



## **SPEECH**

**His Excellency Mr Dharambeer Gokhool G.C.S.K., President of the Republic  
of Mauritius**

**EVENT: FUNCTIONAL DAY 2025 – WORLD HINDI SECRETARIAT**

**VENUE: AUDITORIUM OF WORLD HINDI SECRETARIAT,  
PHOENIX**

**TIME: 11:00 HOURS**

Honourable Ministers of Education and Human Resource, and of Arts and Culture

Dr. Madhouree Ramdharee, Secretary General, World Hindi Secretariat

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

His Excellency Mr. Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India

Professor (Dr) Thankamoni Amma, President, Indian Hindi Academy

Dr. Mira Singh Founder, Antarrashtriya Hindi Sahitya Pravaah,

Dr. Kadambani Acharya ji, IGCIC

Dr. Vinod Bala Arun, President, Ramayan Centre

Distinguished Guests,

Students,

Members of the Media,

All protocol observed.

Good morning.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be here today, and a very warm welcome to you all.

I am extremely delighted to be in your midst.

At the onset, allow me to present my sincere apologies to the organizers of this event, as I unfortunately have not been able to attend it from the beginning due to prior commitments.

I thank and congratulate all participants who have come together in a spirit of learning and reflection for this workshop.

I hope that you have been able to leverage this one-of-a-kind opportunity, and that the lessons you've learnt will ignite greater love for the Hindi language and its rich history, as well as inspire you to live and promote its beauty in your daily life.

I extend my special gratitude and a huge acknowledgement to our highly distinguished overseas guests, particularly to Dr Mira Singh, Founder of *Antarrashtriya Hindi Sahitya Pravaah*, and Professor (Dr) Thankamoni Amma, for their valuable contribution to this workshop.

## **Happy Coincidence**

I have to confess here that my presence at today's event is also a happy coincidence.

For those of you who may not know, allow me to share an interesting glimpse of my journey.

In 2008, I was the Minister of Education and Human Resources when the World Hindi Secretariat project was implemented. The then Prime Minister was Dr the Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

Today, in 2025, the World Hindi Secretariat celebrates 17 long and fruitful years of its official functioning in Mauritius, and the Prime Minister is once again Dr the Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

And thanks to the blessings of the people of the Republic of Mauritius, I once again stand in your midst today, this time as the new President of the Republic.

We both have been, are and will remain lovers of Hindi.

It is with joy that I note the good work and significant achievements of the World Hindi Secretariat. Allow me to take this opportunity to join His Excellency Mr Anurag Srivastava and other eminent speakers here to commend and congratulate everybody for your unflinching efforts and devotion towards the promotion of the Hindi language and culture.

This 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a major milestone, and it is an opportunity to look back with joy and satisfaction at achievements.

It must also be an opportunity to look back at what has not been achieved and to take decisive actions for your future plans.

A lot has been said by esteemed previous speakers already. I do not intend to repeat what has already been said.

However, I would like you all to take this moment to reflect on what could have been achieved but for some reason, was not. Above all, what innovations you can bring to the table, with fresh zeal to add value to this noble mission of the World Hindi Secretariat.

## **World Hindi Day 2025: Date and History**

Ladies and Gentleman,

Vishwa Hindi Divas, or World Hindi Day, is celebrated every year on January 10, and this year, it will be observed on Friday, January 10, 2025.

This special day is observed to raise awareness about the Hindi language and to promote its status as a global means of communication.

It commemorates the historic moment when, in 1949, Hindi was first spoken in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), followed by the first World Hindi Conference inaugurated in 1975 by then-Prime Minister, Srimati Indira Gandhi.

There are currently over 7,000 languages, each with its distinctive features.

Hindi is the third most spoken language in the world, after English and Mandarin Chinese.

All of this sends a clear message: if we want the language to progress, we must not limit ourselves to organizing activities for those who can read, speak and write Hindi only.

We must reach out to those who cannot do so, beyond social barriers.

We must pay special attention to our children and our youths to spark their interest and love for this language.

Our pedagogy must evolve. In the digital age, it is imperative that Teaching and Learning methodologies adapt with new technology.

Let there be greater visibility of the work you are doing. Let people know what all you are doing.

This is also a world full of competition. If you don't tell people regularly of the work that you do, people do not notice.

Government will continue to offer all its support to your mission.

Not only do we share extremely strong and collaborative historic, political and cultural ties with India, but we also work closely with major international organizations dedicated to the promotion of Hindi.

As we gather today in a spirit of reflection and determination, let us come together to preserve and promote Hindi as a global medium of communication and as a powerful contributor to global peace, harmony and unity.

I congratulate you all once again for your presence and efforts here today.

Thank you for your kind attention.