

**Assistant High Commission of India
Kandy**

PRESS RELEASE

World Hindi Day celebrations in Kandy (Sri Lanka)

Assistant High Commission of India, Kandy celebrated World Hindi Day on 16th February 2022 at Grand Kandyan Hotel, Kandy. The celebration began with welcome speech by Assistant High Commissioner of India in Kandy Dr. Athira S. followed by speeches of the Chief Guest Dr. Sampath Fernando, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages at Sabaragamuwa University & Guests of Honour, Dr. Mahesh Hapugoda, Head of the Department, Department of Languages of Sabaragamuwa University, Dr. Sudesh Mantillake, Head of the Department, Department of Fine Arts, University of Peradeniya, Dr. Wajira Gunasena, Lecture in Hindi Language, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura and Mr. Bresil Nagoda Vithana, Lecturer in Hindi Language, Sabaragumawa University.

2. The event featured cultural performances and exchange of ideas to promote Hindi language in Sri Lanka. 14 Hindi teachers were awarded 'Hindi Prachar Prasar Samman' for contributing in propagation and promotion of Hindi language in Sri Lanka. In the week preceding to main event, Hindi competitions (speech, poem recitation, Hindi dictation etc.) were organized in virtual mode for students of different academic levels. A total of 100 participants from various Universities, colleges and schools took part in these competitions. Several in-house Hindi competitions were also organized for officials of AHCI Kandy. Winners of various Hindi competitions were awarded with certificates of appreciation as well as cash prizes.

3. Around 100 Hindi professionals, enthusiasts, teachers, and students participated in the event following CoVID guidelines. The event concluded with a vote of thanks to all participants.

**Kandy
16 February 2022**