

Hindisamay

Hindisamay (हदासमय) is a non-commercial website created and run by Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya (महात्मा गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हदा विश्वविद्यालय) – a Central University established in 1997 by Parliament of India through Act No. 3 of 1997. The principal object of the university, situated at Wardha in the state of Maharashtra, is to ‘enrich Hindi language and literature by teaching and research and make it capable of becoming a world language in the real sense of the term’. With this aim in view, the university is building up Hindisamay as the largest free online library of Hindi literature.

Concept

The idea of **Hindisamay** arose out of mainly two considerations: the long-felt need to set up on the Internet a storehouse of all that is worth preserving in the vast domain of Hindi writing – ancient, medieval and modern, and to make it available free of cost to the millions of Hindi readers – Indian as well as foreign. Many important works are either out of print or lying in dilapidated condition in public and private libraries across the country. Some of them are still in the form of manuscripts. On the other hand, although the Hindi publishing industry is flourishing and the number of titles published each year is increasing at an astonishing rate, the network of distribution of books leaves a lot to be desired. As a result, readers particularly from overseas often complain about difficulties in obtaining the books they wish to read. This website aims to meet both these ends as part of its obligation to expand the international space for Hindi language and literature.

Major sections

At present, contents of **Hindisamay** run into more than a hundred thousand pages in a reader-friendly format, and new pages are being added frequently. The whole lot can be downloaded without any permission. The reading material available at the website has been classified into 14 major sections, namely, Novels, Short Stories, Poetry, Plays, Criticism, Bhakti Era literature, Tradition of Hindustani, Literature of Partition, Translations (from other languages into Hindi), E-books and Miscellaneous genres. The term Tradition of Hindustani requires some explanation. There has been a stream of writing in a language form which is strictly neither Hindi nor Urdu, but the language of common parlance, drawing popular words from both the languages but dominated by *Deshaj* (indigenous) words used by ordinary people. The section on Hindustani Tradition, which was strongly supported by Mahatma Gandhi also as a bridge between Hindus and Muslims, contains a lot of literature in various forms such as poems, novels and short stories. The section on Miscellaneous Genres houses books and articles relating to biographies, autobiographies, satire, travelogues, essays, etc. There is also a separate section for manuscripts prepared by writers in their own handwriting, letters written by them and similar other material. Attempts are being made to collect the images of the first issues of literary journals that marked significant advances in the evolution of Hindi languages and literature.

Directory of writers

An important feature of **Hindisamay** website is the directory of contemporary Hindi writers. Each entry contains detailed information relating to the writer including his photograph, major works, postal address and phone number.

Resources

The website is managed by a competent team of editorial and technical staff under the guidance of the vice-chancellor of the university, Vibhuti Narain Rai, who is himself a writer of repute. A notice displayed at the opening page of the website invites everybody concerned to contribute to the enrichment of the online library by sending/ mailing new material or indicating where the same can be had from.

Contact

The editor of Hindisamay can be contacted at editorhindisamay@gmail.com.