

**Embassy of India
Paramaribo**

Press Release

Hindi Pakhwada 2021

The Embassy of India, Paramaribo organized “Hindi Pakhwada” (Hindi Fortnight) in the Mission from 14 September to **28 September 2021**, as a part of India@75 celebrated as “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”.

The fortnightly programme commenced with a Webinar entitled “Hindi Hain Hum”. At the Webinar, Ambassador Shankar Balachandran narrated his own experience as a non-native speaker of Hindi and appealed to people to learn this world language and benefit from it as he did. He said with the Indian Prime Minister using Hindi at every opportunity, the usage of Hindi had gone up exponentially both in India and abroad. He exhorted his colleagues to use and promote Hindi. With his arrival in Suriname, Hindi had been given a prime place on official name boards, banners, online media and he would take Hindi to all parts of Suriname not necessarily confining it to Suriname Hindustanis but covering all Surinamese. Suriname Hindi Parishad President Mr Harold Pramsoekh, Swami Vivekanand Cultural Center (SVCC) students Mr Dhiraj Kandhai & MR Gurudatt, SVCC Hindi Teacher Mr M.M. Lodi spoke on the occasion. Kumari Devika Singh recited a Hindi poem. This was followed by a pledge by the Mission officials to use Hindi in official work. The highlight of the event was the playing of video messages from Hon’ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar and MOS **Meenakshi Lekhi**. All Mission officials, Suriname Hindi students and admirers of Hindi attended the event.

A Prize distribution ceremony was organized on **Tuesday, 12 October 2021** at the Chancery. Ambassador Shankar Balachandran gave away Certificates and cash prizes to the winners and the participants of the Hindi fortnight competitions held under four different categories such as “Official Work”, “Hindi Essay Writing”, “Hindi Poetry Writing” and “Hindi Quiz”.

A few photographs of the event:

<https://www.indembassysuriname.gov.in/gallery.php?album=1575104>

Paramaribo
12 October 2021