

## Report: Annual General Meeting 2021

President: Shri Raj Dhanlall

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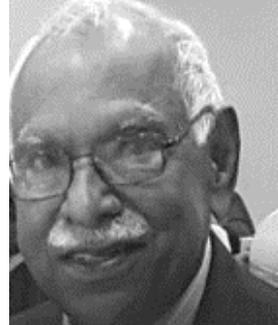
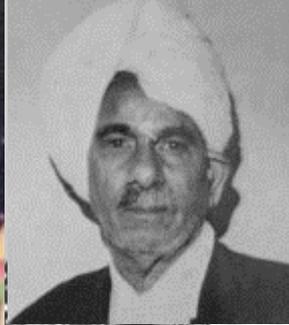
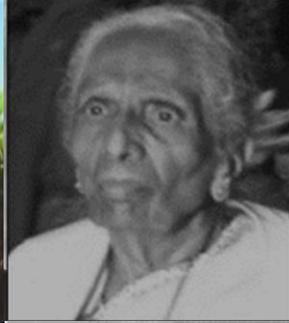
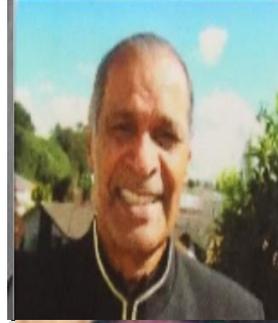
### HINDI IN THE NEW NORMAL

The last 15 months have forced many changes on us and as a Sangh community we have not been immune to such changes. There is nothing better than a challenge that brings out the true character of an entity, testing both the resilience and the fundamentals driving such entity. As we proudly traverse the 74<sup>th</sup> year of operations of the Sangh, it is evident that the fundamental purpose of the Sangh's existence and its relevance in this COVID-era is undoubted!

Following the delayed BGM on 21 November 2020, the Board of Management of the Sangh was challenged further with the commencement of the COVID Second Wave, reiterating that normal was where we were and that there was no 'waking up' to life as we knew it pre-March 2020.

The sound foundation of the Sangh, embedded in the fibre of the Sangh's primary stakeholders, being the various Hindi Patshalas, stood firm in their commitment to emerge and continue the promotion of our *Maatri Bhasha* in whatever way it has to be done. Pivoting to embrace various digital platforms and confronting the fears of working with tools that had never been a part of the Hindi Learning equation pre-March 2020, illustrated both the resilience and dedication of the Sangh.

In the spirit of 'never let(ting) a good crisis go to waste' (Winston Churchill), our Hindi educators and learners have coordinated to make Hindi learning more accessible, whilst harnessing the best skills available, overcoming physical distance, and breaching the geographic borders to ensure Hindi promotion continues. The success of this mode of teaching our *Maatri Bhasha* and the academic programme roll-out are shared in the reports from both the Academic Convenor as well as the various Regional Directors who have a direct connection with our various patshalas.





Whilst the risk to the existence of certain patshalas is there due to limitations of technology and elimination of geographic borders through technology, the upside of maximizing the handful of resources who are spread countrywide, allows us the opportunity to have access to such resources without much impediment. The challenges faced by many wanting to continue studies at a level beyond that of the teacher based at one's local patshala is now overcome. The invaluable role of our patshalas will not be taken over by the Sangh at a central level as the Sangh really is a collective representation of its primary stakeholders, being the patshalas.

During the last 7 months in office, your Board has been working at the various aspects of Hindi promotion by looking to a flexible, but sustainable design of the operations, balancing volunteerism with the need for full-time resources to ensure that some critical aspects of the mandate are delivered on consistently. A consequence of this thinking has been a re-articulation of the Sangh's Structure which is included in this report. A critical aspect of ensuring the full impact of this structure is the appointment of a full-time Operations Officer, following the end of the incumbent's fixed-term contract at the end of February 2021. We are grateful to Bhai Rajish Lutchman for his indulgence in terms of availing himself until the conclusion of a recruitment process that has commenced and is expected to be concluded by the end of August 2021.

The broader involvement of Regions and more Patshalas in aspects of the operations of the Sangh are vital in ensuring the transparency and, more so, demystifying the work required to facilitate succession planning in all areas of the promotion of Hindi.

The Academic Committee, under the leadership of Devika Madaree has a focus on all aspects of the learning of Hindi and has as a prime output an increase in the spoken aspect. The further aspects of the development of our Hindi teachers, continuous focus on review and development of the curriculum, a focus on examination administration and the establishment of a forum for Regional Academic coordinators underline the overall broad-based strategy. The team of dedicated Hindi teachers and academic contributors have been hard at work as they focus on the roll-out of the 2021 Academic year, whilst planning for the 2022 Academic year already.

The Broadcasting Committee, led by Naresh Amichand with a management team headed by Ramu Gopidayal, continues to provide an invaluable service to the community, whilst presenting a platform for promotion of Hindi in a manner that reaches even those who do not necessarily wish to be involved academically, but will uphold the promotion of Hindi in their own way. The ardent listenership has grown through the innovative move to a web-based application that has transcended the boundaries that were created through the traditional radio frequency. The challenges presented by COVID-19 have brought to the fore many other solutions that provide an opportunity for

remote operation which further enhances the involvement of skills that are widespread and not necessarily concentrated in the Durban area. The digitization of the Broadcasting project is thus a necessary step for overall sustainability.

Finance, Administration and HR is a committee that is led by the Sangh's Treasurer, Rajend Ramkhelawan, whilst the portfolio of Events and Promotions (including publications) is convened by Shardha Rani Philip. These are two new sub-committees that provide services that are vital for all the operations of the Sangh and seek to bring a degree of consistency about what is done within the Sangh and over a period. The continued publication of Hindi Khabar has maintained the link with the broader Hindi-speaking community and as the official newsletter of the Sangh has to date been the fruit of Heeralall Sewnath's foresight. In order to continue building on the success of this publication a team to support Sewnath-bhai has been constituted.

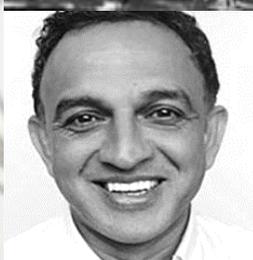
The sterling work of a very small team of administration and operations staff, under the guidance of Rajish Lutchman, is highly appreciated and enables the execution of many plans together with the many volunteers we have had the good fortune to have access to. The efforts in digitizing certain processes to reduce the extent of manual interventions whilst enhancing information accuracy, will continue so that we may maximise the efforts of a lean team.

The activities of the past 7 months are evident in the various reports of the Sub-committee conveners and the various Regional Representatives. The latter which comprises Mala Ramballi; Mala Pursad; Pt Thara Sirkissoon; Rakesh Chedie and Heeralall Sewnath play the pivotal role of driving the work of the Sangh on the ground through innovative ways.

The year ahead brings with it further opportunity for the Sangh to drive a B-centred approach, built on enabling access to Hindi promotion and learning through multiple channels.

So onwards with the diamond jubilee in sight!

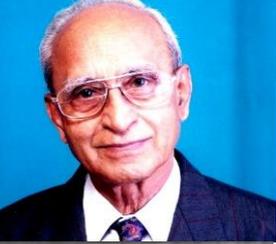
**वश्व हिन्दी स चवालय**  
**World Hindi Secretariat**  
**Call for funding proposal**  
**Hindi Diwas Celebration**  
**September 14, 2021**  
**Closing date: August 15, 2021**



हिन्दी खबर: द क्षण अफ्रीका Hindi Khabar, South Africa June 2021

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## Secretary: Shrimathi Shamla Dukhan Secretarial and Operations



The following report is a snapshot of the activities (both current and planned) in the reporting period.

### 1. Staffing and Human Resources

#### 1.1 Staffing Details

Name	Job Title
Tamasha Khanyi	News Presenter / Reporter (English)
Ntokozo Bayile	News Intern
Aradhna Ramballi	News Presenter / Reporter (Hindi / English)
Yashina Ramdutt	Hindvani Tech Assistant
Dev Sewraj	Station Supervisor
Sabina Harrisawak	Admin Assistant
Eugene Ngubane	General Assistant (Gardens and Cleaning)
Anna Ngidi	General Assistant (Cleaning)
Rajish Lutchman	Operation's Manager
Security Services	Outsourced
Accounting and Book-keeping	Outsourced

#### 1.2 News Interns

We have made enquiries with our feeder tertiary institutions for new applicants. This is work in progress. In the meantime, we would recommend retaining the current intern on a short-term arrangement.

#### 1.3 Covid 19

There have been no reports of any Covid 19 Coronavirus infections in the reporting period. However, we do convey our condolences the number of families, including those close to the Sangh who have regrettably lost loved ones to the pandemic.

### 2. Hindi Study Programme

#### 2.1 Jharna Series Textbooks

- Stocks have arrived. However, for the new academic year (2022) we would need to review our position with regards to both senior grade and junior grade classes.
- The publication of these titles as an e-book is a possibility, however, we would still be liable for the royalties that shall accrue.

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## 2.2 Assessments 2020

All assessment requirements with reference to the 2020 Academic year (both senior and junior grades) year have been fulfilled. As stated in the Academic Report, the 2021 Academic Year has commenced with a series of online teaching programmes that seem to be successful'

## 2.3 Data

The Sangh is currently subsidizing data for students and teachers who have applied for such assistance.

## 3. Culture and Events

### 3.1 Funding Hindi Diwas (January 2021)

R 29 400, 00 was received from the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and the Consul General (India - Durban).

### 3.2 Aarshdhaara

Currently we are in partnership with the Centre with the Aarshdhaara Series – unpacking the Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharva Veda for broadcast on radio and streaming via Facebook. This was completed on 11 June with the discussion on Atharva Veda.

### 3.3 Proposed Quiz Programmes

This is a new thought that still needs to be vetted by the Events Committee. It is reported on merely for noting.

### 3.4 Founder's Day

The Sangh's 73<sup>rd</sup> Founder's Day celebrated on 25<sup>TH</sup> April 2021 with a series of programmes on Hindvani. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the celebrations were restricted to an on-air programme including:

- Historical Events of the Sangh
- Recitation of original poetry
- Interviews with stalwarts
- Efforts of Hindi School Children
- Song and Music

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#### 4. Summary of Meetings

11 Feb	Meeting with Dr Yogi SVCC Academic Committee
19 Feb	BDO – 2021 Audit meeting
3 Mar	Hindvani Planning Meeting
4 March	Hindvani meeting with World Hindu Foundation
6 March	Hindvani Programming and Marketing
8 March	HSS Property Trust and HSS Officials
14 March	Teacher Development Workshop
16 March	Fabrik Digital Leap Presentation
23 March	Hindvani – Morning Presenters Meeting
28 March	Hindvani – Evening Presenters Meeting
31 March	Yumna Ameer – Human Resources Review
1 April	Fabrik and Digital Leap
7 April	Nashua / Ashley Singh (Data Procurement)
15 April	Inaugural Finance Committee Meeting
06 May	Board of Management
17 June	Academic Committee
27 June	Board of Management
27 June	AGM

#### 5. Hindvani

##### 5.1 Hindvani Management Committee

The committee and its sub-committees are currently reviewing programming.

##### 5.2 Programming during Ram Naumi

The programme includes a mix of presentations from our Hindi schools and those who traditionally present the Jagran and Sandhya Programmes

##### 5.3 Outdoor Broadcasts

There were three OBs in the reporting period – KZN Blind and Deaf Radiothon, Shivrathri from Chinmaya Mission and Clere Products (Amka) at the Chatsworth Centre. We have used the Cleanfeed Audio Studio software successfully for Chatsworth Centre broadcast.

##### 5.4 New Presenters

There have been several queries in response to our adverts. The following people have commenced: Arthee Rajkumar

- Kushie Parekh
- Indira Ramkhelawan
- Priyanka Sookdaw
- Ashmika Foolchand

## 5.5 Advertising Revenue

March has shown a modest improvement in revenue. The challenges are to keep the upward trend consistent. The general view is that before we develop an extensive marketing strategy, it is imperative for us to get certain fundamentals in place in terms of programming and presentation competencies.

## 5.6 Community Meetings

The moratorium on community meetings has been lifted. The radio management committee meets on 3 March 2021 to discuss the format and agenda of the first community meeting for the year.

## 5.7 ICASA Regulations

Amendments to existing Regulations have been published, especially in respect of:

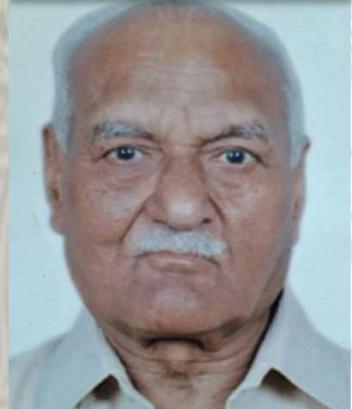
Forthcoming local government elections

Convening of meetings via electronic platforms

The Prescribed Promise of Performance Report has been submitted due by the end March.

The compliance report has been received from ICASA. Hindvani has been designated as compliant.

(AGM Report to continue in the next Hindi Khabar) ...



## Shradhanjali Shrm Ashmintha Ramkelawon



On February 24, 2021, Shrimathi Ashmintha Ramkelawon of Douglasdale, Gauteng passed away. She was fondly known as "Cookie". Cookie was a committed community worker, giving up much of her time to Arya Samaj – Gauteng and Hindi Shiksha Sangh – Gauteng.

She was the chief organiser for the monthly Sathsanghs held under the auspices of Arya Samaj – Gauteng and great helping hand in the events of the Hindi Shiksha Sangh. She had the rare quality of volunteering of putting an event together from start to finish. Never, would she complain or walk away from an incomplete event or task.

Cookie epitomised the life of a purely selfless and community centred person. She believed in giving of ourselves to others that we find our greatest sense of meaning of life. The best is to look outwards – towards others using the principle of charity.

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Too often the meaning of charity is reduced to the act of giving alms or donating sums of money to those who are poor. But for Cookie it meant so much more. It meant the giving of our hearts, over minds, and our talents in ways that would enrich the lives of all people – regardless of whatever, they are poor or rich. Charity or Seva is selflessness. It is love in work clothes.

These poignant qualities in Cookie made her to meaningfully contribute towards the religious, cultural, and sporting activities. The Hindi Shiksha Sangh annually held several events – Hindi Eisteddfod, Year-end Examinations, Public Meetings, and a few incidental events whilst the Arya Samaj- Gauteng held similar events but with different objectives. Cookie's role in all these events were exemplary. She will ensure that the maximum attention is given to details to ensure a success to each one of these events.

She was a person who believed that vision not only helps one to spot opportunities, others might not see them, but it also points one towards the future and inspires one to introspect "Where does one want to be in the future". She was a fore runner to engage with youth with this thought in mind, to encourage, to empower. She believed in moulding youth through these activities, will evolve youth in fulfilling their dreams of becoming adults with a purpose and a well-drawn charter of their own destiny. Cookie will be missed.

*हिन्दी की ज्योति जलती रहे*

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