

International Symposium
Teaching Hindi as a Foreign Language
August 4, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre at Embassy of India, Seoul organised the third International Symposium on 'Teaching Hindi as a Foreign Language' on August 4, 2021. After receiving the overwhelming response to the last two Symposiums on Hindi held in January and April 2021, this third Symposium was organised as a sequel to the previous two.

On this occasion Special Address was delivered by Prof. Beena Sharma, Director, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra and panelists included Prof. Maria Negyesi, Former Head, Dept of Indology, ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary; Prof. N. C Kar, Dept of Indian Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul; Dr. Ved Prakash Singh, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Language and Culture Studies in Language and Society, Osaka University, Japan; Ms. Varsha Daithankar, Project Officer, Sydney Institute of Community Languages Education, Sydney University; Dr. Yeon-Woo, Son Assistant Professor, Department of Indian Studies, Busan University of Foreign Studies and Mr. Satyanshu Srivastava, Assistant Professor, Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The experts discussed upon the nuances of teaching Hindi as a foreign language abroad. The Symposium also focused on issues faced in the teaching of Hindi as a foreign language, the opportunities for learning Hindi in countries abroad and the challenges being faced by local teachers in teaching Hindi due to absence of a standardized syllabus and study material in local language.

Over the years, the Indian Cultural Centre in Seoul have also been conducting classes in Hindi and Sanskrit along with organizing various academic symposiums and competitions for promotion of Hindi language among the friendly people of Korea. It also administers the Scholarship programme for foreign students offered by Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. The Cultural Centre looks forward to the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, the premier institution for teaching and learning Hindi in India, to develop a standard syllabus and proficiency test for Hindi as a foreign language. This would not only enhance the level of testing proficiency in Hindi language but also enrich the language by developing study materials and question banks for the students for appearing in the proficiency test.

The Symposium provided an opportunity for real-time interaction between the experts teaching Hindi as a foreign language in different countries and students from their respective countries. Various suggestions as made by the panelists during the Symposium are as below:

- ✓ Developing a standard syllabus and proficiency test for Hindi as a foreign language.
- ✓ Compiling study materials and question banks for the students for appearing in the proficiency test.
- ✓ Developing a common portal worldwide for Hindi based knowledge resources.
- ✓ Designing Short Term Online Courses.
- ✓ Establishing educational institutions in collaboration with host Government for teaching Hindi abroad.
- ✓ Pedagogy to be developed to link it with the local popular culture of the host country.
- ✓ Developing smart technology for digital learning for 21st century teachers and learners.
- ✓ Making Hindi teaching and learning more appealing to the youth and millennials.
- ✓ Increasing scope for better employment opportunities for students learning Hindi as a foreign language.
