



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: OPENING OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE -
 WORLD HINDI DAY 2026 AND INAUGURATION OF
 PAINTING AND POEMS EXHIBITION**

VENUE: WORLD HINDI SECRETARIAT, PHOENIX

DATE: 09 JANUARY 2026

TIME: 11:00 HOURS

Protocol

Her Excellency Mrs. Aparna Ganesan, Deputy High Commissioner of India

Representatives of Ministries and the Indian High Commission

Dr. Madhouree Ramdharee, Secretary General, World Hindi Secretariat

Dr. Paramat Kham Ek, Guest Speaker - Silpakorn University, Thailand

Esteemed organisers and collaborators

Scholars, Delegates and Artists from across the world

Distinguished Guests

Hindi Premiyo,

Members of the media

All Protocol Observed.

Introduction

Namaskaar aur aap sabhi ka swagat hey.

Vishesh swagat hamare videsh se ayey huwey pratinidhyon ko.

Main Vishwa Hindi Sachivalay aur sabhi aayojakon ko dhanyavaad deta hoon, jinhe ne mujhe nimantran diya hai,

Aur Hindi bhaasha ke bhavishya par mahatvapurn aur saarthak vichaar aur charcha ko aage badhane ke liye apna lagataar samarpan dikhaya hai.

Iss mahatwapurna sabha ko sambodhit karne ka mauka pradaan karne ke liye main aap sabhi ka aabhaari hoon.

Mujhey khed hai ki main aaj subah hone wale Antarraashtriya Kavi Sammelan mein shamil nahi ho paaya.

Lekin mujhe poora vishwas hai ki yah karyakram Hindi kavita aur bhaasha ki sundarta ka ek prernaadaayak utsav raha hoga.

Main sabhi kaviyon, kalaakaaron aur pratibhaagiyon ko unke samarpan ke liye dhanyavaad deta hoon.

I extend a warm welcome to Dr Paramat Kham-Ek, Retired Associate Professor of Silpakorn University, Thailand, as well as to all delegates and scholars who have travelled from across the world to participate in this International Conference.

I invite you to take full advantage of our Mauritian hospitality.

My congratulations in particular to Dr. Deepti Aggarwal for this wonderful Exhibition of Paintings & Hindi Poems on ‘Girmit’ that I have had the pleasure to inaugurate.

World Hindi Day 2026

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we gather here to mark World Hindi Day 2026, observed annually on 10 January, we must remember that in today’s digital age the promotion of languages, multilingual education, and cultural dialogue have become international imperatives for international peace and harmony.

This day commemorates the First World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur in 1975, and continues to remind us of our shared responsibility

to ensure that Hindi thrives as a language of global communication, cultural expression and peace and harmony among all nations.

Conference Theme: Teaching of Hindi - Innovation and Possibilities

Last year, on this very platform, drawing from my career as an educationist and as former Minister of Education, I shared my reflections on the transformative role of technology and AI (artificial intelligence) in the survival and promotion of languages, in particular, our ancestral languages.

I had also shared that in the digital era, languages that do not adapt risk marginalisation, while those that embrace innovation thoughtfully gain renewed relevance and reach.

I am happy that this 2-Days' International Conference is moving that agenda forward.

This year, this conference is discussing the very foundations of that transition.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am particularly pleased to note that the deliberations of this year's conference will focus on key themes such as:

- **innovation in Hindi teaching at the secondary and university levels;**
- **empowering educators with digital skills;**
- **strengthening classroom participation;**
- **and promoting value-based education through stories, proverbs, and cultural narratives to shape both linguistic competence and character.**

You are addressing a fundamental pedagogical transformation in the teaching and learning of Hindi language.

Aap hindee bhaasha ke shikshan aur adhigam mein ek moolabhoot shaik shanik parivartan ke vishay par charcha kar rahe hain

I commend and congratulate the World Hindi Secretariat, the Indian High Commission, and all organisers and participants for this laudable initiative - which not only advances the teaching and learning of Hindi, but also reinforces its enduring role as a vehicle of culture, values, and human connection in an increasingly interconnected world.

And for your constant dedication and leadership in sustaining continuity of thought and clarity of action.

Reflections 2026

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year marks the second year of my mandate as President of the Republic and nation-building remains my foremost mission.

And central to this mission must be an education system that equips our young people with skills, confidence, and a sense of shared belonging.

- In this regard, I urge, in particular, our educators and academic leaders to ensure that the insights and skills shared during this conference- especially on AI and digital literacy- are translated into practice in classrooms and on all platforms where hindi is being taught

I am making this appeal because while our students are receptive and engaged, I have noted that innovation is often met with hesitation at higher decision-making levels.

- **We must overcome this obstacle.**

In fact, last year, I pioneered the Learn-AI School Innovation Challenge for Lower Six students.

The projects presented addressed national priorities such as inclusive education for the deaf, food security, road safety, healthcare, and social inclusion.

These outcomes clearly demonstrate that our youth are ready to lead in innovation.

Teachers and mentors must therefore keep pace, to guide and support this momentum.

I started my academic career teaching students; I ended it by learning from my students.

We must all embrace a life-long learning process.

Intercultural sharing

I also wish to emphasise that Hindi should not be viewed as the preserve of any single community.

Through literature, cinema, music, and shared cultural expression, it has long served as a unifying force across the world.

Hindi can contribute towards the realization of that wonderful concept found in Hindu texts-Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-The whole world is one family.

In our multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-religious rainbow nation, Hindi contributes meaningfully to unity in diversity.

- I therefore encourage the World Hindi Secretariat to strengthen collaboration with other language and cultural organisations, fostering intercultural exchange and mutual learning.
- You could develop and offer programmes of learning Hindi for beginners to other communities.
- Such engagement will broaden the reach of Hindi while enriching our collective cultural landscape.

Conclusion

Hindi is a living language with a global presence.

- Being the 4th most spoken native language (after Mandarin, Spanish, English).
- But we must continue to ensure its relevance, vitality, and meaningful transmission to future generations especially among our children and youth.

On this optimistic note, allow me to end by thanking and congratulating you all once again for your commitment and contribution.

Iss sammelan ke safal charchaa ki kaamna karte hue, mujhe aasha hai ki yeh vichaar-vimarsh sammelan ek aitihaasik aur mahatvapurn aayojan ke roop mein yaad rakha jaega.

Aap sabhi ko Vishva Hindi Diwas, Naye Saal aur Makar Sankranti ki hardik shubhkamnayein.

Dhanyavaad. Aur Namaskar.