



HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
PORT LOUIS
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PRESS RELEASE

Celebration of Hindi Day in Mauritius by the High Commission of India

Every year 14 September is celebrated as Hindi Day in India. This day in the year 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India had adopted Hindi language written in Devanagari script as the official language of India.

The High Commission of India celebrates Hindi Day in Mauritius every year. To commemorate Hindi Day this year, the High Commission of India organised Essay Writing and Elocution Competitions in Hindi for Mauritian nationals. In an overwhelming response, 540 entries from more than 100 schools and educational institutions were received. Entries were divided into three levels. Level 'A' - Primary School students up to Std. 6; level 'B' - Secondary School students of Form I to VI; and level 'C' - Tertiary Students and all other Mauritian nationals.

Level A and B participants in the Essay Competition had the choice of selecting a topic from the following:

1. *Mere Aadarsh Bhartiya Mahapurush* (My Ideal Indian Great Personality),
2. *Mere Priya Lekhak* (My Favourite Writer),
3. *Mera Sunder Desh Mauritius* (My Beautiful Country Mauritius),
4. *Mere Priya Sahityakar Rabindranath Tagore* (My favourite Writer - Rabindranath Tagore).

Level 'C' participants had to choose one of the following topics:

1. *Hindi Bhasha Aur Bharat-Mauritius kee Maitree* (Hindi Language and Indo-Mauritian Friendship)
2. *Hindi Bhasha Ki Lokapriyata Me Hindi Cinema ki Bhumika* (Role of Hindi Cinema in Popularising Hindi Language),

3. *Rabindranath Tagore ke Vishwa Chhavi* (World Image of Rabindranath Tagore).

Similarly, the Hindi Elocution competition was conducted on the following topics:

1. *Mahatma Gandhi ke Aadarsh* (Ideals of Mahatma Gandhi),
2. *Mere Priya Kavi* (My Favourite Poet),
3. *Mujhe Rabindranath Tagore ka sahitya kyon Pasand hai?* (Why do I like Rabindranath Tagore's Literature?)
4. *Kaise Banegee Hindi Sanyukta Rashtra Sangh ke Bhasha?* (How Hindi will become Official Language of U.N.?).

It was also a fitting occasion to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, and topics related to this theme were included in the competitions.

Given the exceptional and outstanding participation, the High Commission of India is organising a Gala Awards Ceremony on October 4, 2011 at Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC) at 1300 hrs. Dr. The Hon. Vasant Kumar Bunwaree, Minister of Education and Human Resources and Hon. Mookhesswur Choonee, Minister of Arts and Culture will be Guests of Honour.

The High Commission of India will take this opportunity to donate Hindi Teaching Software and Hindi text books to Mauritian schools through the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and socio-cultural organisations as part of ongoing Hindi promotion activities undertaken by the High Commission of India. Attractive cash prizes and Hindi books will be awarded to the winners. Hindi magazines Bal Bharati & Aaj Kal and other Hindi books will also be distributed to participants.

All Mauritians and Friends of India in Mauritius are invited at IGCIC: 1300 hrs, October 4, 2011.