

HINDI AT BERKELEY



MUNSHI PREMCHAND

Dhanpat Rai Srivastava (31 July 1880 - 8 October 1936), better known by his pen name Munshi Premchand, was an Indian writer famous for his modern Hindustani literature. He is one of the most celebrated writers of the Indian subcontinent and is regarded as one of the foremost Hindi writers of the early twentieth century. Much of Premchand's best work is to be found among his 250 or so short stories, collected in Hindi under the title, *Manasarovar*. His novels include *Godaan*, *Karmabhoomi*, *Gaban*, and *Idgah*.



Institute for South Asia Studies
University of California, Berkeley
southasia.berkeley.edu

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Hindi Language Classes

Hindi Language instruction is offered at UC Berkeley at all levels, from beginning to advanced:

- **Introductory Hindi:** developing skills in reading, writing, speaking, and aural comprehension. (5 hrs/week).
- **Intermediate Hindi:** vocabulary building, idioms, and problems of syntax; and conversation. (3 hrs/week).
- **Advanced Hindi:** reading of Hindi prose & poetry in a variety of literary & scholarly styles; composition. (3 hrs/week).

Hindi Studies Related Programs

- **Premchand Research Scholarship in Hindi Studies**
Established by an anonymous donor and housed in the Institute for South Asia Studies, UC Berkeley, this is a \$2000 award to support undergraduate or graduate research in Hindi literature.
More information at
SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/HINDI-SCHOLARSHIP
- **Saraswati Dalmia Graduate Student Fund**
Established by Dr. Vasudha Dalmia in honor of her mother and housed in the Dept. of South & Southeast Asian Studies, UC Berkeley, this award supports high-achieving graduate students in the Hindi studies program. The amount of the award is dependant on available funds
More information at
SSEAS.BERKELEY.EDU/ENDOWMENTS

हिन्दी at Berkeley

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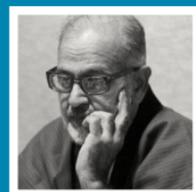
(YESTERDAY)

(TODAY)

(TOMORROW)

Hindi Yesterday – कल

The extraordinary legacy of Hindi at UC Berkeley begins in the 1950s, when renowned linguist, Prof. John J. Gumperz introduced Hindi instruction at Berkeley. Gumperz wrote extensively on South Asian sociolinguistics and also produced the first widely used Hindi-Urdu readers and instructional materials in the US. On Gumperz's invitation one of modern Hindi's pioneering and towering figures, Sachchidananda Hirananda Vatsyayan, known by his *nom de plume* Agyeya, began teaching Hindi literature at Berkeley in 1961. By 1964, on Agyeya's recommendation, the university hired a 21-year-old Usha Jain as Hindi instructor. Thus began a distinguished 44-year career in which Usha Jain introduced thousands of Berkeley-based students to Hindi and authored a number of definitive grammar and course books that are still in use at schools and universities around the world. Many of the current Hindi professors in the United States were her students. Agyeya also mentored Charles Roadarmel, who became Berkeley's first tenure-track professor of Hindi. Working together they produced some notable translations, including of Premchand.



Agyeya



Usha Jain

Following Agyeya's return to India in 1970, Berkeley hired Dr. Karine Schomer. She served as professor of Hindi between 1974-1984 and is best known for her pathbreaking book *Mahadevi Varma and the Chhayavad Age of Modern Hindi Poetry* (1983). Linda Hess, tenure-track professor of Hindi from 1986-1994, translated and published the *Bijak of Kabir* thus introducing a new generation to the timeless beauty and wisdom of Kabir. Berkeley's next professor of Hindi,



Vasudha Dalmia, joined in 1998. Building on the already strong tradition of Hindi teaching and research, Vasudha Dalmia developed a robust graduate program that culminated in her students taking up top professorships in North America, Europe and India. In this way, Berkeley's Hindi *paramparā* flourishes the world over. Vasudha Dalmia has published widely in literary, historical and religious studies. Her monograph *The Nationalization of Hindu Traditions: Bhāratendu Hariśchandra and Nineteenth-century Banaras* is a true classic and cherished by scholars of many disciplines. Professor Dalmia retired in 2012 and yet remains actively engaged with Berkeley's Hindi program through advising, philanthropy and as a member of the Hindi Board of

Trustees. Following Professor Dalmia's retirement, Vasudha Paramasivan—whose work primarily focused on *Śrī Rāmacaritamānasa* of Tulsidas—occupied the Hindi Literature position until 2019.

Hindi Today – आज

Each year, Berkeley's Hindi program benefits approximately 90 undergraduate students. These students come from a variety of backgrounds, including heritage learners from across California and the United States, international students (mostly from South Asia), and students interested in some aspect of Hindi's cultural, religious or historical traditions. The latter often are graduate students who will go on to careers in academia, journalism, public health, or public policy. Today, Berkeley continues the finest traditions of Hindi language and literature training in

North America with two recent additions to the *silsilā*. Dr. Nora Melnikova (hired in 2018), has taught in Europe, India, and now Berkeley, and maintains an active research profile focused on early modern languages and literatures of North India, and modern Theravada Buddhism. In 2021 Berkeley hired Dr

Rahul Parson to teach the content courses in Hindi Studies.

Dr. Rahul Parson, himself a product of the UC Berkeley combination of Usha Jain and Vasudha Dalmia, splits his research interests between contemporary Hindi novels (particularly women's writing), Braj Bhasha poetry, and seventeenth-century Jain literature. Together, Parson and Melnikova endeavor to bolster all things Hindi at UC Berkeley through translation projects, conferences, and special events.

Hindi Tomorrow – कल

In order to safeguard this august legacy, and continue our vital work, we are turning to the community of Hindi lovers and well-wishers. The Institute for South Asia Studies at Berkeley invites contributions to support Hindi Studies and related activities on campus. There are several ways to get involved. Foremost among them is through our recently created Board of Trustees for the Hindi Studies program. By joining the Board of Trustees for Hindi Studies, one joins a team of committed alumni and supporters who recognize the importance of preserving Hindi language studies for current and future generations of students. Donor generosity ensures Hindi's continued instruction at Cal and helps us in our ongoing efforts to grow other parts of our Hindi-related ecosystem, especially the Dalmia Fund (which supports graduate fellowships and training), the Premchand Research Scholarship (which supports a single student in Hindi-focused research or archival work in India every summer), and our regular stream of Hindi-related talks and public events on campus. Board members will be presented with an annual report on the state of Hindi instruction by our Hindi professor, Dr. Rahul Parson, and our Hindi lecturer, Dr. Nora Melnikova. They will be invited to return to campus to meet some of our Hindi-studying students, attend a Hindi class (or more, if they'd like), and be hosted, along with the other trustees, for lunch at the Berkeley Faculty Club. Board members will be publicly acknowledged for their generous support in our monthly e-news digest, *Aaj Kal*, as well as in our annual newsletter, *Khabar*.



Dr. Nora Melnikova

SUPPORT HINDI AT BERKELEY



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Join us in making an impact

Support Hindi Studies at Berkeley to ensure the continued excellence of language study and programming related to Hindi. Your gift ensures the excellence of Hindi language study and programming and allows us to do the following and more:

- Enable heritage and non-heritage students to take Hindi language classes
- Create a context in which heritage and non-heritage individuals can appreciate and participate in broader Hindi language and cultural activities
- Train the next generation of Hindi scholars and academics
- Foster academic connections between Berkeley and programs in India
- Create new and innovative pedagogical materials to encourage the global study of Hindi
- Support on-the-ground research in all disciplines requiring Hindi
- Increase Hindi language holdings in Berkeley's world-renowned South Asia collection
- Host distinguished lectures and performance series

To make an online donation in support of Hindi Studies please go to:

GIVE.BERKELEY.EDU/FUNDDRIVE/222

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