



# World Hindi Day

## Why in News

**World Hindi Day (WHD)** is celebrated every year on **10<sup>th</sup> January** to promote the Hindi language all around the world.

- This year (2022) on the occasion **UNESCO's World Heritage Centre (WHC)** has agreed to **publish Hindi descriptions of India's world heritage sites** on WHC website.
- WHC was established in 1992 to coordinate all matters related to World Heritage. The Centre organises **the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee and its Bureau**, and provides advice to States Parties in the preparation of site nominations.

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- It was **first celebrated in 2006** to commemorate the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference which was held in Nagpur on 10th January, 1975. It is different from **Hindi Divas** (National Hindi Day).
- It is also celebrated by **Indian embassies located in various parts of the world**.
- The World Hindi Secretariat building was **inaugurated in Mauritius in 2018**.

### ▪ National Hindi Day:

- Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, was adopted as **the official language of the Republic of India on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1949**. Therefore Hindi Divas is celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> September every year.
  - Kaka Kalelkar, Maithili Sharan Gupta, Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, Seth Govindadas **made important contributions to make Hindi the official language**.
- Hindi is also an **eighth schedule language**.
- Article 351 pertains to **'Directive for development of the Hindi language'**.

### ▪ Government Initiatives to Promote Hindi:

- The **Central Hindi Directorate was established in 1960** by the Government of India under the Ministry of Education.
- **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** has established 'Hindi Chairs' in various foreign universities/institutions abroad.
- **LILA-Rajbhasha** (Learn Indian Languages through Artificial Intelligence) is a multimedia based intelligent **self-tutoring application for learning Hindi**.
- **E-Saral Hindi Vakya Kosh and E-Mahashabdkosh Mobile App**, both initiatives of the Department of Official Language, aim to harness information technology for the growth of Hindi.
- **Rajbhasha Gaurav Puraskar** and **Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar** recognise contributions to Hindi.

## Hindi Language

- Hindi got its name from the **Persian word Hind, meaning 'land of the Indus River'**. Turk invaders in the early 11<sup>th</sup> century named the language of the region Hindi, 'language of the land of the Indus River'.
- It is the official language of India, English being the other [official language](#).
- Hindi is **also spoken in some countries outside India**, such as in Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago and Nepal.
- Hindi in its present form emerged through different stages, during which it was known by other names. The earliest form of **old Hindi was Apabhramsa. In 400 AD Kalidas wrote a romantic play in Apabhramsa called Vikramorvashyam.**
- The modern **Devanagari script came into existence in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.**

[Source: HT](#)

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