



Estab. 1948
NPO 037 214

Sangh Samachar

संघ समचार



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New Chapter for Hindi Shiksha Sangh: Introducing President Pt Ranisha Mothilal

Prem Namaste!

Pt Ranisha Mothilal was elected President of the Hindi Shiksha Sangh (S.A.) on 22 August 2026, marking a new chapter in her long association with the Sangh. She has served the organisation in several capacities, including as Assistant Treasurer from 2024 to 2026, and has contributed to the HSS Broadcast, Academic and Finance committees. An accountant by profession, she works full-time as a Finance Controller for a multinational company in South Africa. *Sangh Samachar* spoke to her about her vision and aspirations for the term ahead.

“First, we thank the members of the previous Board of Management, so ably chaired by Sri Naresh Amichandji. The new team acknowledges the many groundbreaking achievements of the previous board and recognises that we have large shoes to fill.



Pt Ranisha Mothilal

Hindi is gaining global recognition at an unprecedented pace. The Hindi film industry is one of the most visible expressions of this worldwide appeal. Beyond culture, the economic value of being able to speak, read and write Hindi is becoming increasingly clear, as recently highlighted on Hindvani and in a podcast available through the Hindvani App.

Our recent visit to the Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Mauritius gave us first-hand insight into remarkable advances in Hindi teaching and learning. Hindi education is no longer limited to the rote learning of vowels and consonants familiar to earlier generations. Today's approaches embrace technology and evidence-informed methods, enabling learners to develop reading and writing skills from the comfort of their homes.

While we recognise the national decline in learner numbers, we see it as an opportunity to reflect on the challenges before us. In the South African context, Hindi must be made accessible so that every enthusiast can explore and embrace the language in a way that suits their circumstances.

These shifts point to the following immediate priorities:

- If we do not embrace technology in our teaching, our methods risk becoming outdated.
- We need to understand what motivates today's Hindi learner. Key aspirations include:
 - * accessing scripture, especially the *Ramcharitmanas*, and experiencing the *Bhakti-ras* evoked by Sant Tulsidas;
 - * speaking Hindi fluently;
 - * understanding Hindi without relying on subtitles;
 - * conversing confidently while travelling in India, a popular destination for people of Indian origin; and
 - * pursuing the calling to become a Hindu Purohit.

Having identified these aspirations, we must now develop curricula and teaching methods that respond to them.

To take this work forward, we will soon engage relevant stakeholders, pathshala officials, learners and teachers in a national Indaba. Together, we will examine these issues and shape a transformation plan. Lasting change is possible only when all stakeholders share a clear view of the future and participate fully in the process. We are confident that the Indaba will help chart a new course for promoting and preserving Hindi.

Finally, we are deeply grateful for the confidence placed in the new team. It brings together a balanced range of skills, and we look forward to serving the Sangh and advancing its objectives with dedication, diligence and commitment.

The Sangh has come a long way, and we are approaching another significant milestone: our 80th anniversary. Our endurance across more than eight decades reflects the strong foundations laid by previous leaders and teachers. We look forward to making the celebrations as inclusive as possible—honouring our Hindi heritage and culture while laying the foundation for the next 100 years.”

Meet the newly elected HSS Board of Management 2026 –2028



Ranisha Mothilal
President



Naresh Amichand
Vice President



Kanthi Dev Sarjoo
Secretary



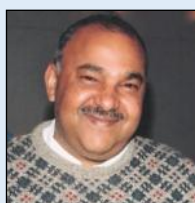
Rajend Ramkhelawan
Treasurer



Simrithi Sharma
Exco



Baboo Brijlal



Ramu Gopidayal



Yakeen Atwaru



Mala Ramballi

Academic News

The Academic Team has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming examinations. In addition to setting papers for the senior and junior grades, the team has supported teachers and learners through three workshops: two focused on examination preparation, while the third addressed aspects of Hindi grammar that learners in Prakash and Pravesh may find challenging.

The 2026 examination dates are:

Senior Grades	24/25 October
Junior Grades	25th October



*Pt Mala Ramballi
Academic Committee
Convenor*

Following the last BGM in August 2026, Pt Mala Ramballi was nominated to lead the Sangh's Academic Committee. She outlines her vision for the new term as follows:

1. Simplify the way Hindi is taught and learnt. In South Africa, interest in Hindi is driven not only by academic milestones, but also by the desire to converse in the language, understand Hindi films and read works such as Tulsidas's Ramcharitmanas.
2. Continue to empower our dedicated teachers, who have served the Sangh selflessly over the years. Phase 2 of the MGI capacity-building programme is one initiative that will help us achieve this goal.
3. Help learners and teachers embrace technology as part of effective teaching and learning.
4. Introduce new learning streams that explore alternatives to formal examinations.
5. Grow the number of people learning Hindi.

Cultural Day Celebrations

In support of the goal of keeping Hindi vibrant, Cultural Day celebrations across the regions showcased the language beyond the classroom. Adults, youth and children took to the stage with a varied programme that included:

1. Prose and poetry recitals
2. Sketches
3. Music and dance
4. Recitations of excerpts from Hindu scriptures

As always, the celebrations generated great excitement among participants and teachers. Guests were impressed by the visible commitment to sustaining interest in the Hindi language and Indian culture, as well as by the events' wider social impact. Celebrations were hosted by the various regions as follows:

Natal Midlands	23 August 2026
KZN Coastal	6 September 2026
Gauteng	12 September 2026

We extend our sincere thanks to all stakeholders, sponsors, teachers, learners, officials and staff whose support made these cultural festivals a success. The Natal Midlands event attracted exceptional community participation, providing an encouraging example for other regions as they broaden opportunities for stakeholder involvement.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute Engagement

Although the second phase of the teacher capacity-building programme experienced several delays, we are pleased to report that the syllabus and coursework have now been finalised. This 15-week programme will focus on:

- Embracing technology in the teaching of Hindi
- Methodological approaches to teaching Hindi to first-time learners in South Africa
- Enhancing conversational Hindi in the classroom

MGI has kindly made the programme available to everyone who is interested, including those who did not complete the first phase in 2025. As we broaden our horizons, we encourage all stakeholders to answer this call and help make the learning of Hindi relevant, meaningful and productive in South Africa.

Academic Indaba 2026/2027

There have been calls from several quarters for the Sangh to review and reshape its approach to teaching Hindi. Suggestions include giving textbooks a stronger South African flavour, revisiting teaching methods, creating pathways for learners who want to study Hindi without sitting for formal examinations, placing greater emphasis on conversational Hindi and adopting more flexible methodologies.

The Academic Committee believes these matters should be explored through broad national participation. Feedback from committees will help the Sangh understand challenges at grassroots level and guide improvements across many aspects of Hindi teaching in South Africa. It will also help ensure that MGI's coursework responds directly to the needs identified.

Messages from our Regions

The Hindi Shiksha Sangh (S.A.) has three (3) active regions which have supported the aims and objectives of the Sangh over many decades.

The regions are constituted as semi-independent entities aligned to the Sangh's constitution. The work of these regional committees is particularly relevant in that they help to connect with their respective communities in order to pursue the objectives of the Sangh. They also help to ensure that the Sangh remains connected with its constituents. Regional Directors also serve on the Sangh's Board of Management.

Gauteng

Growing Hindi in Gauteng: A Vision Grounded in Science and Community Action

The mission of Hindi Shiksha Sangh (Gauteng Region) is to preserve, promote and propagate the Hindi language and North Indian culture throughout Gauteng.

Our approach bridges tradition and modern science. Neuroscientific research shows that learning an additional language strengthens neural pathways, enhances problem-solving skills and may help delay cognitive decline. To bring these significant benefits of bilingualism to our youth, we are launching a vibrant marketing campaign across TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and local tabloids.

Our immediate priorities are to strengthen our network and expand our reach within the community. We are actively encouraging the establishment of new Paatshalas across Gauteng suburbs, supported by our standardised curriculum and formal examination framework. To sustain this growth, we will provide ongoing teacher training. We are also introducing a relaxed, exam-free programme focused on conversational Hindi and the recitation of the Ramayana, Bhagavad Gita and Havan Mantras.

Our team looks forward to visiting existing Paatshalas for breakfast meet-and-greets, distributing branded gear and showcasing our talented learners at upcoming Cultural Days, Diwali festivals and other community events. By building strong partnerships with local Hindu organisations, we can help Hindi thrive as a vibrant, living language.

Natal Midlands

Looking Ahead: Future Plans for the Midlands Region

As we look to the year ahead, the Hindi Shiksha Sangh Midlands Region is excited to pursue a range of initiatives and activities designed to strengthen Hindi education, support our teachers and schools, and bring our community together through culture.

We recently hosted a highly successful Bhajan Jamming Fundraiser and extend our heartfelt gratitude to the musicians, artists, dancers, volunteers, sponsors, and community members who contributed to its success. Your support and enthusiasm continue to inspire our efforts to promote Hindi and celebrate our rich cultural heritage.

In the coming year, the Midlands Region will host its Annual General Meeting (AGM), along with a series of Council Meetings. The dates will be announced in due course.

As is customary, our much-anticipated Cultural Day took place in July, giving learners the opportunity to showcase their Hindi language skills and cultural talents. We are also planning another Bhajan Jamming Fundraiser and a Cultural Show for next year, with preparations for both events set to begin early in the new year.



Sri Anesh Roopan

In addition, we look forward to organising a Teacher Development Workshop in the Midlands to empower and support our Hindi teachers. Together, these initiatives will help us build on our progress and continue promoting Hindi throughout the Midlands Region. Currently, Sri Anesh Roopan represents the region on the HSS Board.

We look forward to another productive and successful year.

KZN Coastal

Looking Ahead: Future Plans for the KZN Coastal Regional (2026–2028)

The KZN Coastal Region of the Hindi Shiksha Sangh enters its next phase with renewed purpose, unity and commitment. Following the successful amalgamation of three regions, it is well positioned to build on its achievements and shape a vibrant, progressive and sustainable future for Hindi education and culture.

Our vision for 2026–2028 focuses on strengthening Hindi education, empowering teachers, inspiring learners, embracing technology, promoting our rich cultural heritage and building strong community partnerships. Above all, we aim to help younger generations connect with Hindi and value it as a language of communication, identity and heritage.

Academic excellence will remain at the heart of our regional programmes. We aim to increase enrolment across affiliated Paatshalas while helping each school improve learner performance. Regular revision programmes, examination-preparation workshops and academic-support initiatives will help learners reach their full potential. Enrichment programmes for high-achieving learners will further extend their language skills and build confidence in Hindi.

The KZN Coastal Regional will continue to offer professional-development workshops and encourage educators to pursue advanced Hindi teaching qualifications. It will also explore a mentorship programme through which experienced teachers can guide and support newly appointed educators. (Contd. on page 4)

परिवर्तन ही
संसार का
नियम है।

Change is the
law of the world



Pt Rekha Bennideen
Regional Director



Smt. Niksha
Bositsumune-Dhanlall
Regional Director



Kanthi Devi Sarjoo
Regional Director

KZN Coastal Region

Looking Ahead: Future Plans for the KZN Coastal Region (2026-2028) (Contd. From Page 3)

A regional resource-sharing platform will enable teachers to exchange lesson plans, worksheets, assessments, activities and innovative teaching ideas. This collaboration will allow educators to learn from one another and strengthen the quality of Hindi teaching across the region.

The region also intends to expand the use of technology in Hindi classrooms and explore innovative approaches to teaching and learning. An online repository of worksheets, videos, lesson plans and other resources could give educators and learners access to valuable material beyond the classroom.

Where appropriate, virtual teacher meetings and online learner-support sessions may be introduced. Digital assessment tools will also be explored to complement traditional teaching and offer learners engaging ways to practise their language skills.

To foster youth leadership, the region will explore establishing a Regional Hindi Youth Forum that gives senior learners a meaningful voice in regional activities.

Inter-Paatshala debates, spelling bees, quizzes, storytelling competitions, poetry recitals and public-speaking contests will encourage participation and allow learners to showcase their talents.

Closer collaboration among Paatshalas will support the sharing of ideas, talent and cultural programmes. Together, these initiatives will help ensure that Hindi remains not merely a classroom subject, but a living language that is heard, spoken, performed and celebrated.

The KZN Coastal Regional will identify and mentor future leaders among teachers, young adults and community members. By participating in committee activities and regional projects, younger members will gain valuable experience and contribute to the organisation's future.

The amalgamation has laid the foundation for a stronger, more united regional structure. Sustained collaboration among the North Coast, Durban Central and Chatsworth/South Coast areas will be essential. Clear communication among affiliated Paatshalas, teachers, representatives and the Executive Committee will therefore remain a priority.

The future of the KZN Coastal Regional is rich with opportunity. These plans go beyond expanding programmes: they are intended to build a stronger foundation for Hindi education and help the language thrive for generations to come.

We envision an empowered, connected region in which teachers excel, learners engage confidently, young people lead, technology enriches education and our cultural heritage is proudly celebrated.

Hindi Bhasha Amar Rahe!



Hindvani continues to fulfil its mandate in accordance with its licence conditions. The year so far has been a busy one. In May 2026, more than 5,000 listeners gathered at Blue Lagoon to celebrate Mother's Day. It was especially gratifying to see so many older people join the festivities, including a 102-year-old participant. Throughout the year, the station also commemorated various Hindu festivals through programmes that blended devotion, entertainment and personal enrichment.

Ramayan Week, Ganesh Chaturthi, Krsna Janmashtami and many other festivals were observed on air. These religious programmes remain popular and continue to engage listeners of all ages. We also acknowledge the Balvani team, whose members meticulously research, validate, produce and present their respective programmes. We greatly appreciate the time and care they devote to this work. The Balvani team comprises:



*Smt. Simi Sharma
Chair: HSS Broadcast*



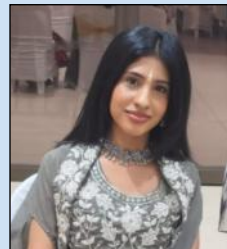
Sanah Rampersad



Varsana Rani Naidoo



Virat Maharaj



Yushavia Maharaj



Tanzil Ramsarran



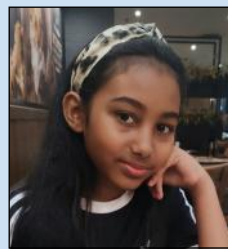
Jasmikh Maharaj



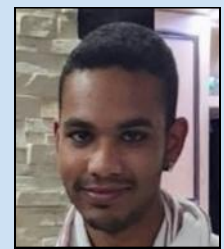
Meher Manick



Mahi Manick



Arshia Maharaj



Sarvesh Ramsarran

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In 2026, Hindvani placed third in the Best Local Radio Station category of the Caxton Best of Durban Readers' Choice Awards. The station remains the flagship project of the Hindi Shiksha Sangh. In addition to generating income that supports the Sangh's educational and developmental projects, Hindvani serves as a powerful mass-media platform for promoting Hindi, Hinduism and other relevant initiatives. The station honours most national commemorations, while the team covers almost every Hindu festival. Its enduring popularity may be attributed to the following:

1. A loyal listener base
2. Its distinctive position as perhaps the only radio station in South Africa dedicated to promoting Hindi and Hinduism
3. Its support for local artistes
4. Accurate news reporting in both Hindi and English
5. The broad appeal of songs and music from the Hindi music industry
6. The promotion of positive social values through its religious programmes
7. Its strong entertainment value

Hindi Diwas

Hindi Diwas, observed on 14 September, was commemorated with a high-level panel discussion on the economic value of learning to read, write and speak Hindi. Hosted by Simi Sharmaji, the programme featured Shruthi Pathak from India, Gulshan Sooklal from Mauritius and Raj Dhanlall from South Africa.

Ms Shruthi Pathak is the Second Secretary (Hindi & Culture) at the High Commission of India in Mauritius. Her qualifications include an M.A. in Hindi, an M.A. in English, a Diploma in French, a B.A. (Hons) in Hindi and a B.Ed. She is fluent in Hindi, English and Bengali, and has a basic grasp of French. Mr Gulshan Sooklalji has been a close friend and associate of the Hindi Shiksha Sangh for many years. More recently, he played a pivotal role in the MGI Capacity Building Programme, through which South African Hindi teachers were introduced to global trends in Hindi teaching. He holds several postgraduate qualifications, including an M.Phil. from the Mauritius Institute of Education, and currently serves as a senior lecturer in the MGI Department of Hindi. He is also a well-known media personality in Mauritius. Mr Raj Dhanlall is a former President and Vice-President of the Hindi Shiksha Sangh. A Chartered Accountant by profession, he is currently involved in Hindi cultural leadership, governance and heritage advocacy; community mobilisation; youth engagement and public education; radio presenting and programme production; cultural storytelling; event management; organisational strategy and financial oversight; and public speaking, training and cross-cultural communication.



Gulshan Sooklal



Shruthi Pathak



Raj Dhanlall

The panel discussion explored diverse perspectives on Hindi's global relevance, changes in the mainstream economy and emerging employment opportunities. It also emphasised the importance of appreciating the language's literary beauty and cultural value. Audience feedback was positive, and the discussion is available on our website via the audio-streaming icon.

Studio Upgrade

We are pleased to report that work on the studio upgrade has begun. We expect the project to be completed by the end of November, by which time both studios will be operational. Once again, we thank the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) for its substantial contribution. The MDDA has been a valued partner, providing financial support, technical advice and assistance with general advocacy.

Premier of the Movie "Ramayan"

On Thursday, 5 November, at 19:00, Hindvani will host the premiere of the much-anticipated film *Ramayan*, featuring Ranbir Kapoor and Sai Pallavi in the lead roles. We look forward to welcoming Hindvani fans and stakeholders to the event.

Other News

- Our annual volunteer get-together is scheduled for 28 November 2026.
- Song of the Year (SOTY) 2026 will be launched on 1 December 2026. We are grateful to Property Finance Solutions for its generous sponsorship. The countdown to 2027 will also form part of the programme.
- A meeting is being planned with ICASA to orient the new Board of Management.
- The second Radio Volunteer Engagement for 2026 is scheduled for 14 November 2026.
- Hindvani has been nominated for the 2026 Telkom Radio Awards.

And Finally

We wish all students writing the forthcoming Hindi final examinations every success. We also take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders for their phenomenal support.

Memories from our 2026 Cultural Festivals

The Natal Midlands Region



The Gauteng Region



The KZN Coastal Region



**Hindi
Bhasha
Amar
Rahe**