

विश्व हिन्दी दिवस
अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी
कोरिया में हिंदी : दशा एवं दिशा

세계힌디어날 기념 심포지엄: 한국 내 힌디어의 현재와 미래

via **VIDEO CONFERENCE**

January 6, 2021 (Wednesday) 11:30 hrs IST / 15:00 hrs KST

PRESS RELEASE

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Seoul popularly known as Indian Cultural Centre is organised a digital Symposium as a pre-cursor to World Hindi Day on “कोरिया में हिंदी: दशा एवं दिशा” (Hindi in Korea: Current State and Future Directions) on 6th January 2021 (Wednesday) at 11:30 hrs (IST) and 15:00 hrs (KST).

The symposium was organized in collaboration with Center for Critical Foreign Languages Education (CCFLE) at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) which has been working for education, training and promotion of Hindi language and literature among Korean people.

The event was graced by the presence of the Hon’ble Minister of Education, Government of India, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ as the Chief Guest along with H. E. Sripriya Ranganathan, Ambassador of India to Republic of Korea. The Symposium will also be attended by Prof. Rajneesh Kumar Shukla, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Prof. Koh Tae Jin, Director, Centre for Critical Foreign Language Education, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Prof. Lee Eun-Gu, Dean, Department of Indian Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and Dr. Sonu Trivedi, Director, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Seoul.

It is noteworthy that World Hindi Day is being celebrated on January 10, the day that commemorates the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference that was held under the auspices of *Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti, Wardha* (National Language Promotion Committee) at Nagpur on 10th January 1975. The Conference witnessed delegates from over 30 countries participating in it. The aim of the conference was to promote Hindi language worldwide. Since 1975, the World Hindi Conference has been organised in different countries like India, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago United Kingdom, Suriname, United States of America and South Africa.

At the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur (1975), the first Prime Minister and Father of Nation of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, as leader of the Mauritian delegation to the Conference, proposed the setting up of a permanent World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius. The proposal was warmly welcomed and subsequently adopted at the later World Hindi Conferences. In June 1996, with the support of the Government of India through the High Commission of India, the World Hindi Secretariat unit was set up at the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in Mauritius. On the 12th November, 2002 an Act was passed by the Government of

Mauritius to provide for the establishment and management of the World Hindi Secretariat. The Secretariat was established with the objective to promote Hindi as an international language and further the cause of Hindi towards its recognition at the United Nations as an official language.

The foundation stone of the World Hindi Secretariat was laid on the Land provided by the Government of Mauritius at Phoenix, Mauritius on 1st November, 2001 by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, then Minister of Human Resource Development, Science and Technology and Ocean Development. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the World Hindi Secretariat building on March 13, 2018 on his State visit to Mauritius.

In a meeting of the Follow up Committee on World Hindi Conference held on June 8, 2005 it was decided to commemorate 10th January as World Hindi Day every year. Accordingly World Hindi Day was first celebrated in 2006 with an aim to promote Hindi language across the world. Since then, it is celebrated on January 10 every year.

The Symposium entitled 'कोरिया में हिंदी: दशा एवं दिशा' (Hindi in Korea: Current State and Future Directions) was organized as a pre-cursor to 'विश्व हिन्दी दिवस', is important as it is meant to invite the attention of the Korean people, especially those engaged in the field of academia to this global event, focusing on the promotion of Hindi language worldwide. This Symposium is also noteworthy at a time when Government of India is introducing Korean as a foreign language in Indian Schools and recently it has been incorporated in the National Education Policy 2020.

It is significant to mention here that Hindi has also been designated as a 'Critical Foreign Language' by the Government in Republic of Korea by a Presidential decree in August 2016. As a part of this, Hindi is one of the 12 Foreign languages chosen out of the total 53 Critical Languages as identified at the first level (from 2017-24) for education, training and promotion of these 'critical languages'. Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) is designated as one of the specialized critical foreign languages educational organizations and Center for Critical Foreign Languages Education (CCFLE) was established at HUFS in 2018.

CCFLE is making efforts on the development of educational contents and proficiency test while trying to educate Koreans in foreign languages. It is developing critical foreign language courses in K-MOOC (Korean Massive Open Online Course) aiming that Koreans can learn foreign languages easily. The Centre focuses not only on the development of educational contents but, for the first time a standard Proficiency Test for Hindi was conducted in 2020 by the Government of Republic of Korea which is historic as it has not happened anywhere in the world ever before. It is heartening to know that this Hindi language Proficiency Test will be conducted twice a year from 2021.

The Symposium underlined on how Hindi language also plays an important role in keeping the overseas Indians and people of Indian origin connected with the language and culture of India. Organising World Hindi Day is an effort in this direction. According to the Cultural Centre, "This event was a part of our continuing efforts for teaching, learning and promotion of Hindi language and literature worldwide".

Speakers from India and Republic of Korea (RoK) highlighted the need for more visible & active collaboration in future between academic institutions of India & RoK.

The Symposium received overwhelming response from students, researchers, academia, Indologists and journalist from both India and Republic of Korea in large numbers.
