

**Poetry recitation competition 2023 organised by Hindi Speaking Union on
Friday 15 December 2023 at 10:00 hrs at World Hindi Secretariat**

Mr Indradut Ram - Chairperson- MGI-RTI

Mr Rajcoomar Rampertab, CSK - Director general -MGI-RTI

**Dr Oudaye Narain Gangoo, GOSK- President of the Hindi Speaking Union
and Members of the Executive Council of the Hindi Speaking Union**

**Dr Madhoree Ramdharee, Secretary General of the World Hindi
Secretariat**

Chairpersons and Representatives of various Speaking Unions

Presidents and Representatives of Socio-Cultural Organisations

Ladies and gentlemen

It is a pleasure for me to attend this Poem recitation competition organised by the Hindi Speaking Union for tertiary education level students and adults.

I personally view poetry as the mother tongue of humanity. It is one of humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity. It is so important because it helps us understand and appreciate the world around us.

In its immediacy, poetry is a counselor helping us to understand one another, leading us away from hate to love, from violence to mercy and pity.

In every culture and on every continent – poetry speaks to our common humanity and our shared values, transforming the simplest of poems into a powerful catalyst for dialogue and peace. As an intimate form of expression that opens doors to others, poetry enriches the dialogue that catalyses all human progress, and is more necessary than ever in turbulent times.

Poetry can be a powerful teaching tool, helping students improve their literacy. It can also allow writers to express their emotions and allow readers to connect to those emotions. Poetry is also connected to aesthetics, or the exploration of what is beautiful in the world.

Ladies and gentlemen

The poetry of a particular culture is important when it comes to understanding that culture's history and values. In some cases, poetry can help build community among people, both through mutual self-expression and through people sharing poetry that they love with others.

In many cases, poetry can also help scholars learn more about various periods of history and what the people who lived in those times felt and understood the world around them.

There are many significant benefits of poetry for writers, readers, educators, and students alike. Some students resist learning poetry because they feel that it is too difficult to understand and write and therefore boring and pointless. Discussing the benefits of reading and writing poetry with students can help make it more enjoyable and give everyone get a better sense of the importance of this field of study.

Hindi is not just a language; it carries the cultural heritage of India. It has been a medium through which the stories, traditions, and values of the country have been passed down through generations.

Poems have always been an excellent way of expressing emotions in any language. In particular, Hindi poetry is having versatile popularity among native and non-

native speakers all over the world. India has produced many famous poets who wrote in the various Indian languages.

Among those who wrote poems in Hindi, I can mention Makhanlal Chaturvedi, Hariprasad Dharmak and Harivansh Rai Bachan, father of famous actor Amitabh Bachan.

I seize this opportunity to pay homage to the long list of Mauririan writers in the Hindi language who have contributed immensely to give life to the Hindi language. Among others, mention could be made of: Pandit Atmaram Vishwanath, Jaynarain Roy, Pandit Basdeo Bissoondoyal, Somduth Bhuckory, Dr. Moonishwarlall Chintamanee, Pahlad Ramsurrun and Abhimanyu Aunauth.

The writings of many of them have attained international recognition. They deserve our thanks and appreciation for their contribution to preserve and propagate Hindi language and Literature.

Dear guests

No doubt, such a competition as we witness this morning promotes Hindi in both written and spoken forms. I am glad to see you many in numbers as there is a lot of work to be done in the field of Hindi poetry and you are the future and it is great that you are taking interest in it.

The theme of this competition is '**Hindi Hamari Pehchaan**' – **Hindi our identity**. Thus the participants had the opportunity to awaken their creative capacity of writing poems.

I congratulate the Hindi Speaking Union and its members for this constructive idea of coming up with such a competition.

I would like to congratulate all the prize winners and to convey my best wishes to all the other participants, wishing them best of luck for next time.

Ladies and gentlemen

This Poem recitation competition has set the mood for me to wish you all a Happy New Year 2024 in a poetic form, borrowing from Mirza Ghalib, an illustrious Indian Poet

Let the old year out.

Welcome the new one in.

Bury the bad things of the past

As a new year now begins.

Pray for health and happiness.

Pray for your fellow man.

Pray for all the ones you love.

Pray for those who've lost their way.

So, my best wishes to you all for a Happy New Year 2024.

Thank you