

**Celebration of 16th Functional Day of the World Hindi Secretariat on
Monday 12 February 2024 at 09:15**

Mr Yudhisthir Munbodh, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education, Tertiary
Education, Science and Technology

Mr. Navin Gulati, Counsellor High Commission of India

Dr. Arune Ajitsonia, Freelance Consultant, Cambridge International

Dr. Udaye Gangoo, Member of the Governing Council, World Hindi Secretariat,
and Charperson of Hindi Speaking Union

Dr. Madhouree Ramdharee, Secretary General of the World Hindi Secretariat

Dr. Shubhankar Mishra, Deputy Secretary General of the World Hindi Secretariat

Mr. Santosh Choudhary, Chancellor, Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal

All the respected delegates from Bhopal

Representatives and Officers of different Ministries, Speaking Unions,
Associations and Organisations.

All Hindi Lovers

Ladies and gentlemen

A warm welcome to all of you. Namaskaar!

I am honoured to be among you this morning to celebrate the 16th Functional
Day of the World Hindi Secretariat. In fact, 16 years back, the World Hindi
Secretariat started to work to fulfill the endeavour of millions of Hindi Lovers to
see Hindi Language climb to the status of an official Language of the United
Nations Council.

“Hindi is a language of harmony and understanding” said the former
Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki Moon.

Gandhiji used Hindi as a “**language of unity**” to unite the whole India.

As you are aware, in 1975, during the first World Hindi Conference organized in Nagpur, the then Prime Minister of Mauritius proposed to establish the World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius to advocate for the induction of Hindi as an official language of the council of the United Nations.

It is a matter of pride that the Government of Mauritius left no stone unturned to pass the World Hindi Secretariat Act. Today this nice building which houses the Secretariat bears testimony to the collective effort of the Government of India and the Government of Mauritius.

This institution has taken the responsibility to propagate Hindi Language and strengthen its stand all around the world. Our Honorable Prime Minister and our Government is giving full support to the World Hindi Secretariat to fulfill its projects.

The World Hindi Secretariat has provided a platform for Hindi intellectuals and lovers from various countries to share their views and work together in the upliftment of Hindi Language.

The monthly online meetings and literary programmes organized by the World Hindi Secretariat, help to establish a bridge between Hindi Teachers and students from different parts of the globe. This gives us a clear view of how Hindi is taught in different conditions and what are the new projects undertaken by the participants.

The World Hindi Secretariat is acting as a senior partner with different Hindi institutions of the world to uncover the research work being carried out in Hindi,

encouraging creative writing and providing a global platform to Hindi writers through its magazines and with the help of modern technology and social media.

The celebration of the Functional Day of the World Hindi Secretariat gives us an opportunity to ponder upon the various achievements of this institution and its on-going projects for the propagation of Hindi language in the local and global context.

Some examples are the celebration of the World Hindi Day, the Functional Day, Writers meets, Talks, Conferences and various competitions for children, students and adults.

The World Hindi Secretariat is also a catalyst and booster for Hindi writers as it has constantly provided a platform to launch their books. Many hidden talents have been made visible.

Ladies and gentlemen

The World Hindi Secretariat has been logistically and financially helping our Hindi institutions in the organization of events and activities, especially in the provision of prizes to winners of the competitions they organize.

In February 2023, the World Hindi Secretariat participated in the 12th World Hindi Conference organized in Fiji, where its achievements and future undertakings at various international platforms were disclosed.

Ladies and gentlemen

I congratulate all the participants and the organizers who have contributed to make this event a success. The display of talents of artists from various fields is really appreciable. I am glad that this platform is acting as a living bridge between

different disciplines. We are able to appreciate the celebration of Language, Literature and Arts together.

In January 2015 President Obama opened a news conference in New Delhi, with "*Namaste. Mera Pyaar Bhara Namaskar*," ("My greetings with affection") and concluded the conference with "**Chale saath saath**," ("lets walk together").

So I shall conclude my speech by saying '**Chale Saath saath**' to make of Hindi the seventh official UN Language.

Thank you for your attention. Namaskaar!