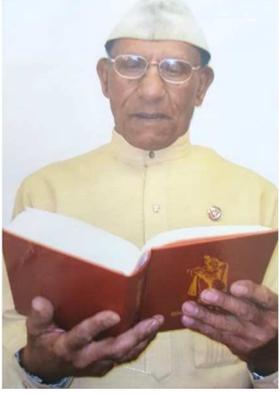


## Shradhanjali: Hindi Shiksha Sangh pays tribute to Pandit Vishnu Maharaj



Pandit Vishnu Maharaj, based in Lenasia, was a well-known practising Pandit, Hindu priest in Gauteng. He joined the Sanathan Veda Dharma Sabha in 1979 as its pujari and served the organization and the community for many years. Apart from conducting pujas for both the temple and its congregation, his contributions to the Lenasia community included teaching Hindi, mantra recitations, pujas, bhajans, Tuesday evening satsangs and hosting of Swamis and organizations that rendered discourses at the temple. Every year the Dharma Sabha hosted the Hindi Shiksha Sangh annual eisteddfod in which children participated to present talks and poems in Hindi, enacting plays in Hindi and various cultural items bringing children back to their cultural and religious roots.

His Hindi classes were held after school for 2 hours and he even went to the extent of driving the school bus to pick up and drop off the children from various areas. He would visit parents where the children missed classes to insist upon children being sent. Soon in the weekly satsangh, the children learnt to sing bhajans from Hindi text, read, write & speak Hindi, recite Ramayan and even learnt to perform the Havan themselves.

जोहान्सबर्ग जाने से पहले, पंडित विष्णु एस्टकोर्ट में पले-बढ़े और अपने ही पिता, पंडित सीएस महाराज और बर्लिंगटन हाइट्स के पंडित एचआर महाराज से सीखे, जिनके माध्यम से उन्होंने हिंदी वाद-विवाद, रामायण और गीता पाठ में भाग लिया। स्वामी दीक्षाानंद के प्रभाव के कारण संस्कृत की शुरुआत भी हुई। पंडितजी ने दक्षिणा और लेनसिया क्षेत्र 10 दोनों में सत्संग शुरू किया। इन विभिन्न स्थानों के लिए, वह अपने घर पर बने प्रसाद को पूजन और हवन के लिए आवश्यक सामानों के साथ लाते थे। उन्होंने उन परिवारों का दौरा किया जो सत्संग में शामिल नहीं हुए थे कि वे उनकी जाँच करें और आग्रह करें कि वे अगले सप्ताह उपस्थित हों। लेनसिया मंदिर में, उन्होंने सुनिश्चित किया कि प्रत्येक परिवार को प्रसाद बनाने के लिए और उसी परिवार को साप्ताहिक हवन में भाग लेने का मौका मिले। पंडितजी, गुजराती बोलने में निपुण होने के कारण, गुजराती में पूजा भी करते थे।

An English translation: Before moving to Johannesburg, Pandit Vishnu grew up in Estcourt and learnt from both his own dad, Pandit C.S Maharaj & subsequently from Pt HR Maharajh of Burlington Heights via whom he partook in Hindi debates, Ramayana, and Gita recitations. Via the influence of Swami Dikshanand there was also the introduction of Sanskrit. Punditiji started satsangh in both Daxina (Lenz South) and Lenz Ext. 10. For these different venues, he used to bring along Prasad made at his own home along with the necessities for the Pujan and Havan.

August 2020 | Issue 96



### Coronavirus Pandemic

#### WHAT IS IT

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a new virus. The disease causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever, and in more severe cases, difficulty breathing.

#### HOW IT SPREADS

Coronavirus disease spreads primarily through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze. It also spreads when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.

#### WHAT TO DO

Maintain social distancing and practise good hygiene as set out by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in conjunction with your local government laws set out.

- \* Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- \* Practise and maintain social distancing  
Keep at least one metre of distance between yourself and a person who is coughing or sneezing.
- \* Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Once your hands are contaminated, the virus can be transferred through your eyes, nose or mouth where it enters your body.
- \* Don't cough or sneeze into your hands. Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Don't forget to throw away the tissue immediately.

He was known for visiting families that missed the satsang to check on them and encouraging them to attend the next week. At the Lenasia temple, he ensured that each family got a chance to make prasad and for that same family to take part in the weekly Havan. Panditji, being adept in speaking Gujerati, also conducted pujas in Gujerati.

As a presenter on Eastwave radio, he arranged for different Hindu orgnizations to be given a slot to do a presentation. Panditji often wrote articles in the local newspaper on various subjects; from the significance of festivals, importance of marriage vows and also counselled persons at his own home. His students recall that Guruji, being very strict in his classes, did not allow anybody to speak English in class. His son, Lux Maharaj, recalls the strict environment at home where English was not to be spoken and only Hindi was allowed. Today, as his students and family, mourn his departure at the age of eighty-two (82), they continue to teach their own children and conduct their own Havans at home. Panditji will be remembered for his passionate efforts, contributions to his community, extremely high standards and achievements in advancing both Hindi and Sanathan Dharma.



**Collaboration:** University of Delhi, International Webinars & Hindi Shiksha Sangh (South Africa)

Professor Mala Mishra is a senior lecturer in the Department of Hindi at the University of Delhi – Bharat (India). Due to the Covid 19 – Pandemic and the temporary closure of learning institutions in Bharat, (India) she resorted to Hindi webinars to keep Hindi vibrant. Her innovative thoughts of working with all Hindi promoting Institutions across the world is commendable. We at the Hindi Shiksha Sangh have become an active participant in all these webinars.

Professor Mishra's passion for the Hindi language reflects in her commitment and remarkable organising skills in bringing like-minded people together, on to one platform and be given the opportunity to express their personal view on a contemporary topic. She is an admirable "organiser". The Hindi Shiksha Sangh profusely thanks her on her drive and effort to get many people across their personal language barriers and religious schools of thought to speak in Hindi and present their thoughts effectively.



आयोजक : अध्ययन एवं अनुसंधान पीठ, भारत

**विश्व संवाद शृंखला**

**कोरोना काल में अध्ययन एवं अनुसंधान की दशा एवं दिशा**

अंतरराष्ट्रीय आमंत्रित व्याख्यान शृंखला

समय - 12.00 P.M. भारतीय समयानुसार (दिनांक 23 अगस्त, 2020)



आयोजक : अध्ययन एवं अनुसंधान पीठ, भारत



डॉ. लोकेश महाराज,  
दक्षिण अफ्रीका



डॉ. अलका धनपत,  
मॉरिशस



डॉ. राकेश कुमार दुबे,  
ओड़िशा



प्रो. पी.एल. चतुर्वेदी  
कुलाधिपति - हरियाणा केंद्रीय  
विश्वविद्यालय

**अध्यक्ष**

मुख्य समन्वयक एवं संयोजिका  
डॉ. माला मिश्र  
दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय  
9953325434

**अन्य प्रमुख वक्ता :-**

- ◆ सुश्री अर्चना पाठक - दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय
- ◆ सुश्री पंकजा दुबे - पटना विश्वविद्यालय

नोट :- पंजीकरण निःशुल्क है। वेब संगोष्ठी जूम के माध्यम से होगी। अपने व्यक्तिगत विवरण (आत्म परिचय) sangoshtimala1994@gmail.com मेल पर भेज कर पंजीकरण करवाएं। पंजीकृत प्रतिभागियों को ही ई-मेल द्वारा लिंक प्रेषित किया जाएगा। पंजीकृत प्रतिभागियों को ही प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान किया जाएगा।

On August 23, 2020, she held a webinar on "Covid 19 – pandemic, its effects and way forward". **Dr Lokesh Maharajh**, a senior lecturer at the Edgewood College, a Purohit (Priest) Trainer at the Sanathan Dharma Sabha – South Africa, represented Hindi Shiksha Sangh on this event. **Shrimati Archana Pathak** of Delhi University, **Shrimati Pankaj Dube** of Patna University were the keynote speakers accompanied by **Dr Alka Dhunpath** of Mauritius, **Dr Rakeshkumar Dube** of Orrisa and **Professor P L Chaturvedi** of Haryana University. The

hosts of this event was the Hindi Department of the Univeristy of Delhi and the Bhagat Singh Foundation. Accordingly, each of the participants were issued with a certificate for their kind participation.

**Next webinar is planned for Hindi Diwas on September 14, 2020 with Hindi Shiksha Sangh – South Africa will be the chief host**

हिन्दी खबर: दक्षिण अफ्रीका Hindi Khabar, South Africa : August 2020

30 Oak Avenue, Kharwastan, Durban 4092 P O Box 56431, Chatsworth, Durban, South Africa 4030

+27 31 4019788 ✉: hss@telkomsa.net\_or hindishikshasangh.gauteng@gmail.com

**Chairperson: Srm Shereen Behadar**

In our previous Hindi Khabars, we highlighted the disruptions, uncertainties, difficulties in student management to continue with the 2020 Academic work in its traditional form. Hence, the Sangh had to quickly adjust to newer thoughts of promoting Hindi. Precious time was devoted to compile slides and prepare online teaching methods. Teachers and subject advisors were motivated to prepare lessons in keeping with the syllabus to enhance the teaching of Hindi via digital equipment. The Sangh is greatly indebted to these volunteer teachers and advisors who rallied to continue with the teaching of Hindi through these make-shift methods so that the students don't lose out on a complete year.

The junior grades – it was agreed that assignments on their course work will be set and the students will enjoy the opportunity of completing their assignments in their home environment. Hence, there will be no pressure or tension in preparing for a formal examination. At the beginning of September 2020, all teachers, organisers and students were sent the assignments. On October 26, 2020, students will return their completed assignments to the Hindi Shiksha Sangh Offices in Durban.

The senior grades assignments have been postponed to March 2021. Fortunately for them, they have until then to prepare. Beginning of February, they will receive their assignment questions for completion by end of March 2020.

The above strategy is a breakthrough in ensuring that the Academic Business Continuity Plan for 2020 of the Hindi Shiksha Sangh will continue. The concerned parties have welcomed the rethink of formal year-end examination.

During this unprecedented period of Covid 19 pandemic and the battle for survival, continuity of work and study, has set new norms. The two compliments below received are gratifying. This reinforces that the work of the Sangh is being noticed by the International World and their sentiments for the people at its helm is also laudable. **Very encouraging.**

बंधुवर जी, हिन्दी खबर का ताजा अंक पढा।

गागर में सागर भरने का आपका प्रयास सराहनीय है। हिन्दी शिक्षा संघ की उत्तरोत्तर प्रगति की शुभकामनाओं सहित

आपका, विनोद नागर,। भोपाल मध्यप्रदेश भारत

प्रिय प्रधाञ्जि

नमस्कार.कोविड के इस भयानक समय में भी हिन्दी और भारतीय संस्कृति की ज्योति जलाकर रखने के लिए धन्यवाद.हिन्दी

रचनाएँ दिलचस्प और प्रशंसनीय हैं,सभी भाई बहनों को अभिनंदन और शुभकामनायें .

आपका, प्रो.जी.गोपीनाथन, भारत

During the month the Hindi Sahitya Bharati in Bharat, India was launched. This is a congress of people who are passionate of Hindi Literature. The idea of the congress is to promote Hindi literature, bring to the fore literature that are forgotten, re-ignite the thoughts of many authors who dedicated their life writing on Hindi Literature. Also, to promote that great literature of Veda Vyas and Tulsidas. Members from other countries have also been chosen to serve on this august formation. There are specific code of conduct, rules and membership responsibilities already drawn and circulated. One only hopes that this committee will stand the test of time and enormously contribute to its manifesto and finally bring about a renaissance in Hindi literature. The officials are:

- डॉ. रवीन्द्र शुक्ल पूर्व शिक्षा व कृषि मंत्री , उत्तर प्रदेश अंतरराष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष
- डॉ. करुणाशंकर उपाध्याय प्रोफेसर एवं अध्यक्ष हिंदी विभाग मुंबई विश्वविद्यालय, अंतरराष्ट्रीय महासचिव
- डॉ. तोमोको किकुचि प्रख्यात हिंदी - जापानी लेखिका , कार्यकारिणी सदस्य
- डॉ. आनंदवर्धन शर्मा, विजिटिंग प्रोफेसर, भारतीय विद्या विभाग, सोफिया विश्व विद्यालय, सोफिया, बुल्गारिया
- डॉ. विनोद कुमार मिश्र, महासचिव , विश्वहिंदी सचिवालय, मारीशस , मोबाइल
- श्री मनीष शर्मा, मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, कंबोडियन क्रिकेट संघ, कंबोडिया



कभी सोचा नहीं था अचानक से यू महामारी का सामना करना पड़ेगा आनंद ने स्मिता की ओर देखते हुए कहा । हां, जिंदगी में कब क्या मोड़ ले जाए किसे मालूम होता है। दोनों के बीच खामोशी छा गई। स्मिता और आनंद की शादी को अभी कुछ 3 साल ही हुए थे ,बहुत सी उम्मीदें उड़ान लिए हुए थी। दोनों ने मिलकर

बहुत से सपने संजोए हुए थे। परिवार शुरू करने से पहले बहुत से टारगेट पूरे करने थे जैसे नया घर ,बड़ी गाड़ी ऐसी कई सारी खाहिशें थीं। मगर जो अब पूरी हो पाना नामुमकिन और बेमानी भी लग रही थी।

महामारी को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने लॉक डाउन की घोषणा कर दी और सभी घरों में बंद हो गए। कामकाज भी बंद हो गए। संपूर्ण अर्थव्यवस्था डगमगा गई। स्मिता ने खामोशी तोड़ते हुए कहा ,आनंद आज की स्थिति को देखते हुए अब आगे क्या होने वाला है ? ,कुछ पता नहीं है जिंदगी कि हर चीज बेमानी सी हो गई है। हम दोनों अपने सपनों को साकार करने में इतने व्यस्त थे की एक दूसरे को भी समय नहीं दे पा रहे थे। परिवार आगे बढ़ाने के लिए हमने कैसे बेमानी से लक्ष्य रखे हुए थे। तुम ही कहो क्या इन परिस्थितियों में हम परिवार बनाने की सोच सकते हैं ?क्या यह कुदरत का इशारा नहीं कि आदमी के हाथ कुछ नहीं होता, उसे हर पल को सही तरीके से जीना चाहिए । असली खुशी जिंदगी को जीने में है।

हां तुम ठीक कहती हो स्मिता इच्छाओं का क्या है वह तो हमेशा बढ़ती ही रहती है और आदमी उसके पीछे भागते भागते एक दिन खत्म हो जाता है। जरूरी होता है अपने रिश्तो, खुद को समय दे जिंदगी को भरपूर जीने का। चलो इस लॉक डाउनलोड महामारी की वजह से जिंदगी का एक बहुमूल्य सबक तो सीखने को मिला। आनंद ने स्मिता की तरफ प्यार भरी

नजर से देखते हुए कहा , "अब हम अपना एक नया सफर शुरू करेंगे जिसका लक्ष्य जिंदगी को जीना होगा ,भागते रहना नहीं"।

### जिंदगी बदल गई है

रफ्तार जिंदगी की थम सी गई है  
जरूरतें इंसान की मिट सी गई है  
ना शोर है कोई ना कोई दिखावा  
मतलबी जहां की जिंदगी बदल गई है  
ना भागता दिख रहा कोई ,ना होड़ है कोई  
वक्त कट रहा है बस यू ही  
जो कटता नहीं था घर में  
बातें खुदा से दिन रात हो रही हैं  
जो जानते नहीं थे वह फरियादी हो गए हैं  
फुर्सत में जिसको ना देखा था कभी किसी ने  
कुदरत का हर वह नजारा हसीन दिख रहा है  
अंधकार में डूबे जज्बात मचल रहे हैं  
रोशनी की तलाश में सब एक हो चले हैं

केशी गुप्ता  
लेखिका समाजसेविका  
द्वारका दिल्ली