

GUARDIAN 23 SEPT 2018



Indian High Commissioner Sandeep Arya (centre in white shirt) poses with Hindi Language Day participants in Dar es Salaam recently.

By Guardian on Sunday  
Correspondent

**G**ROWING interest in the city of Dar es Salaam for the study of the Hindi language for purposes of study and commerce, in like manner as the more robust learning of Chinese to ease commercial visits to the two Asian giants was visible in an intercultural meeting at the Indian Cultural Centre recently.

The event though had far less to do with commerce or visits to India per se but brought together a number of local enthusiasts of the Hindi language with members of the Indian community in Dar es Salaam, in what was basically a poet concert, an event, of reciting Hindi poems.

Participants attest that it was an emotional celebration of Hindi, a language spoken by more than 700 million people around the globe, mainly in South Asia, who comprise about a tenth of all humanity, and whose influences, either in its current Diaspora or in its links with other cultures, is intensely felt all over the world.

Participants sat through and mixed both in appreciation of poems and playing of popular Hindi songs, performed by Swahili speaking Tanzanians, a youthful troupe of local enthusiasts of Hindi.

Native Hindi speakers reciprocated this gesture of fraternity by singing poems in Hindi but with Swahili lines and echoing sprinkled on top, all showing that the distances between the languages and cultures, in terms of gestures and ability to comprehend one another, isn't that extensive.

The night of Hindi poetry was organized by the Indian Cultural Centre and Swaranganga, a literary organization.

Indian High Commissioner Sandeep Arya, Director of Indian Culture Center Indrajit Sagar and Devendra Nath Pathak, president of Swaranganga lit the lamp to illustrate the venerated figure Saraswati the Hindu goddess of knowledge, literature, music, art, wisdom and learning, and then shared views with the audience on the development of the Hindi language.

The event was commenced with a song sung by Ms. Suman, followed by the performance of Tanzanian enthusiasts of Hindi and poetry presentation of three students of Indian School. The audience enjoyed the concert and appreciated the stunning recitals of various poets Abha Jain, Lekhni Pashine, Lalita Mathur, Mamta Saini, Ajay Ajmani, Suryakant, Rajni

# When intercultural audience celebrates Hindi language, recite poetry

Ranjan and Shivi Pathak.

Poet Jitendra Bharadwaj well played the role of MC as well as he delivered heart touching poems. Last in the sequence, Poet Ajay Goyal made the audience swing with exhilaration through his poetry of love and stole the show.

The poems carried themes of women empowerment, love and some good humor expressed through the magic of poetry, making it altogether easier to appreciate as a value and a gift.

The cultural centre have been conducting regular classes for Hindi learners free of charge along Toure Drive in Oysterbay area, while Swarnaganga undertaking monthly poetry meetings that bring up various facets of Indian culture and building bridges with Swahili culture and traditions, participants noted.

While outwardly India looks like it is fused by Hindi language and Hindu religion, as a matter of fact it is a sub-continent of contrasts, where efforts to bring the whole country to speak the language with ease continue, unlike Tanzania where Kiswahili is spoken more or less automatically in all parts of the country.

Of special interest among the audience were song sung by Tanzanian students in the Hindi language, according to Savita Ashok Maurya, who teaches Hindi at the cultural centre, having around 100 students at present, spread out in various classes and representing youth and not so young, from age eight to 45.