

Shradhanjali: Hindi Shiksha Sangh (South Africa) remembers Mataji Jayawantiben Nardev Vedalankar

Hailed as a champion of her community, she dedicated 70 odd years of service with absolute grace, sincerity and unconditional love as the South African nation commemorates the strength and courage of females this Women's Month. August 1, 2020 marked the first death anniversary of such a committed and remarkable lady – our beloved Mataji, Shrimati Jayawantiben Nardev Vedalankar. In 1948, she with her eldest daughter Professor Usha Desai, accompanied her husband Pandit Nardevji Vedalankar to South Africa from Bharat, India. She was ninety-one (91) when she passed away.



Many who knew Mataji will remember her reverence to the Gujarati language and one of her favourite past times was reading Gujarati literature. She played a crucial role in supporting her husband, Pandit Nardevji Vedalankar, and worked together with Panditji to advocate Indian languages and Vedic Dharma. As the mainstream saying goes, "behind every successful man, there is a woman" and Mataji portrayed the very essence of that. Together with Panditji, she engaged with many people from a genre of cultural and religious backgrounds, who spoke various languages across diverse ethnicities. She always accorded them respect and hospitality with great honour.

Mataji acknowledged and embraced many religious and cultural practices. She was not prescriptive to any way of life, instead she welcomed individual thoughts and practices. This made her a unique person in that despite the social and religious criterion that prevailed in her time, she remained steadfast to her individual values and beliefs. She encouraged people to socialise with one another and practice tolerance and harmony, irrespective of personal traits and beliefs.

She pledged her involvement in the religious aspects and activities of the community and offered help and advice at special events that celebrated the extensive religious practices of the Hindu community. She inspired cultural and religious creativity by organising such events with the critical objective of bringing people from all cultural affiliates together. Her patience, tolerance and complete faith in Pandit Nardevji's work encouraged him to persevere and successfully complete the many projects he undertook. Panditji in return showed her immense respect and dignity.

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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.



Sangh Activities during "Lockdown"

Madiba Month: Feeding the needy in association with HEAL Foundation & Hindi Shiksha Sangh (SA)

HEAL Foundation of Arya Samaj (SA), headed by Swami Vedanand Saraswati in association with the Hindi Shiksha Sangh, and through its radio station Hindvani held a successful campaign in raising funds for the "2020 Madiba Meals Campaign". The objective of the campaign was to provide 6700 meals packages to needy individuals and families over July - Madiba Month. Hindi Shiksha Sangh helped to continuously advertise the project over their Radio Hindvani. The response from the community was overwhelming with donations in cash and kind. The project provided meals to individuals and families in Kenville, Avoca, Effingham, Clairwood, Chatsworth, Isipingo, Verulam, Tongaat and Phoenix. The volunteers used the kitchen facilities at Yuvak Arya Samaj - Clairwood to prepare the meals. The HEAL Foundation has vowed to continue with this feeding scheme on an ongoing basis.



A big thank you to Swami Vedanand Saraswati, the genius behind the project, for initiating and taking a lead role in this humanitarian project as a contribution to Madiba Day 2020.



Food preparation activities at the Yuvak Arya Samaj - Clairwood

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The Hindi Shiksha Sangh and HEAL Foundation is beholden to the following kind-hearted donors who helped with making the project a huge success. May Parmatma's Blessings be upon them.

Surname	Name	Residence	Surname	Name	Residence
Bridglall	Rita	Pietermaritzburg	Reddy	Premona	Durban
Pattundeen	Rajeev	Durban	Sharma	Somya	Rustenburg
Pta Kalicharan	Kalawathee	Durban	Ramduth	Devikawathee	Durban
Pakkiri	Yugen	Durban	Bechoo	Baldaw	Durban
Hariparsath	R	Durban	Singh	Ashie	Durban
Chinsamy	Marge	Durban	Taylor	Simon	Durban
Perumal	Bobby	Durban	Pt Antony	Pregalathan	Durban
Ramduth	Yashina	Durban	Jewnarain	Ruen	Durban
Rambilass	Ooma	Durban	Keshave	Shubnum	Australia
Reddy	T D	Durban	Vedalankar	Chandrika	Durban
Panday	Nuleen	United Kingdom	Bundhoo	Nishi	Pietermaritzburg
Baboothie	S	Durban	Sawawan	Premilla	Durban
Sunder	Jayandra	Pietermaritzburg	Rambally	Anil	Durban
Rajkumar	Balmik	Durban	Rajpal	Deseree	Durban
Bhogal	Surie	Durban	Bhogal	Kathrine	Durban
Maharaj	Indira	Durban	Parbhoo	Suvarna	Durban
Pta Coenen	Reena	Gauteng	Moodley	Yoganathan	Durban
Raman	Suryakumarie	Durban	Singh	P	Durban
Basanth	Prakash	Durban	Sewdutt	Shavana	Durban
Laldass	Maya	Durban	Daya	Sabita	Durban
Maharaj	V	Durban	Maharaj	K	Durban
Samkaran	A	Durban	Maharaj	Gita	Durban
Bhogal	Sarvesh	Durban	Bridglall	Rashmi	Pietermaritzburg
Rajlal	Jasmin	Durban	Hiralal	Bharthi	Durban
Manav Sewa	Foundation	Durban	Bechan	Prem	Durban
Chatraaghoon	Bishnaw	Durban	Bridglal	P	Western Cape
Bridglal	Roma	Western Cape	Ramlakhan	Reena	Durban
Reddy	Eddie & Shirly	Durban	Pillaye	Rugen	Durban
Brijball	K	Durban	Ramdutt	K D	Durban
Bahadur	Shemica	Durban	Barath	Seema	Durban
Singh	B H	Durban	Bachoo	Shaneel	Durban
Padayachee	K	Durban	Marion	Pavesha	Durban
Arya Mitra		Durban	Debidayal	S	Durban
Mandal	Rekha	Durban	Ramduth	Shalen	Gauteng
Mahadev	Rekha	Durban	Ramkelawan	Asha	Durban
Rampersath	Karisha	Durban	Bridglall	Rita	Pietermaritzburg
Sarwan	Misha	Durban	Lutchman	Varsha	Durban
Singh	Mogie	Durban	Singh	Lutchman	Durban
Maharaj	Anitha	Durban	Pta Badal	Beena	Durban
Singh	Nishi	Durban	Marrie	Krishna	Durban
Sukdeo	Vidyawathee	Durban	Singh		Durban
Kimone		Durban	Sowki	Pravin	Durban
Singh	Vijay	Durban	Sarwan	Misha	Durban
Harripersad	Chan	Durban	Reddy	Rishinand	Durban
Moodley	Saraswathe	Durban	Batohi	Shiro	Durban

Academic Year

Despite the "lockdown" environment in the country, the Academic Committee under the leadership of Shrimati Shereen Behardar has continued to adjust the academic year to enable students to forge ahead with their studies. Although formal classroom situations were not the order of the day, substitute virtual classroom conditions were created using electronic media. Hindi teachers were encouraged to take on the different study programmes, grades and prepare material for teaching purposes. Students and Hindi teachers across the country were informed of the different electronic programmes that were used to encourage uninterrupted study. The study programme advisors prepared online lessons for students. The feedback received from students was positive in that they were able to interact with the study programme advisors. After the teaching sessions, these programmes were uploaded on You-tube for easy reference for students and teachers.

Students Assessment

The Academic Committee has agreed that the year has been a difficult one especially for schools both in the normal school stream and those studying Hindi at community-based organisation. Under the Covid 19 pandemic conditions life has not been business as usual. Hence, all sorts of adjustments had to be made such that all was not lost. The normal school year was adjusted to allow students and teachers to cope with the pandemic and so we at the Sangh had to make the necessary adjustments. The number of students studying Hindi may or will drop as all students do not have the electronic equipment to switch on to 'online study.'" The Sangh tried to make it possible for every student to gain from these adjustments by providing free electronic data for student to register and study on the "online study" media.

The Committee has agreed that no formal examination will be conducted in 2020/21, rather assignments will be set for students to complete in their own time and return their answer sheets to the Sangh. The study programme advisors will assess these assignments. This will determine whether a student have complied with their study programme requirements and will be promoted to the next level of study. This includes the junior level study and senior level Pravesh and Praveen study programme only. The Vishaard and Kovid assessments will be held in March 2021.

New Textbooks for Prathma and Prathmik

The draft copies for both the textbooks for Prathma and Prathmik are done and forwarded to Professor Vinaye Goodary in Mauritius for perusal and ensuring that the standard of material is relevant to the level of study. Professor Vinaye Goodary is the Head of Department of Hindi at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute. Once, these two books are approved and printed for distribution to the Hindi schools, work on the Prarambhik and Prakash textbooks will ensue.

It must be noted that these new development in the academic work of the Sangh is commendable and that people at the helm of the academic activities are mindful of the changing scenarios in the field of education in the country. Similarly, the academic work in the "English" medium school are also changing and new thoughts and ideas emanate all the time for the benefit of the learners. Hence, the Sangh also finds itself in a similar predicament, that study material needs to continuously evaluate and assessed for its relevance in a changing world. The interest of the Board in improving the learning of Hindi is also commendable especially for South Africa where the study of English is seen as the important subject.



The University of Delhi, Bharat (India) holds regular International Webinars discussing various topic affecting the social fabric of our communities. The Bhagat Singh Foundation sponsored these webinars in association with the hosting organisation. Webinars on the current Covid 19 pandemic issues has been high on their agendas. Several related topics were discussed on these webinars. The major countries have participated in these topics.

Professor Mala Mishra at the University of Delhi oversees these webinars and compiles the reports and resolution implementation plans.

On June 5, 2020 webinar was on the "In the Present Day – the role of the Media and Society". The speakers at this webinar were Dr Shyam Singh Shishi, Chancellor: International Romam Kalwar, Serbia, Professor K G Suresh, Dean: School of Modern Media, Professor Umapati Dikshit, Head of Department: Antarrashtriya Hindi Shikshan Department, Shrimati Gita Shri, Journalist: Outlook News Magazine, Dr Sandeep Awasti, Member: Bharat Vidya Adhyan Kendra, and Shrimati Rohini Ramroop, Mauritius.

On June 24, 2020 webinar was on the "Teaching, Training and Management of Covid 19 in Educational Institutions.

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर डॉ. माला मिश्र के संयोजकत्व में मॉरिशस की हिंदी प्रचारिणी सभा तथा भारत के भगत सिंह फाउंडेशन के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में तीन दिवसीय अंतरराष्ट्रीय वेब संगोष्ठी का विराट एवं बृहत्तम आयोजन 22 जून 2020 से 24 जून 2020 तक सुबह 10 बजे से सायं 6 बजे तक किया गया। "कोविड-19 के दौर में शैक्षिक संस्थानों में ऑनलाइन शिक्षण, प्रशिक्षण एवं प्रशासन" विषयक इस अंतरराष्ट्रीय वेबसंगोष्ठी की मुख्य समन्वयक एवं संयोजिका अदिति महाविद्यालय (दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय) की वरिष्ठ प्रोफेसर डॉ.माला मिश्र द्वारा इस संगोष्ठी का अत्यधिक कुशल व सशक्त सन्चालन किया गया। आज कोविड 19 जैसे कठिन समय में शिक्षा को ग्रहण करना अत्यधिक कठिन बन चुका है और ऐसे में जब ऑनलाइन शिक्षा पर अधिक जोर दिया जा रहा है तथा ऑनलाइन शिक्षा का महत्व इस कठिन दौर ने समझाया है। लेकिन इसकी अपनी चुनौतियां भी हैं और उनका निदान किस तरह से और किस रूप में प्राप्त किया जा सकता है, इसी लक्ष्य की सिद्धि इस संगोष्ठी का अभीष्ट था। इसी को लेकर अंतरराष्ट्रीय वेबसंगोष्ठी में लगातार तीन दिन बहुत ही गंभीर स्तर पर बड़े-बड़े विद्वतजनों के द्वारा विचार मंथन होता रहा। इस बौद्धिक ज्ञानयज्ञ का इस संकट काल में इतने व्यापक रूप में आयोजन हुआ जिसमें देश और दुनिया के लगभग अधिकतम विद्वानों का सम्भवतः प्रथमतः एक स्थान पर इतना सार्थक प्रतिनिधित्व हुआ। इस वेब संगोष्ठी में देश दुनिया से सैकड़ों प्रतिभागी शामिल रहे। इस संगोष्ठी में लब्ध प्रतिष्ठित अनेक कुलाधिपतियों, 20 से अधिक कुलपतियों, 20 से अधिक पूर्वकुलपतियों अधिष्ठाताओं, निदेशकों, 20 से अधिक प्राचार्यों तथा आचार्यों, अकादमिक अधिकारियों, 100 से अधिक अतिविशिष्टवक्ताओं, शोधार्थियों व विद्यार्थियों की उपस्थिति रही। संभवतः यह कोरोना काल में यह अपने किस्म की एकदम अनूठी संगोष्ठी रही। इसमें एक साथ इतने महत्वपूर्ण 100 से अधिक विद्वानों की समवेत बौद्धिक आहुति ने सम्पूर्ण देश और विश्व के बुद्धिजीवियों को विचार-मंथन हेतु एक मंच पर उपस्थित कर दिया जो कि मील का पत्थर बन गया। देश विदेश के प्रायः हर क्षेत्र और विद्यालय, महाविद्यालय और विश्वविद्यालय के अतिरिक्त शिक्षण, प्रशिक्षण और प्रशासन के हर महत्वपूर्ण संस्थान के अनुभवों को साझा करने हेतु आकाशवाणी, दूरदर्शन विभिन्न प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों को भी इसमें सम्मिलित किया गया जो निसंदेह अतुलनीय था।

हिन्दी की ज्योति जलती रहे

Editorial Committee: Shrimati Eudisha Bhimsan, Shri Heeralall Sewnath and Shri Athish Bhanjee

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