. He championed the cause of “Fiji Baat”, “Surnami Hindi” and “Naitali,”



Panditji was a collaborator, he was a leader who inspired and worked to share his inner thoughts and ideas with others, guiding them to follow their own dreams rather than following the dreams of gurus. Panditji was intuitive and worked on the possibilities in people and led them to think positively without fear or favour. Panditji possessed a foresight that was not only considered unpopular during those early days, but for many he was radical. He believed in the unity of the races, castes, languages, religion and class. He believed that these elements divide people rather than unite and vehemently called for unity irrespective of people's affiliations.

Panditji connected with people in a way that very few leaders could. He harnessed his own emotions to deliver talks and speeches that inspired and lit fire in others. He successfully connected strongly with the emotions of his listeners and followers and convinced them to empathise with others. With his ability to win people and their emotions, he transformed a community with pent up feeling about being a Pauranic or Arya Samaji into a common action of let us Read, Write and Speak Hindi and find each other at the Hindi Shiksha Sangh.

Since his arrival in 1948 and demise in 1994, Panditji spent virtually all his time in organizing, monitoring and planning campaigns for the betterment of people, irrespective of their beliefs, be it religious or otherwise. In everything that he did, he ensured that it was properly funded, researched and would bring people together rather than splitting them. Hence, his campaigns whether linguistic or religious, had a profound impact. He reached out to all his resources to accomplish his goal. He was also a man who disliked deviancy from a collective plan, or people who were deviants and tried to become the “Pig on the Animal Farm” He believed in consensus, honest and clean leadership as opposed to backyard management.

Yesterday, we observed the 25th death Anniversary of Panditji. It's because of his forthrightness, advocating for mother tongue languages and religious teachings that decades after his death, we continue to celebrate the man he was and the symbol of “Peace and Unity,” he became. He was a man who always sought to make life better for the world. He never bowed to external pressures or deviants but remained true to his belief in humanity, about justice for all, love for all, and prosperity for all.”

Three years later, the university set up a department of linguistics, and he decided to join the department as a student of linguistics, while teaching literature at the same time. "That was the turning point of my career."

After a one-year teaching stint at the University of Toronto, where he taught Indology, Dr. Verma was appointed to teach Hindi at the University of Sofia, Bulgaria. It was a challenge, he recalled, to teach students with whom he had communication barriers. "Most of the time, you would teach a foreign language through a language which the learners already know. But it was year 1974, and at that time, nobody spoke English there."

Gradually, he picked up Bulgarian, and even went on to write the world's first Bulgarian-Hindi dictionary. Hindi variations within diaspora: A celebration of expressions

Dr. Verma first met different groups of Indian diasporas when he was appointed to the Indian High Commission in Fiji as a senior diplomat. He stayed in Fiji for three years, and it was there that he got interested in diaspora studies Hindi creative writing within these diaspora communities.

"When I saw the Hindi creative writings from Fiji, Suriname and South Africa, I found that they were able to express themselves a lot better in their own spoken language, as compared to the standard Hindi in which they didn't have a strong hold," said Dr. Verma. Fijian Hindi was a combination of about 80 percent Hindi (Awadhi), and ten percent each Fijian and English, for instance.

He then advocated that the diaspora communities need to preserve and keep alive their own language, in which they could read and write so confidently. "The learned people, the purist Indian scholars, often say it's ungrammatical. It's true – the spoken language doesn't follow strict grammatical rules of standard language but has a communicative grammar which facilitates communication. It is understood by everyone throughout the community because of these cultural textures. Being able to communicate is important," Dr. Verma added.

A teacher known by his students. Having dedicated his life to keeping Hindi vibrant and evolving as a language, Dr. Verma firmly believes that language is one thing that unveil the mysteries of mankind.

"As the field of linguistics is concerned, I am interested in tracing out the universals in languages." He gave the sample of gender biases – the way you could find "male" in word "female," "man" in "woman," and "lad" in "lady." Dr. Verma said that this cannot be a coincidence. "It is the working of the human mind behind this logic, one which feels that it is only through a woman that a man can be borne," he explained.

Dr Verma concluded of his work, not just as a linguist and academic, but most importantly, as a teacher. "I am not sure if I will ever be able to arrive at the bottom of this treasure chest, but my many students who had studied linguistics with me, are working on it. After all, a teacher is known by his students. As my students work on it, the seed of knowledge that I have planted in them years ago, will grow and blossom.



Author: Kareyst Lin – Senior Correspondent

Kareyst has experience in writing about B2B technology for Computer world Singapore, MIS Asia and CIO Asia; and on government technology for GCIO Asia. Her pet areas are artificial intelligence, Internet of Things and smart cities - these are fuelled by her obsession with sci-fi movies and philosophy of mind. An active Yoga practitioner and cat lover, with a background in Indian philosophy, subaltern and diaspora studies.

हिन्दी की ज्योति जलती रहे





Hindi Patshalas celebrated Hindi Diwas through special programmes in their areas. Some observed their Annual Awards Day whilst others considered holding a Parent's Day Programme

This event is internationally observed on January 10

**Saturday, January 18, 2020 - Hindi Shiksha Sangh
Hindi Workshop on the new Hindi Teaching syllabus**

The Hindi Shiksha Sangh South Africa has embarked on another journey to re-work the Hindi Syllabus to suit the South African learner. Currently, the Sangh uses literature material prepared for students in Mauritius and Bharat, India. One must remember Indians landed in South Africa as labourers in 1860, that's 160 years ago. South African Indians are already in their 6th generation. Hence, for the South African bred Indian, it is difficult to acquaint themselves with literature from abroad. The Sangh has taken the great stride to develop its own study material and literature that would suit the present-day students. Participatory workshops and seminars have become the order of the day to keep all Hindi enthusiasts, Hindi teachers abreast with the new development, hoping for a brighter Hindi for tomorrow.



हिन्दी की ज्योति जलती रहे



On Saturday, January 25, 2020, with pomp and glory, Jaagruti Hindi Patshala celebrated their tenth (10th) Anniversary at the Blind and Deaf Society Hall.

The school was founded by Shrimathie Champa Bositsumune in 2009, who is also an accomplished Hindi teacher for over twenty-five (25) years. The school today has over hundred (100) students with six (6) teachers. After ten (10) successful years of the school, Shrimathie Champaji Bositsumune has handed the baton to her daughter Shrimathie Niksha Dhanlall. Shrimathie Dhanlall completed her teaching diploma through the Hindi Shiksha Sangh (South Africa), then went on to study a communication course in Hindi. She also has studied Sanskrit 3. As the new Principal of Jaagruti, she took the pledge to take the school to greater heights. Jaagruti conducts its classes at the TPA Primary School on Saturday mornings at no cost to students.

हिन्दी की ज्योति जलती रहे



Saturday, January 25, 2020 - Midrand Hindi Patshala, Gauteng held a Parent's and Student Appraisal Day on the year 2020 Hindi Teaching Programme and Activities. The New Hindi Syllabus featured high in the programme

Gauteng has developed into a promising ground for the promotion of Hindi. There are schools virtually in every historical Indian area. We have Midrand Hindi Patshala at ISKON Temple, Benoni Hindi Patshala, Springs Hindi Patshala, Johannesburg Hindi Patshala, Pattidar Hindi Patshala – Lenasia, Randburg Hindi Patshala, Chamakate Hindi Patshala also in Randburg, Hindi Gyan Hindi Patshala in West Rand, Bedford Hindi Patshala in East Rand, Centurion Hindi Patshala, Amity College Hindi Patshala in Erasmia. Many of these schools have already produced Kovid students. The teachers travel from long distances to these schools at their personal cost. The parents and students were also treated to high tea.

हिन्दी की ज्योति जलती रहे



February 1, 2020 – Midlands Region, Hindi Shiksha Sangh held their Annual Awards Ceremony at the Aryan Hall, Raisethorpe, Pietermaritzburg

The Midlands Region Office of the Hindi Shiksha Sangh (South Africa) co-ordinates the work of the Sangh in the greater Pietermaritzburg area. There are Hindi Schools in the area that were established in the early 1900's and still continue to teach Hindi on a regular basis. The teaching of Hindi, religious and cultural activities at homes, in temples and schools is the order of the day. This region effectively work with all the Hindi patshals in the area and helps them along in achieving their objectives of promoting Hindi.

हिन्दी की ज्योति जलती रहे