

Singapore Hindi Writers Festival

2026

सिंगापुर हिंदी लेखक महोत्सव

सिंगापुर
हिंदी
राइटर्स
फेस्टिवल

A celebration of Hindi Diwas in Singapore — curated by Global Hindi Foundation Pte. Ltd.

DATE & TIME

Saturday, 26 September 2026

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM SGT

VENUE

Trio Auditorium

11 Sam Leong Road, Singapore 207903

Celebrating Hindi in the Lion City

An initiative of the Global Hindi Foundation Pte. Ltd., convened in honour of Hindi Diwas.

The Singapore Hindi Writers Festival is an initiative of the *Global Hindi Foundation*, convening writers, poets, critics and cultural leaders to celebrate Hindi Diwas within Singapore's diverse literary landscape.

This 2026 edition brings together eight invited speakers from Singapore, Malaysia and India across an evening of literary readings, panel discussions and cultural performance — presented to the High Commission of India (Singapore) for review.

DATE & TIME	VENUE	ORGANISED BY
Saturday, 26 September 2026 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM SGT	Trio Auditorium 11 Sam Leong Road, Singapore 207903	Global Hindi Foundation Pte. Ltd., Singapore

Programme Schedule

Saturday, 26 September 2026 · Trio Auditorium, Singapore · 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM SGT

TIME	PROGRAMME
5:00 PM	Registration & Arrival of Guests
5:15 PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks — Smt. Chitra Gupta, Advisor, Global Hindi Foundation Pte. Ltd.
5:25 PM	Address by the Guest of Honour (TBC)
5:35 PM	Panel Discussion I — Moderator: Neetu Gujral · Panellists: Manisha Sri, Aaradhana Jha Shrivastava, Sunanda Verma
6:15 PM	Panel Discussion II — Moderator: Pratima Singh · Panellists: Chitra Gupta, Anju Purohit
7:00 PM	Cultural & Musical Presentation in collaboration with Samaaroh — <i>Singapore Navras</i> : poetry set to music (from the GHF Singapore Navras poetry poetry collection).
7:15 PM	Book Reading — Shri Vinod Dubey · Shri Ratnesh Pandey
7:50 PM	Vote of Thanks & Closing Remarks
8:00 PM	Programme Concludes

Eight Voices in Conversation

Authors, poets, critics and cultural leaders from Singapore, Malaysia and India.

01

Anju Purohit

AUTHOR · MALAYSIA

Hindi cultural leader; led the Malaysian troupe that welcomed PM Shri Narendra Modi.

02

Manisha Shree

WRITER · SINGAPORE

IIT Roorkee geologist turned writer; debut Zindagi Ki Gullak in the Parliament House library.

03

Aradhana Jha Shrivastava

AUTHOR & EMCEE · SINGAPORE

Founder of Vasundhara Art Organisation; Creative Director of Maithili Society of Singapore.

04

Vinod Dubey

AUTHOR · SINGAPORE

Merchant Navy captain; novels Indiapa & Okka-Bokka; four Hindi poetry collections.

05

Neetu Gujral

POET & CRITIC · SINGAPORE

Editorial force behind Janakipul; mentored by Vinod Kumar Shukla; moderator of Panel I.

06

Sunanda Verma

AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR · SINGAPORE

Hanuman (Penguin); author of the 11-title Namaste! series for international curricula.

07

Hemanshu Parekh

PLAYWRIGHT · SINGAPORE

Founder of The Rangmanch Productions; 70+ Hindi & Gujarati plays; finance professional.

08

Chitra Gupta

TEACHER, POET & ADVISOR · SINGAPORE

Festival Advisor — Welcome & Opening Remarks; editor of Singapore Navras.

Anju Purohit

PUBLISHED AUTHOR · SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR · THEATRE ARTIST · KUALA LUMPUR

PROFILE

Published author, social entrepreneur, theatre artist and cultural leader; vocal on women's issues, humanity and sensitivity in public life.

Founder & President of *Hindi Hai Hum Foundation Malaysia*; Vice President, Rajasthan Foundation Malaysia.

Born in India; based in Kuala Lumpur; speaker at literary, cultural and diplomatic forums.

Recent appearances include MEA Hindi Conference (Aug 2026), Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Vishwa Rang, Tagore Literature Festival (Mauritius).



HIGHLIGHTS

FEATURED

Malaysia World Record

Under her leadership, the Rajasthani dance troupe that welcomed Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi in Malaysia earned a Malaysia World Record.

FEATURED

MEA Hindi Conference

Speaker at the Ministry of External Affairs Hindi Conference (August 2026); Chief Guest & speaker at Antarrashtriya Ramayan Shodh Sansthan, Agra.

FEATURED

Bharat Rang Mahotsav

Acted in and directed at the National School of Drama's Bharat Rang Mahotsav.

HONOURS

Cultural & Literary Awards

Malaysia–Bharat Gaurav Samman; Vishwa Hindi Seva Samman; Atmanirbhar Bharati Award; Mahila Divas Samman. *Ateet ke Swar* — Pandu Lipi Prakashan Sahyog Award.

Manisha Shree

WRITER · FORMER PETROLEUM GEOSCIENTIST · MEDIA CREATOR · SINGAPORE

PROFILE

Writer; former petroleum geoscientist (Geoscientist) with twelve years twelve years in national and international oil companies.

MTech in Geology from *IIT Roorkee*; four books published.

Debut *Zindagi Ki Gullak* earned a place in the Parliament House library, India, and informed research at a South Indian university.

Active with the 'Hindi Chapter' in Malaysia; hosts cultural and global events across India and Malaysia.



HIGHLIGHTS

FEATURED

Debut in Parliament House

Zindagi Ki Gullak placed in the Parliament House House library, India; incorporated into research at a at a South Indian university.

FEATURED

Radio & Audio Storytelling

100+ stories for 92.7 BIG FM; radio presenter at SHMU Radio, Aberdeen, Scotland.

FEATURED

OTT & Cinema

Currently working on a web series and a feature film for digital platforms.

FEATURED

Hindi Chapter, Malaysia

Hosts major cultural events; writes songs and bhajans; active in promoting Hindi language and culture internationally.

Aradhana Jha Shrivastava

AUTHOR · EMCEE · THEATRE PRODUCER & DIRECTOR · SINGAPORE

PROFILE

Former Associate Producer at Star News (now ABP News); Master's in Master's in Communication Management from *Singapore Management University*.

Based in Singapore for six years; recently joined the Global Hindi Group.

Founder of *Vasundhara Art Organisation*; Creative Director of the Maithili Society of Singapore.

Author of *Bharata Mujhme Basta Hai*; professional Emcee; Hindi & Maithili theatre producer, writer and director.



HIGHLIGHTS

CAREER

Star News

Former Associate Producer at Star News (now ABP News) — Indian broadcast journalism background.

ACADEMIC

Singapore Management University

Master's degree in Communication Management; in Singapore for six years.

INSTITUTION

Vasundhara Art Organisation

Founder of Vasundhara Art Organisation — bridging creative expression across borders.

INSTITUTION

Maithili Society of Singapore

Creative Director — weaves spiritual depth of *Aradhana Ki Abhivyakti* with theatrical energy of *Ugna Natya Mandali Singapore*.

Vinod Dubey

AUTHOR · MERCHANT NAVY CAPTAIN · BORN IN BHADOHI, UTTAR PRADESH · SINGAPORE

PROFILE

Seafarer by profession — Merchant Navy Captain; writer at heart; heart; Hindi-medium KG to Class 12; IIT-JEE qualified.

Merchant Navy training at T.S. Chanakya ('All-Round Best Cadet'); twelve years at sea from cadet to captain across all continents.

Worked with ExxonMobil; managerial role at a Singapore-based shipping company. *Gold Medal MBA*, Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Member, Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers; runs the weekly YouTube series '*Weekend Wali Kavita*'.



HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEL — HIND YUGM

Indiapa

Amazon bestseller; audio on Audible; English translation.

NOVEL — LOKBHARTI / RAJKAMAL

Okka-Bokka

Second novel of the writer-seafarer; published by Lokbharti Prakashan / Rajkamal Prakashan Group.

POETRY COLLECTIONS

Four Volumes

Weekend Wali Kavita (2022) · *Jahazi* (2023) · *Betarteeb* (2024) · *Gullak* (2025).

RECOGNITION

Tweeted by the Indian High Commission

His poem on Mirabai Chanu was tweeted by the Indian High Commission to congratulate her. Honours: HEP (GHF), Sahitya Sevi Samman (Sangam), Pravasi Sahityakar Puraskar (Vishwarang).

Neetu Gujral

POET · CRITIC · WRITER & TRANSLATOR · MODERATOR, PANEL DISCUSSION I · SINGAPORE

PROFILE

Poet, Critic, Writer, Translator, Literary Conversationalist.

Born in Chandigarh; experiences across London, Chennai, Shimla, Gurgaon and Singapore.

Writing flourished under the guidance of renowned author *Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla*.

Themes of love, separation, the female experience and cherished memories; bridges ideas across Hindi, English and Punjabi.



HIGHLIGHTS

FEATURED

Janakipul Portal

Key figure of *Janakipul* — a prominent Hindi literary web portal.

MENTORSHIP

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Her writing flourished under the renowned Hindi author Shri Vinod Kumar Shukla, shaping her literary voice.

PUBLICATIONS & STAGE

Recitations & Reviews

Poems and reviews in *Gyanodaya* (Jnanpith magazine), *Dainik Tribune* and regional newspapers; frequently invited to literary forums.

FESTIVAL 2026

Moderator, Panel Discussion I

Moderates Panel Discussion I alongside Panellists Manisha Sri, Aaradhana Jha Shrivastava and Sunanda Verma.

Sunanda Verma

AUTHOR · TRANSLATOR · CROSS-CULTURAL STORYTELLER · SINGAPORE

PROFILE

Author, translator and cross-cultural storyteller bridging heritage, heritage, literature and contemporary dialogue across borders. borders.

Began in Indian broadcast journalism at *Zee News*; part of core launch teams for *Aaj Tak* and Star News (now ABP).

Primetime News Producer at Star News; directed international documentaries across Asia, Africa and Australia.

Born in Bulgaria; lived across Fiji, South Africa and Singapore; alumna of IIMC and Postgraduate Certificate, University of Essex.



HIGHLIGHTS

BOOK — PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

Hanuman

Hanuman: Sacred Words for the Modern Mind — Penguin Random House, co-authored.

BOOK — WESTLAND

Hindu Gods and Goddesses

Hindu Gods and Goddesses: An Introduction, Westland.

SCHOOL CURRICULA

Namaste! Series

Author of the acclaimed 11-title *Namaste!* series (The Indologist) — bringing diversity to international school curricula.

PRACTICE

Translator & Educator

Translator of over 15 books; conducts internationally recognised writing and storytelling workshops.

Hemanshu Parekh

THEATRE PLAYWRIGHT · FOUNDER OF THE RANGMANCH PRODUCTIONS · FINANCE PROFESSIONAL · SINGAPORE

PROFILE

Theatre playwright of over *70* Hindi & Gujarati plays; Founder of *The Rangmanch Productions*.

Finance professional with 20+ years helping organisations break through financial crimes and elevate compliance functions across Economy, Environment and People.

Applied data analytics to build strong Transactions Surveillance teams — spanning technology, AML, business, operations, controls and human intelligence.

Passionate volunteer and mentor for young professionals in financial-crime investigations and global collaboration.



HIGHLIGHTS

THEATRE

70+ Plays

Playwright of over 70 Hindi & Gujarati plays across his career.

INSTITUTION

The Rangmanch Productions

Founder of The Rangmanch Productions, the platform from which his playwriting practice reaches Singapore's Hindi & Gujarati theatre scene.

CAREER

Financial-Crime Compliance

Raising compliance functions across the Economy, Environment and People; data-driven Transactions Surveillance teams combining AML, business, operations and controls.

COMMUNITY

Volunteering & Mentoring

Passionate about mentoring young professionals in financial-crime investigations and fostering global collaboration across the field.

Chitra Gupta

SENIOR TEACHER · POET · WRITER & THEATRE ARTIST · ADVISOR, GLOBAL HINDI FOUNDATION · SINGAPORE

PROFILE

Senior teacher, poet, writer and theatre artist; born in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh; M.A. (Hindi) and B.Ed., with a background as a Hindi Hindi lecturer in Meerut.

Permanent resident of Singapore since *February 1994*; taught at Hindi Society, DPS International and Singapore School of Arts (in that order), serving as Level Head at each.

Wrote and staged a play at the DPS International annual function; trained Hasya Yoga and Nikam Yoga teacher; teaches yoga to the elderly; drawn to social service.

Joined the Global Hindi Foundation Singapore in 2015 and serves as its *Advisor* — delivering the Welcome & Opening Remarks at this Festival.



HIGHLIGHTS

EDITOR

Singapore Navras

Editor of *Singapore Navras* — *Nau Kavi Nau Ras*; co-editor of *Singapura Dweep Desh ki Pravasi Kavita* and other diasporic Hindi publications.

HONOUR

Antarrashtriya Gaurav Bhushan Samman

Awarded by Singapore Sangam in 2023; among earlier honours — Perna Puraskar (GHF) and Toastmasters Best Speaker.

FESTIVAL 2026

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Delivers the Festival's Welcome & Opening Remarks as Advisor to the Global Hindi Foundation.

CAREER

Three Singapore Schools

Taught at Hindi Society, DPS International and Singapore School of Arts; served as Level Head at each institution.



Thank You.

For the High Commission's kind review of the Festival programme and its invited speakers.

For any queries, please contact the convening organisation.

Mamta Mandal , Founder Global Hindi Foundation Pte. Ltd., Singapore. M;+6591081540