

Vigilant India

Complimentary Copy

Union Government Policies Usher in Change



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From the Editor

Hindi—which is the official language (राजभाषा) of India—has received strong encouragement from the Union Government through a series of strategic initiatives, which are designed to weave Hindi more thoroughly into the fabric of public life. They encourage not only Government offices, but also educational settings and service sectors to use and apply the official language in various phases. The efforts also focus on establishing institutions that advance the popularity of Hindi language.

In this endeavour, the Union Government has adopted measures to ensure adherence to language policies and has made dedicated efforts to ensure that both Hindi and English are accessible in all Central Government offices.

Highlighting the significance of Hindi and other vernacular languages, the National Education Policy 2020, devised by the Union Government, has been a giant leap forward. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been using Hindi in his addresses to the nation and on international platforms such as the United Nations, showcasing Hindi's elevated status worldwide. In 2018, the United Nations and the Government of India entered into a Voluntary Financial Contribution Agreement to foster the use of Hindi within the UN system. Following this agreement, the UN inaugurated Hindi social media accounts on platforms such as Facebook, X and Instagram, and also launched a Hindi version of the UN news website. Efforts are also underway to get recognition for Hindi as one of the official languages of the UN too.

“Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been using Hindi in his addresses to the nation and on international platforms such as the United Nations, showcasing the official language Hindi's elevated status worldwide.”

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has noted that under Prime Minister Shri Modi's leadership, Indian languages have achieved notable recognition both domestically and internationally. The Department of Official Language (राजभाषा विभाग) in the Union Home Ministry is vigorously involved in promoting this mission. The Ministry acknowledges that genuine and creative expression is best achieved through one's mother tongue, and it upholds the strengthening of Indian languages imperative for building a strong nation.

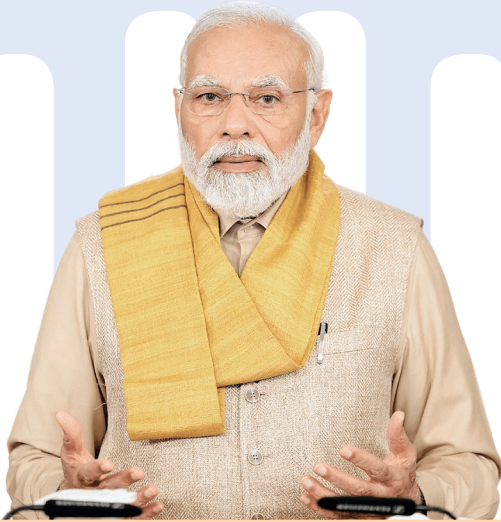
In keeping pace with modern advancements, updating technological systems has proven beneficial. The necessity of computers in administrative tasks has led the Department of Official Language to initiate Hindi computer training programmes. These programmes, coupled with workshops and constructive contests, enhance Hindi's utilisation in Government operations. Important initiatives also include the provision of the Hindi Word Resource (हिंदी शब्द संसाधन) in printed and digital formats and the introduction of the C-DAC's LILA software, which supports 14 Indian languages.

These enhancements in linguistic practices under the guidance of the Union Home Ministry signify a positive shift towards embracing our cultural heritage through language.

This edition of 'Vigilant India' focuses on India's official language Hindi. Please share your valuable feedback at sajag-bharat@bprd.nic.in

Jai Hind!

Director General, BPR&D



गांव, गरीब और किसान पर हमारे फोकस से ग्रामीण भारत कहीं अधिक सशक्त और सामर्थ्यवान हुआ है।



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



दमन और दीव तथा दादरा एवं नगर हवेली में ₹2448 करोड़ की लागत से बन रही कुल 53 परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन व शिलान्यास किया ' पुलिस हाउसिंग क्वार्टर, राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग, अस्पताल, सचिवालय भवन जैसे विकास के ये कार्य इस यूटी को विकास की मुख्यधारा से जोड़ने में महत्वपूर्ण साबित होंगे।



**श्री अमित शाह
केंद्रीय गृह एवं सहकारिता मंत्री**



प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण अन्न योजना, आयुष्मान भारत जन आरोग्य योजना, प्रधानमंत्री जनधन योजना, आयुष्मान भारत हेल्थ एंड वेलनेस सेंटर, अटल पेंशन योजना, सुकन्या समृद्धि योजना एवं प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा योजना के कारण गरीबों के जीवन में खुशहाली आई है।



**श्री नित्यानंद राय
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री**



It's heartening to witness the change in J&K, where on the one hand educational institutions are coming up and on the other hand, sporting facilities are being developed. The sporting events are engaging our youth and providing them with a platform to showcase their talent.



**Shri Nisith Pramanik
MoS, Ministry of Home Affairs**



गृह जनपद की निधासन विधानसभा में विभिन्न विकास योजनाओं का लोकार्पण, ओपन जिम का उद्घाटन एवं विभिन्न योजनाओं का शिलान्यास किया।



**श्री अजय मिश्रा
केंद्रीय गृह राज्य मंत्री**



₹90,182 करोड़ की लागत के 6,000 से अधिक निवेश प्रस्तावों और 4 लाख से अधिक रोजगार अवसरों के सृजन के साथ जम्मू-कश्मीर में 46 नए औद्योगिक एस्टेट विकसित हो रहे हैं।



**गृह मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार**



RAJBHASHA

Heralds a New High



Bureau

In the diverse medley of India, Hindi has emerged as a unifying thread that binds together its vast populace speaking nearly 780 languages. Hindi surely serves as a bridge across the linguistic and cultural diversity that characterises the nation. Recognising its pivotal role in fostering national cohesion, the Union Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had undertaken a series of initiatives aimed at elevating Hindi, which is the official language of the

country, both domestically and on the global stage.

In a major departure from tradition, Prime Minister Shri Modi set the tone by addressing the United Nations General Assembly in September 2014 and 2015 in Hindi, signalling a significant shift in how Hindi is represented internationally.

Taking Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision forward, The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has left no stone unturned to promote Hindi. He has always insisted that Indians must leave the inferiority complex towards Hindi and other Indian languages.

It is noteworthy to mention that Prime Minister



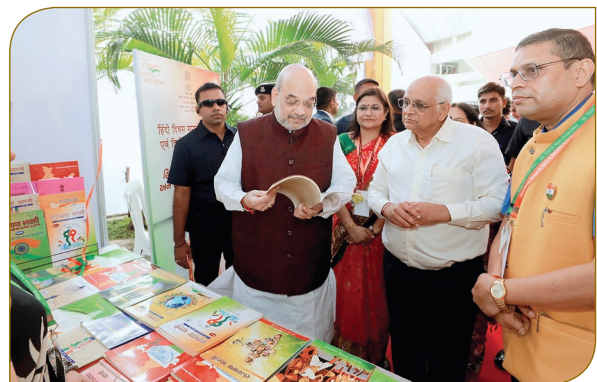
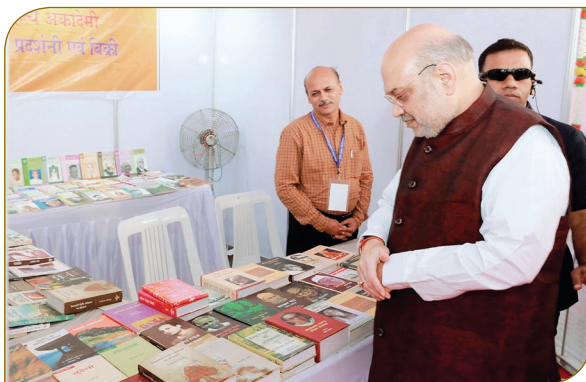
In India, the invaluable role of local languages in shaping our culture is quite evident. These languages have greatly contributed to the enrichment of Hindi, a language deeply rooted in the diverse traditions of the country. Under the leadership of Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, the Department of Official Language is creating new milestones and giving Hindi a place of pride.

Shri Modi had delivered speeches in Hindi at the Climate Action Summit 2019 and successive sessions of the UNGA in 2020 and 2021. Notably, in August 2021, he made history by chairing the high-level open debate on Enhancing Maritime Security at the UN Security Council, conducting proceedings entirely in Hindi, a first for an Indian Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Shri Modi's commitment to promoting Hindi extends beyond formal diplomatic settings. During his visit to the United States in September 2019, he addressed a massive gathering of 50,000 people of the Indian diaspora

at the 'Howdy Modi' event entirely in Hindi, a move that resonated with the audience and garnered international attention, especially with the presence of the then US President Mr Donald Trump.

Furthermore, within the domestic sphere, Prime Minister Shri Modi's willingness to deliver speeches in Hindi in the Parliament has set a precedence, encouraging other ministers to follow suit by delivering addresses in various Indian languages. This concerted effort has not only strengthened the status of Hindi, but also fostered a sense of linguistic unity and inclusivity across the nation.





Hindi, the language of unity and identity, has played a pivotal role in shaping India's history and cultural landscape. Considering the crucial role Hindi played in the freedom movement and post-Independence era, the Indian Constitution accorded Hindi the status of official language on September 14, 1949. This decision laid the foundation for the linguistic diversity and inclusivity that define modern India. Recognising its significance, the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi has undertaken numerous initiatives to promote Hindi and other Indian languages, fostering their growth and ensuring their integration into various spheres of public life.

Contemporary Initiatives

The Department of Official Language, operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has been at the forefront of this linguistic resurgence. Leveraging modern technology, the department endeavours to enrich Hindi, positioning it as the language of public administration, education and scientific discourse. To advance the official language in alignment with technological advancements, the Department of Official Language has developed the memory-based translation system called 'Kanthasth'. Embarking on a novel initiative, the department has also introduced the 'Hindi Shabd Sindhu' dictionary. This lexicon undergoes continual enrichment by incorporating vocabulary from Indian languages

Our languages share a bond, engaging in an unseen dialogue that can only be appreciated through experience. Numerous words in each language interconnect with those of another, and their grammatical structures are fundamentally similar. That's why the acceptance of Hindi should be reached through consensus, aligning with the goal of national unity as envisioned by our freedom fighters.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Additionally, the department has launched the 'e-Mahashabd' mobile application, containing an extensive repository of 90,000 words, along with the 'e-Saral' dictionary comprising approximately 9,000 sentences.

Parliamentary Oversight

On the occasion of Hindi Diwas on September 14, 2023, Union Home Minister Shri Shah highlighted the Government's commitment to promoting Hindi. He emphasised the role of the

Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, tasked with reviewing the progress of Hindi usage in Government functions nationwide. The recent submission of the 12th volume of the committee's report to the President of India underscores the Union Government's dedication to this cause.

Apart from this, since 2019, Hindi Advisory Committees have been established in all the 59 ministries, facilitating regular meetings to strategise language promotion efforts. Additionally, to extend the reach of official language usage, 527 Town Official Language Implementation Committees (TOLIC) have been formed across the country.

All India Official Language Conference

Introducing a new tradition, the Department of Official Language initiated the All India Official Language Conference. The inaugural conference was held in Varanasi in November 2021, followed by the second conference in Surat in September 2022, provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss and deliberate on language-related issues. The third conference was held in Pune last year.

During the Surat conference, Union Home Minister Shri Shah put forward a visionary goal for the next 25 years to advance native languages and eliminate any linguistic inferiority. He said that our official and local languages are some of the richest in the world and they must be used in governance, administration, knowledge dissemination, science and research to fully tap the nation's enormous potential.

Shri Shah gave the reference of Mahatma Gandhi's assertion that a nation is virtually mute without an official language. He highlighted the



Each generation bears the responsibility of enriching their native language. Although Gujarati is my mother tongue, I often ponder the consequences if I were unable to speak or understand Hindi. How would I connect with others or comprehend their perspectives? I recognise the significant influence of the Hindi language.

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

fact that Gandhiji believed Hindi was the language of our hearts and promoted a sense of patriotism among the common man.

Hindi in Courts

Historically, court proceedings in India were conducted exclusively in English. However, following initiatives led by Prime Minister Shri Modi, the Supreme Court has begun issuing orders in Hindi, with similar transformations gradually being implemented in other courts. On August 10, 2021, while presiding over the 36th meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language in New Delhi, Union Home Minister Shri Shah argued for the inclusion of Hindi in judicial proceedings and called for discussions with jurists on the matter. He suggested that the "Role of Hindi in the Independence Movement" should be a central theme during the 75th anniversary of Independence. He also stressed that the wider acceptance of Hindi should be achieved through consensus, aligning with the goal of national unity envisioned by our freedom fighters. He added that the Union Government is open to any constructive suggestions in this regard, as good ideas seldom have limitations.



The Home Minister emphasised the importance of promoting Hindi and noted that the new provisions under the National Education Policy-2020 would act as a foundational step for imparting education in native languages. This initiative is expected to significantly enrich all languages by the time India celebrates its centenary of Independence in 2047. The policy advocates for primary and higher education, as well as research in various fields such as jurisprudence, medicine, science, technology and engineering to be conducted in Hindi.

Furthermore, Shri Shah reiterated Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's vision of 'Self-Rule', which encompassed advocacy for our own language, religion, and culture. He stated that following this path will help realise Tilak's vision.

The Union Home Minister argued that language should be seen not as a measure of ability, but as a means of expression. He encouraged the youth to overcome any linguistic complexes and

Hindi is not seen as a competitor, rather it complements local languages. As Hindi prospers, it reciprocally enriches all of India's local languages. In turn, the richness of these local languages enhances Hindi as well.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

embrace their native tongues to fully express their capabilities, noting that the most original thoughts are often best expressed in one's own language. He highlighted that Prime Minister Shri Modi has used Hindi to address international audiences and is one of the most popular leaders who has been heard globally.

Many Union Government departments have





made substantial advancements in utilising Hindi in recent years. The Home Minister has commended these efforts, particularly highlighting ISRO's significant achievement of transcribing its entire history into a poetic epic in Hindi, making it accessible to a broader audience. He remarked that India is a bouquet of languages, emphasising the importance of strengthening native languages alongside Hindi.

Promoting Hindi in Administration

The promotion of Hindi language has seen remarkable progress at the administrative level over the past five years, which is unprecedented. Since Shri Shah assumed his role as the Union Home Minister in 2019, he has conducted all his official

work in Hindi. It is inspiring that both Prime Minister Shri Modi and Home Minister Shri Shah use only Hindi for signing official documents, underscoring Hindi's cultural and emotional significance. These efforts contribute significantly toward fostering a harmonious society.

The Union Government has prioritised the introduction of professional courses in Hindi, including medical and engineering programmes. For example, all 13 Government medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh have recently started offering courses in Hindi. In addition, various events are organised on Hindi Day on September 14 to celebrate and promote the language in various institutions. ■

Regional Commitment

The Union Government is committed to fostering regional involvement in the use of Hindi, ensuring that every region and every individual is included in this initiative. Union Home Minister Shri Shah has stressed the importance of promoting literary figures across the nation. He has highlighted the fact that local languages and Hindi played a very significant role in our Independence movement. According to the Home Ministry, there is an immediate need for regional histories to be accurately translated into Hindi. Such efforts were first initiated by former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, but they largely came to a standstill after his sudden death while in office in 1966. For instance, a child in Gujarat currently has no option but to rely on English to learn about the mighty Vijayanagara Empire, a limitation prevalent in many other States as well. He proposed that in consultation with the Members of Parliament, a list of books should be compiled on local histories, which should then be translated in Hindi by the Government of India's Culture Department and made available in libraries and bookstores across the country.



Hindi's

Growing Stature

India has been a land of diverse languages and it is Hindi that unites this diversity in the world's largest democracy.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation



Bureau

After India's Independence in 1947, Hindi was designated as the official language of the country, but it took time to get its due recognition. However, in 2014, after Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, the Union Government embarked on an initiative to elevate Hindi's status both nationally and internationally.

It was advocated as the primary language in Central Government initiatives and establishments, thus augmenting its dissemination and recognition.

On the occasion of Hindi Diwas on September 14 last year, Prime Minister Shri Modi took to Instagram to convey, 'Happy Hindi Diwas' to his fellow citizens. "I hope that Hindi will continue to reinforce the bonds of national unity and harmony", he said. This message underscores the belief that languages, particularly



The deep regard Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah hold for India's official language is evident in their choice to sign their names in Hindi. This practice has inspired millions across the nation to take pride in using Hindi in their endeavours.

Hindi, play a pivotal role in fostering unity in a diverse nation like India. Hindi transcends regional and linguistic barriers, serving as a channel that connects individuals from varied linguistic backgrounds.

Prime Minister Shri Modi has underscored the importance of Hindi as the language of Government affairs and has urged its usage in all official work.

Notably, the Prime Minister predominantly communicates in Hindi on global platforms, whether at the United Nations, G20 conferences or diaspora gatherings abroad. His eloquence in Hindi has not only elevated the language, but also instilled a sense of pride among fellow countrymen, showcasing the potency of Hindi on the world stage.

Building upon the Prime Minister's vision, the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has initiated numerous initiatives aimed at fostering dialogues in Indian languages since

2019. Departments were encouraged to make efforts to conduct Government operations in Hindi, resulting in heightened recognition of its pivotal role as a medium of social, economic and cultural exchange. This concerted effort has led to increased Hindi communication between the Union Government and the public.

Recognising digital platforms as effective tools for promotion, the Modi Government has launched the Learning Indian Language with Artificial Intelligence (LILA) mobile app. Developed by the Department of Official Language in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), the app facilitates easy understanding and learning of the Hindi language, further advancing the promotion of Hindi.

Notably, the Union Government allocates a substantial budget annually to the Department of

Promoting Hindi

- ➔ Equipping all 2,470 computers in the Union Home Ministry with Unicode-enabled Hindi typing capabilities.
- ➔ Providing copies of Hindi and English standard notes and administrative glossaries to aid officers/employees in drafting Hindi notes on files.
- ➔ Conducting periodic Hindi workshops within the Home Ministry, such as the Unicode Typing Workshop held on September 29, 2022.
- ➔ Undertaking official language inspections of 43 sections within the Home Ministry in March 2023.
- ➔ Conducting official language inspections of 100 subordinate offices in Delhi and elsewhere during the 2022-23 period by Home Ministry officials.
- ➔ Conducting official language inspections of 35 subordinate offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs by the first sub committee of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee during 2022-23.
- ➔ Holding a meeting of the Hindi Advisory Committee of the Home Ministry on October 20, 2021 at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ➔ Regularly convening quarterly meetings of the Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) of the Ministry of Home Affairs, chaired by the Joint Secretary (CIC).
- ➔ Conducting Hindi training workshops for a total of 350 (125 + 225) Section Officers/Assistant Section Officers/ Assistant Section Officers in the Ministry of Home Affairs to facilitate drafting notes in Hindi on files, with a total of nine workshops organised.
- ➔ A workshop on the Kanthasth 2.0 tool was convened to facilitate Hindi translation, ensuring the confidentiality of sensitive information.



Official Language for endeavours that promote Hindi.

In its commitment to bolster Hindi, the Union Government is emphasising the provision of various professional courses exclusively in Hindi. This initiative extends to medical and engineering studies, which are now being conducted in Hindi. Recently, all 13

Government medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh have commenced studies in Hindi, marking a significant step towards the language's development.

Furthermore, the Union Government regularly organises various programmes to commemorate Hindi Day, underscoring its dedication to promoting and



preserving the language.

During the 38th meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee held in New Delhi on August 4, 2023, chaired by Union Home Minister Shri Shah, the approval of the 12th volume of the committee's report was granted. In his address, the Home Minister highlighted Prime Minister Shri Modi's commitments to the nation during the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, particularly focusing on two pledges — honouring heritage and eliminating symbols of colonialism.

Shri Shah emphasised that achieving 100% implementation of these promises necessitates the collective strength of all Indian languages. He asserted that honouring the heritage remains incomplete without the respect of our languages and acceptance of the official language hinges upon respecting local languages. He underscored that Hindi does not compete with local languages; instead, bolstering all Indian languages fortifies the nation.

Regarding the evolving public sentiments, the Union Home Minister noted Prime Minister Shri Modi's initiative to introduce engineering and medical courses in 10 languages, with plans for expansion to encompass all Indian languages. This move, he stated, heralds the empowerment of local and official languages. ■

Hindi's Growing Reach

Hindi holds significance not only within India, but also globally, notably in countries such as Fiji and Mauritius. Recognising its importance, the Indian Government has made diligent efforts to secure official language status for Hindi within the United Nations. In 2022, the United Nations General Assembly passed India's resolution, advocating for Hindi language inclusion for the first time. This resolution mandates that essential documents and information of the United Nations are disseminated in Hindi. This milestone signifies a significant stride towards elevating Hindi's international prominence, reflecting India's commitment to promote Hindi.

Due to the initiatives of the Union Government, the United Nations initiated a Hindi Twitter (now X) account and news portal in 2018, catering to millions of Hindi-speaking individuals. Launched under the 'Hindi@UN' project, this endeavour aimed to enhance the United Nations' outreach in Hindi and provide accessible content to Hindi-speaking communities worldwide.



Bureau

All our Indian languages and dialects represent a rich cultural heritage and it is imperative that we uphold and nurture them. Hindi has never been in competition with any language, nor will it ever be. Strengthening all our languages will foster national unity, and I firmly believe that Hindi will play a pivotal role in empowering them". The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, expressed these sentiments on the occasion of Hindi Day on September 14, 2023.

In a video message released on that day, Shri Shah highlighted India's advocacy for the use of Hindi in the United Nations. Defining Hindi as India's official language, he emphasised that it serves as a unifying force amidst the linguistic diversity of the world's largest democracy. He underscored India's longstanding tradition of linguistic diversity and the democratic essence of Hindi. Additionally, he noted that Hindi has historically bridged the gap between various Indian languages and dialects, fostering a sense of unity in a nation fragmented by linguistic diversity during the country's Independence.

The Union Home Minister highlighted the recognition accorded to Indian languages at national and global platforms under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He emphasised the ongoing efforts of the Department of Official Language under the Union Home Ministry to enhance the utility of Indian languages across public, administrative, educational, and scientific domains through modern technology.

Shri Shah noted that under the Prime Minister's guidance, effective implementation of public welfare schemes is facilitated by establishing communication

The Department of Official Language in the Ministry of Home Affairs is continuously making efforts to use Indian languages in administration, education and scientific studies.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

between the Government and the public in Indian languages.

The Union Home Minister underscored the unparalleled role of Hindi in fostering unity during the challenging days of India's Independence movement. He emphasised how Hindi served as a language of communication, uniting a nation characterised by diverse languages and dialects, and played a crucial role in advancing the struggle for freedom across the length and breadth of the country.

Shri Shah highlighted concurrent movements for 'Swaraj' (self-rule) and 'Swabhasha' (self-language) and emphasised the significant role of Hindi in both the freedom movement and post-Independence era. He noted that recognising Hindi's importance, the framers of the Constitution designated it as the official language on September 14, 1949.

The Union Home Minister highlighted the significant role of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language, tasked with reviewing the progress of Hindi usage in Government affairs and presenting its findings to the President of India. He expressed satisfaction over the submission of the 12th volume of the committee's report, indicating a notable increase in Hindi usage

compared to the previous years.

Notably, since 2019, Hindi Advisory Committees have been established in all 59 ministries, facilitating regular meetings to further language promotion efforts. To enhance the usage of the official language nationwide, a total of 527 City Official Language Implementation Committees have been established, along with Municipal Official Language Implementation Committees in key international locations such as London, Singapore, Fiji, Dubai and Port Louis. Moreover, India has initiated efforts to promote Hindi language usage within the United Nations.

Introducing a new tradition, the Official Language Department initiated the All India Official Language Conference. The inaugural conference was held in Varanasi in November 2021, followed by the second conference in Surat in September 2022 and the third one in Pune in September 2023.

In alignment with technological advancements, the Official Language Department developed the Kanthasth memory-based translation system and introduced the 'Hindi Shabd Sindhu' dictionary, continuously enriched with words from Indian languages included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Additionally, the department launched the 'e-Mahashabd' mobile app containing 90,000 words and the 'e-Saral' dictionary, furthering language development efforts.

Hindi Shabd Sindhu

The expansion of the Hindi dictionary is the need of the hour. To address this, a comprehensive dictionary named 'Hindi Shabd Sindhu' has been created, incorporating words from fields such as health, technology, media, and law, as well as popular words from various Indian languages. This dictionary is being developed to technically empower Hindi. Its first edition was released by the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, during the All India Official Language Conference in Surat. The dictionary, which has been given a multilingual form, already includes over 400,000 words and is nearing its completion.

Under the leadership of Union Home Minister Shri Shah, the Official Language Department has embraced technological advancements to propel the progressive use of Hindi. His commitment to Indian languages has resulted in significant strides, with the integration of the latest technology into language initiatives. ■

Kanthasth 2.0: An Advanced Translation App

The Department of Official Language has developed a software called Kanthasth with the help of C-DAC, Pune, to assist in translation memory (TM) or memory-based translation. The initial version of this app was launched during the 11th World Hindi Conference in Mauritius in 2018. It stores all translations done by the user in a bilingual format (English-Hindi or Hindi-English) in its memory. When a similar translation comes up again, it retrieves the previous translation done by any user of Kanthasth and presents it. When this translation is placed on the server or global memory, all users can benefit from the translations done by any other user through the server. This not only saves time wasted in translation, typing, and vetting (review of translation by an officer), but also ensures the consistent use of vocabulary for similar sentences. Currently, its global memory contains more than 23 million sentences. As of now, it has approximately 20,000 users. On September 14, 2022, during Hindi Day celebrations and



the second All India Official Language Conference held in Surat, Home Minister Shri Amit Shah launched Kanthasth 2.0. The instant translation feature of Kanthasth has now been linked with e-office. Now, whenever one opens an e-office, a 'translation service' pops up at the top right corner. As soon as one clicks on it, a page for instant translation will open in a new tab, and translations can be done in just one click. However, this service is currently available only to a few ministries/departments/offices. Efforts are being made to make it available to all ministries, at the earliest. With these comprehensive features, Kanthasth offers a user-friendly interface that simplifies the translation process for a wide range of users. The tool's ability to handle various file types such as MS Word, Excel, and readable PDFs (not scanned ones) ensures that it caters to diverse translation needs, making it an invaluable resource for Government offices and other entities involved in bilingual documentation. It is free for everyone.

Time to Shun Linguistic Inferiority & Promote Indian Languages



Bureau

As India moves towards becoming a self-reliant nation, the Union Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi is leaving no stones unturned to bolster the use of native languages. It believes achieving self-reliance in terms of language is crucial for true self-reliance.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has emphasised that during the period of Amrit Kaal, the Union Government intends to promote the use of local languages in education, administration, judiciary, technology and mass communication, among others. For Hindi to gain widespread acceptance, it must be made flexible and promoted, not by imposition but through efforts to make it universally embraced. This objective forms the core focus of the All India Official Language Conference, aiming to foster greater usage and recognition of Hindi across various domains across the country.

Since assuming charge of the Union Home Ministry in 2019, Shri Shah has expanded the reach of the All India Official Language Conference beyond New Delhi, ensuring it now convenes annually in different cities across India. This decision, implemented in 2019 during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, aims to

enhance the promotion and utilisation of the official language nationwide.

During the Hindi Diwas celebrations at the Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi in 2019, Shri Shah announced that Hindi Diwas should henceforth be organised outside the national capital. Following this announcement, Hindi Diwas began to be celebrated in various locations outside Delhi.

The 2021 conference had taken place on November 13-14 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, with over 2,500 Hindi enthusiasts from across the country participating. They had discussed various possibilities related to the development and promotion of the official language Hindi.

The 2022 conference took place on September 14-15 at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium in Surat, Gujarat. Over 10,000 participants from across the country attended it. During the event, the Union Home Minister stated that the 'Amrit Kaal' is the time to set and achieve resolutions. He emphasised that India's official and local languages are among the richest in the world. He asserted that governance, administration, knowledge and research in India should be conducted in our official and local languages.

The 2023 conference was held at Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi in Pune. Over 8,000 participants attended this conference. ■

Medical Education Commences in Hindi



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah at the launch of MBBS course in Hindi for the first time in the country, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on October 16, 2022.

Bureau

The introduction of medical and engineering studies in Hindi marks a significant step towards making education more inclusive and accessible. This initiative simplifies technical and medical education for Hindi-speaking students, allowing them to pursue higher education in their native language.

The National Education Policy 2020 provides for promoting education in the mother tongue. Both Government as well as private institutions are developing curricula and teaching materials in this direction. Key medical textbooks and reference materials have been translated into Hindi to assist students in their studies. Many medical colleges are now conducting classes and lectures in Hindi and using Hindi for communication and instructions in laboratories and clinical training, thereby enhancing students' comprehension.

This initiative began on October 16, 2022, when the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, launched the MBBS course in Hindi for the first time in the country at the Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

In his address, the Union Home Minister highlighted that Madhya Pradesh was the first to effectively implement the Prime Minister's education policy. Shri Shah conveyed to the students that one's thought

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji had called for making medical and engineering education available in all regional languages. The Madhya Pradesh Government has been the first to fulfil this wish of the Prime Minister.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

process is most effective in their mother tongue and communication in the mother tongue resonates deeply. He stated that our minds perform thinking, modification, research, reasoning, analysis and decision-making processes best in our native language.

Shri Shah said that by establishing pride in our native languages through the New Education Policy and providing for technical, medical and legal studies, the capabilities of students can be improved. He pointed out that proponents of English have mistakenly linked language with intellectual capability. However, language and intellectual capability are not related; language is merely a medium of expression. "Intellectual capability is endowed by God and can be enhanced through education. If education is imparted in the mother tongue, it significantly benefits the enhancement of intellectual capability", he added. ■

Promoting Hindi for Better Reach

Bureau

Under the guidance of Shri Amit Shah, the Union Home Ministry and the Department of Official Language are actively engaged in promoting Hindi. Progress reports are periodically compiled to assess the advancements in this regard. One such report titled 'The Simplification of Official Language' was presented to President Smt Droupadi Murmu by the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, on September 5, 2023.

Shri Shah shared on social media platforms that he met with President Smt Murmu along with members of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language. During the meeting, he handed over the 12th volume of the committee's recommendations to the President. From Independence in 1947 to 2014, nine volumes of the committee's recommendations were presented to the President, and since 2019, three additional volumes have been approved.

The Rashtrapati Bhawan also shared the highlights of the meeting on social media. The meeting was attended by over 15 Members of Parliament, including the Union Ministers of State for Home Affairs, Shri Ajay Mishra and Shri Nisith Pramanik.

Earlier, the 12th section of the committee's recommendation received approval from the Union Home Minister during the 38th meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language on August 4, 2023. Shri Shah said that Hindi and other Indian languages must be promoted on a regular basis, and not just on occasions such as Hindi Diwas. He added that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi proudly presents other Indian languages,



The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, said that Hindi and other Indian languages must be promoted on a regular basis, and not just on occasions such as Hindi Diwas. He added that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi proudly presents other Indian languages, including Hindi on the global stage.

including Hindi on the global stage. The Union Home Minister said that under the leadership of Shri Modi, engineering and medical courses have been initiated in 10 Indian languages, with plans for further expansion in the near future. He expressed gratitude to all the members of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language and expressed confidence in their continued efforts to promote and propagate Hindi through goodwill, inspiration and encouragement. ■



A Cultural Renaissance: The



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the 10th World Hindi Conference in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The development of Hindi as the official language in India has been an important and ongoing process, promoted with consideration for the country's diverse cultural and linguistic heritage. Hindi serves not only as a symbol of national unity, but also as a vital medium of expression.

Bureau

For any sovereign nation the significance of its official language is comparable to its national flag or anthem. In a democratic nation, there should be no language barrier between the people and the Government, and governance

should be conducted in the language of the people.

Hindi unites the country like no other language because it is spoken and understood by a huge section of the population. It also enables the public to understand and participate in their country's policies and administration.

With the country's Independence in 1947, we

Expansion of Hindi Language



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurates the two-day All India Official Language Conference in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

achieved linguistic freedom. Since then, Hindi language has seen significant reforms. It was declared the official language under Section 343 of the Constitution, which also outlined the Union Government's efforts to promote its development.

Article 343 specifically states that the official language of the Union of India is Hindi and its script is Devanagari.

According to Article 351, it is the responsibility of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, develop it to serve as the medium of expression for all aspects of India's composite culture and enrich it by

incorporating the forms, styles and expressions used in Hindustani and other languages specified in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. This enrichment should occur without compromising its originality, primarily drawing from Sanskrit and secondarily from other languages, as needed or appropriate, for its vocabulary.

The Official Language Rules, introduced in 1976, were a crucial step towards enhancing the use of Hindi in Government operations.

- These rules stipulate that letters sent by Central Government offices located in Region 'A'

(encompassing Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territory of Delhi) to any other office or individual within these States shall be in Hindi as far as possible. In cases where a letter is sent in English for specific reasons, its Hindi translation shall also be included.

- Letters from Central Government offices to States/ Union Territories in Region 'B' (including Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chandigarh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands) are generally required to be sent in Hindi. If such a letter is sent in English, its Hindi translation shall also be provided. Letters addressed to individuals residing in these States may be in either Hindi or English.
- Correspondence from Central Government offices to any office or individual in any State or Union Territory of 'C' region (comprising all States and Union Territories not included in 'A' and 'B' categories) will be conducted in English. If a letter is sent in Hindi in such cases, an English translation must accompany it.
- Correspondence between Ministries or Departments of the Central Government may be conducted in either Hindi or English. However, correspondence between any Ministry/Department of the Central Government and its associated subordinate offices located in the 'A' category is primarily to be in Hindi, as determined by the Union Government.

Central Hindi Committee

The Central Hindi Committee serves as the apex body for coordinating programmes across various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India aimed at promoting the development and widespread use of Hindi in Government operations and providing policy directives. Chaired by the Prime Minister, it comprises 11 Union Ministers, along with Ministers of State, eight Chief Ministers, seven Members of Parliament and 10 distinguished Hindi scholars. The Secretary of the Department of Official Language and the Hindi Advisor of the Government of India serve as its Member Secretaries.

Hindi Advisory Committees

The Union Government has established Hindi Advisory Committees in various ministries and departments that have extensive interaction with the public. These committees will ensure the effective implementation of the Official Language Policy and provide necessary guidance and advice in this regard.

Hindi Teaching Scheme

The initiative to teach Hindi to Central Government employees who were not proficient in the language began in 1952 under the Ministry of Education's supervision. Later, in October 1955, this responsibility was transferred to the Union Home Ministry. Initially, the training was voluntary for those interested in learning Hindi. However, in April 1960, under the President's directive, in-service Hindi training became mandatory for all Central Government employees under the age of 45 as of January 1, 1961.

The demand for voluntary Hindi learning remains high in many places, prompting the Official Language Department to continue offering voluntary training initiatives nationwide. Similarly, arrangements have been made to provide training in Hindi typing and shorthand.

Translation of Administrative Literature

Previously, the Central Hindi Directorate of the Ministry of Education was responsible for translating manuals, codes, forms, etc., for various Ministries and departments of the Central Government. However, since March 1971, this task has been entrusted to the Central Translation Bureau established under the Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language). In addition to the literature translated by the Directorate, the Bureau has translated approximately three lakh standard pages and provided them to various Ministries. Currently, the Bureau continues to translate manuals from other Government offices and enterprises, in addition to Ministries and departments.

Similarly, the Official Language Section of the Ministry of Law has translated over 1,000 Central Acts.

Rajbhasha Gaurav Award

The Rajbhasha Gaurav Award, initiated by the Official Language Department, aims to promote original book writing in Hindi and foster the use of Hindi as the official language. The revised 'Rajbhasha Gaurav Award Scheme' has been implemented from the year 2022-23, under which awards in following categories may be presented to Indian citizens.

- ⇒ Original books in Hindi related to knowledge and science.
- ⇒ Original books in Hindi on forensic science, police, criminology research, and police administration.
- ⇒ Original books in Hindi on culture, religion, art, heritage, etc.
- ⇒ Original books in Hindi in the field of law. ■

Harnessing Technology for Hindi: LILA Pravah & e-Saral Dictionary



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Since its inception, the Official Language Department has been functioning with the necessary provisions and arrangements. Over time, it has undergone numerous qualitative changes. When Shri Amit Shah assumed the role of Union Home Minister in the year 2019, the promotion of Hindi as the official language gained significant momentum. Under his leadership, Hindi has been rapidly advancing through the use of modern technologies.

The Union Home Minister asserts that no language can thrive and develop without the support of Information Technology (IT). The Official Language Department is dedicated to further promoting Hindi through IT and is continuously working in this direction. The department is focused on strengthening e-tools for Hindi to facilitate its growth and usage.

As part of this initiative, the Official Language

As per the Official Language Policy of the Union Government, it is our constitutional responsibility to comply with the instructions related to the official language. While doing the basic work in Hindi ourselves, we should ensure compliance of the Official Languages Act by employees, so that common people can avail the benefits of all Government schemes and programmes without any hindrance.

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation

Department has developed the 'LILA Hindi Pravah' mobile app for the general public. This app allows



LILA Hindi Pravah and e-Saral Hindi Dictionary are significant online resources for the development and propagation of the Hindi language. These platforms play a crucial role in promoting and advancing Hindi. Being accessible online, both can be reached from anywhere at any time.

speakers of different languages to learn quality Hindi from their mother tongues through 14 Indian languages, free of charge. LILA Hindi Pravah is an online platform and app designed for the study and dissemination of Indian languages, developed under the LILA Language Learning programme. It aims to facilitate simple and effective learning of the Hindi language.

LILA Hindi Pravah represents a dedicated effort for the widespread dissemination and teaching of Hindi, serving as a valuable resource not only for Indian citizens but also for those around the world interested in learning Hindi. The LILA Hindi Pravah online platform is accessible on various devices, enabling users to access it anywhere and anytime. Through its mobile app, users can conveniently learn Hindi on their smartphones. Additionally, LILA Hindi Pravah can be utilised for Hindi language instruction in educational institutions.

LILA Hindi Pravah features interactive courses that make the language learning process engaging and effective. It offers audio and video resources to enhance listening and speaking skills. The courses are designed with comprehensive grammatical rules and a rich vocabulary. Learners can track their progress through regular exercises and quizzes. Additionally, the platform provides information about Hindi language, Indian culture and literature.

Similarly, the 'e-Saral Hindi Dictionary' conceptualised by the Official Language Department has included over 12,000 sentences so far, all

available on the department's website. The e-Saral Hindi Dictionary is an online resource developed to provide a collection of simple and clear Hindi sentences. It aids in the correct and effective use of Hindi in various contexts. The primary objective of the dictionary is to create a useful and accessible resource for people learning, teaching and using the Hindi language.

The e-Saral Hindi Dictionary is an invaluable resource for Hindi language learners, teachers, writers, journalists and professionals. It promotes the correct and effective use of Hindi while enriching the experience of learning and teaching the language.

In a similar vein, the Official Language Department has launched the Information Management System, enabling the submission of quarterly and annual reports related to the progressive use of Hindi online. Additionally, the department manages a joint website for all Town Official Language Implementation Committees across the country.

It is noteworthy to mention that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Official Language Department leveraged information technology to organise a significant number of e-inspections and meetings of the Nagar Official Language Implementation Committees via online platforms such as video conferencing. For the first time, the department's training centre, the Central Hindi Training Institute and the Central Translation Bureau began conducting training programmes online, shifting from traditional classroom teaching to using web conferencing tools for training. ■

Amrit Kaal Era Marks Strong Focus on Official Language

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Hindi is not just India's official language, but also a language of the masses. Currently, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is becoming self-reliant in every field. The Union Government believes that for true self-reliance, it is essential that all work is conducted in one's own language. This can only be achieved if we all commit to use the official language along with the other native languages voluntarily. The Official Language Department's collective and meaningful efforts instil confidence that this goal can be achieved.

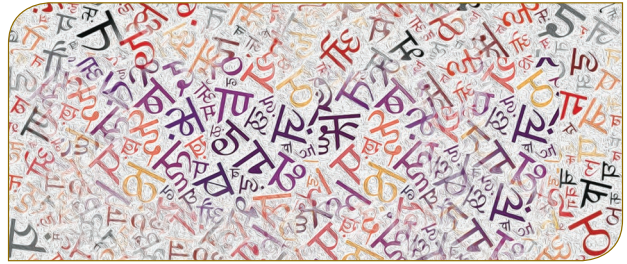
In any democratic country, the language of the masses is crucial as a contact language between the public and the Government. Hindi serves as a great medium for expressing the core elements of Indian culture and is a powerful means of strengthening the emotional unity of India. Due to its liberality, inclusiveness and acceptability, Hindi complements India's democratic system. Prime Minister Shri Modi has exemplified this by using Hindi in various international forums, thereby elevating its status both domestically and abroad.

The Union Government is striving to promote Hindi among the people of India, extending beyond just governmental use. Additionally, it is committed to spreading the light of the Hindi language globally. The Official Language Department is actively working to ensure that the maximum amount of work in Central Government offices is conducted in Hindi.

Constitutional provisions related to the official language Hindi are outlined in Articles 343 to 351, as well as Articles 120 and 210 in Part 17 of the Constitution. The official language policy of the Union Government is based on inspiration, encouragement and goodwill.

One of the major challenges with Hindi was in its typing, but this issue has been completely resolved with the advent of the Unicode. With the Unicode system, typing from Roman to Hindi can be done through transliteration and tools are also available for those accustomed to working with non-Unicode fonts.

The Official Language Department has created a



The Government of India is committed to promoting the Hindi language not only within the country, but also globally. The Official Language Department is actively working towards ensuring that most of the work in Central Government offices is conducted in Hindi.

joint website for the Nagar Rajbhasha Implementation Committees (NARAKAS) working across the country. All NARAKAS share their data on this free platform. The purpose of establishing Nagar Rajbhasha Implementation Committees is to provide a unified platform to promote the use of the official language in Central Government offices nationwide. On this platform, NARAKAS members can enhance their achievements by exchanging information about effective policies for increasing the use of Hindi. The committees meet twice a year and the administrative heads of Central Government offices in a particular city are expected to personally attend these meetings.

According to Rule 12 of the Official Language Rules, 1976, administrative heads are responsible for implementing the Official Language Policy and ensuring compliance. Officials from the Official Language Department (Headquarters) and Regional Implementation Offices participate in these meetings. The City Official Language Implementation Committees that excel in promoting the use of Hindi, as per the norms set by the Official Language Department, are honoured with the Rajbhasha Kirti Award at the national level and the Regional Official Language Award at the regional level. ■

Elevating the Status of Hindi



The third All India Official Language Conference took place in Pune on September 14-15, 2023, focusing on various aspects related to the promotion and enhancement of the Hindi language. The conference advocated for more effective use of Hindi in Government affairs. It also celebrated the richness of other Indian languages.

Bureau

The third All India Official Language Conference has significantly contributed to the development and promotion of the Hindi language. The suggestions and recommendations made during the conference have provided new directions for the progress of Hindi. Discussions and agreements on measures for the effective use of Hindi in both Government and non-Government sectors will help strengthen and enrich the language in the future.

The conference provided a new direction for promoting the Hindi language and established measures for its more effective use in both Government as well as private sectors. Recommendations were sent to the Union Government to implement the suggestions made at the conference at the policy level. New schemes and programmes were devised for the

development and promotion of the Hindi language.

The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, delivered a message via video conference, emphasising the importance of the official language. The Minister of State for Home, Shri Ajay Mishra, highlighted that the development of Hindi is intertwined with regional languages, as most of the regional languages are connected to Hindi. He stressed the need for collaborative efforts in this direction.

The large-scale participation from the Official Language Department and other offices at the conference demonstrated a strong commitment for the promotion of Hindi.

The main topics of discussion at the conference included 'Official Language @2047: Linguistic Scenario of a Developed India' (with a focus on Artificial Intelligence), 'Role of Media in the Development of Hindi' and 'Indian Cinema and Hindi', among others. In

in Governance



addition to Government representatives, prominent figures from the literary, media and cinema shared their perspectives.

Several speakers emphasised that individuals living outside India have significantly contributed to the spread of Hindi. They said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has not only revitalised the language, but has also showcased the country's culture, pride and traditions to the world.

A day before the two-day conference, Smt Anshuli Arya, Secretary of the Department of Official Language, Union Home Ministry, stated that Union Home Minister Shri Shah had expressed a desire to organise Hindi Diwas events on a larger scale in various cities and not confine them to New Delhi alone. Consequently, the Department of Official Language and the Ministry of Home Affairs have successfully carried out the initiative over the past two years. Notably, the first All India Official Language Conference was held in Varanasi from November 13 to 14, 2021. Building on this, the department organised Hindi Diwas 2022 and the second All India Official Language Conference in Surat, Gujarat. Both events saw participation from over 10,000 individuals from across the country.

Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar-2022-23



The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, led by Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, has been honoured with the prestigious Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar for 2022-23 in the category of Ministries/Departments with fewer than 300 employees. Minister of State Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra presented the award to Shri Sanjeev Narayan Mathur, Additional Secretary (Pension), on behalf of the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare at a grand ceremony during the All India Official Language Conference and Hindi Diwas celebrations in Pune on September 15, 2023. This marks the second consecutive year that the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, headed by Secretary (P&PW) Shri V Srinivas, has been recognised as the best-performing department in the category of Ministries/Departments with fewer than 300 employees. The Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar is a prestigious award given annually for securing the first position among all Ministries/Departments with fewer than 300 employees during the All India Official Language Conference and Hindi Diwas celebrations organised by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.



The third conference in Pune held at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi saw around 9,000 attendees. ■

Growing Recognition for



Amid the resurgence of many languages and traditions once suppressed during the colonial era, it is crucial for global awareness to encompass diverse cultures and societies. Therefore, expanding the teaching and usage of various languages, including Hindi, holds significant importance.

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The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Fiji, organised the 12th World Hindi Conference in Nadi city in Fiji from February 15-17, 2023. The conference was inaugurated with traditional Indian rituals. The event aimed to promote Hindi globally and establish it as a people's language.

India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Fiji's President Mr Wiliame Katonivere ceremonially lit the lamp, welcoming Hindi enthusiasts from around the world. President Mr Katonivere highlighted the conference as a unique platform to celebrate Fiji's enduring and special relations with India. Both nations

pledged to collaborate on enhancing Hindi through advancements in Artificial Intelligence.

A session titled 'Hindi: Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence' was chaired by the Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan and Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra, representing the Department of Official Language. Shri Mishra emphasised that technological advancement and user-friendly applications in Hindi are essential for achieving 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' envisioning Hindi as a global language for employment opportunities.

The Minister of State for External Affairs highlighted that it was for the first time that traditional knowledge and technology were integrated at

Hindi Across the Globe

the World Hindi Conference. He underscored that inclusivity is a hallmark of Indian culture, showcasing our rich heritage and the integration of languages with technology. Hindi's compatibility with Artificial Intelligence, exemplified by technologies like Hindi language recognition used by devices such as Alexa, was also discussed at the conference.

India's global strength is paralleled by the strengthening of its languages. In the current era of digital revolution, languages play a pivotal role.

Speakers at the conference noted that Hindi is progressing towards becoming the language of Artificial Intelligence, adapting to market trends and technological advancements. It has emerged as a primary language in various domains such as newspapers, economics, sports, cinema and more, illustrating its adaptability to evolving technological needs.

Shri Muraleedharan highlighted during his address that the conference aims to democratise traditional knowledge, empower languages and propagate advanced technologies to a global audience.

Artificial Intelligence enhances human-machine interactions through natural language processing, creating a personalised and engaging experience for users. Hindi and other Indian languages are well-suited for people-oriented systems driven by Artificial Intelligence within India. Platforms such as Google, Facebook and e-commerce websites use Artificial



The 11th World Hindi Conference was held at Port Louis in Mauritius from August 18-20, 2018.

Intelligence to predict user preferences based on past activities, behaviour and patterns. Therefore, increased Hindi content on the web enhances its effectiveness with Artificial Intelligence algorithms. The future of Artificial Intelligence in India relies heavily on information, knowledge and data, with Hindi playing a crucial role in leveraging these resources effectively.

Artificial Intelligence holds the potential to secure a sustainable future for Hindi. According to a UNESCO report, approximately half of the world's 7,200 languages may disappear by the end of this century. To prevent languages from facing the risk of extinction, embracing Artificial Intelligence is essential because this technology can bridge linguistic divides. ■

Worldwide Influence

In the opening session of the 12th World Hindi Conference, India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar emphasised that the increasing number of Hindi speakers across diverse regions is a testament to globalisation. He highlighted the rapid evolution of migration and mobility in the modern economy, which demands flexibility in skills and talent acquisition. Acknowledging the diaspora's cultural, identity and heritage challenges, he underscored the pivotal role of language in preserving and promoting these aspects, as language transcends mere expression to embody culture itself. Dr Jaishankar emphasised that globalisation should celebrate diversity rather than enforce uniformity. Understanding and embracing this diversity, he argued, are crucial for fostering a truly democratic global order. The World Hindi Conference serves as a platform to showcase Hindi's role not only in expressing identity, but also in bridging cultures between India and other nations. This convergence of language and culture contributes positively to global welfare and understanding, Dr Jaishankar added.

Hindi's Reach and Influence Growing Exponentially All Over the World

After India gained Independence in 1947, our policymakers felt the need for an official language that was native to the country. Accordingly, Hindi with the Devanagari script, was granted the status of the official language on September 14, 1949, with significant provisions related to it that are included in Part-XVII of the Constitution. To promote Hindi, the National Language Promotion Committee (राष्ट्रभाषा प्रचार समिति) has been organising 'Hindi Day' annually on September 14 since 1953.

The decision to make Hindi the official language of India was a significant step that embodies the linguistic unity of the country. This decision promotes social equality and bonhomie among citizens, as communicating in a common language provides equal opportunities to all. Several reasons were behind the selection of Hindi, such as its widespread use, its unifying role amidst economic and social diversity and its acceptance as a common language among the citizens, leading to its recognition as the official language in the Constitution. The choice of Hindi is significant as a symbol of social empowerment and unity, ensuring linguistic cohesiveness in the Indian society.

In recent years, interest in the Hindi language has grown within the country as well as abroad. The 12th World Hindi Conference was held in Fiji from February 15-17, 2023. It witnessed the participation of over a thousand Hindi scholars and enthusiasts from nearly three dozen countries. Notably, the event included participation from amongst Fiji's highly placed dignitaries. The Indian delegation was led by the External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar, who extensively discussed the significance of Hindi as a language and its overall impact. He told the audience how the President of Fiji, Mr Wiliame Katonivere, was influenced by Hindi cinemas. He said Hindi was reaching out to the world in various formats and is becoming increasingly popular with every passing day. Hindi has become an identity of New India and the World Hindi Conference was like a 'Mahakumbh' (a grand gathering).

It is now generally believed that a platform for a global network for Hindi is on the anvil. The primary reason for this is the commitment of the top leadership of the country that has a cascading effect in percolating down not just in the governmental forum but also



Dr A P Maheshwari

amongst the society in general. Ever since Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014, there has been a significant promotion of Hindi. This momentum increased further when Shri Amit Shah took over the responsibility of the Union Home Ministry in 2019. Acknowledging the importance of the official language, he gave it further prominence and promoted its use in routine official tasks.

Just as on the directions of the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Modi, the venue of the annual conference of Directors General/Inspectors General of Police has been alternating between different cities over the past 10 years, similarly, the Union Home Ministry has been organising core celebrations of 'Hindi Day' in different cities every year. This initiative has ignited a new enthusiasm for the official language right across the length and breadth of the country.

The Union Home Minister Shri Shah has spoken about the acceptance and importance of Hindi in various programmes, emphasising that Hindi should be accepted as an alternative to English only and not as a replacement for local languages. He stated this in the 37th meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on the Official Language in 2022. In the 38th meeting in 2023, he mentioned that Hindi is not in contention with any of the local languages. He added that promoting all Indian languages will strengthen the country.

It is noteworthy to mention that the Prime Minister has always preferred to speak in Hindi in the Parliament and the Union Ministers often take initiative to deliver speeches in their native tongue. The Prime Minister also signs all official documents in Hindi. Around 70% of the Union Cabinet's agenda is now prepared in Hindi. As it has already evolved over a period of time, this is the right occasion to make Hindi a significant symbol of India's unity. When people from non-Hindi speaking States communicate with each other, it should ideally be in an Indian language. Igniting self-respect and pride in its widespread use, serving as a medium for spreading knowledge, embodying patriotism and symbolising cultural pride, these together contribute in making a language both popular and widespread. And today it is Hindi that has effectively assumed this role. ■

(Former Director General, BPR&D, and former Director General, CRPF)



A draw for 7,866 EWS houses constructed at a cost of ₹444 crore under the PM Awas Yojana took place in Gandhinagar on February 12. The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, attended the event. These residences are poised to empower the underprivileged and give them the opportunity to lead dignified lives.

The Border Security Force (BSF) signed an agreement with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on February 19 to bolster the mental health support for its personnel. The BSF-AIIMS 'Manorakshak' web portal will offer BSF personnel access to online expert consultations.



Shri Balaji Srivastava, Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), commended officers and personnel the Central Armed Police Forces, Central Police Organisations and Ministry of Home Affairs for their outstanding contributions at the medal investiture ceremony on February 29. They were honoured with Director General discs and citations in recognition for their exemplary service.



The BPR&D's YouTube channel 'Police Aur Seva' shared a video on cyber stalking, highlighting it as a form of online harassment. It provides precautionary measures such as refraining from sharing personal information publicly online, being cautious before accepting friend requests from unknown individuals and understanding the permanence of digital footprints. All victims are urged to call 1930 and file complaints on www.cybercrime.gov.in



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- ◆ Bharat Ke Veer corpus would be managed by a committee made up of eminent persons and senior government officials, in equal number, who would decide to disburse the fund equitably to the braveheart families on a need basis.



Hindi has bestowed upon India a unique respect globally. Its simplicity, spontaneity and sensitivity consistently draw admiration.

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



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