CHAPTER VI

FUTURE OF HINDI IN

ASSAM
6.1. Future of Hindi in Assam

The present position of Hindi is satisfactory and its future is bright and sanguineous. The propagation and expansion of Hindi in Assam is free from all obstructions and opposition. Hindi has always been respected and honoured here. Assam has continued its link with the central language and its source from very early times. The couplets of Hindi charyapads were written in Assam and the state language, Assamese had established a close relation with the old forms of Hindi. This relationship was well established after the invaders coming from central India settled down and subsequently interacted with the common people of this region. Being the sister language, Assamese has no enmity with Hindi. That is why Hindi has no obstruction in its propagation and expansion in this state. Various voluntary organisations were actively involved in teaching and learning Hindi even before obtaining the freedom of the country. This work is increasing by leaps and bounds.¹

The future of Hindi in Assam is bright and hopeful, provided that the state language is used in all spheres and at all levels of the state. English is taught from the secondary stage up to the Degree level as a part of the curriculum. Yet nobody can claim to be proficient in it. How then with this half-baked knowledge of English, is it possible to acquire knowledge of different subjects perfectly and correctly in that medium? It is rather harmful to the society. The society has to incur financial loss as well as the human energy. At present a dangerous desension in the standard of education and intellect has appeared in the society which may lead the whole race to intellectual vacuity. The only way to avoid this disaster and to improve our languages so that they become fit for the development of education. intellect.
intelligence and thought. A race can never become proficient in a foreign language. It can be proficient only in its own language. The English language will be confined to a handful of people who will use it for exploiting the mass and befooling them.

In order to face this difficult situation, all the languages of India will have to form a common platform and fight for their rights by adopting a common programme. Hindi alone can do nothing in this respect. It will have to go ahead along with other languages either at the country level or at the state level. Hindi must be aware of the limits of other languages and it should never go beyond their limits. A little negligence in this respect may create disastrous results. The country had already suffered such disastrous results in the past. These are several such elements active inside and outside the country. Waiting for opportunities to disrupt this programme.

Such a prediction was made by Mahatma Gandhi at a general meeting held in Calcutta on December 27, 1917. Where Gandhiji declared that had we not been accustomed to English, we would have easily understood that by making English the medium of instruction, we have been cut off from the intellectual consciousness of life. Instead of building something new on the basis of that, we are forgetting the legacy that we got from our ancestors. No such examples can be found in the world history till now. This is really a matter of grief or tragedy for the whole nation. So the greater service that we can render to our society is to turn to our own respective mother languages and establish Hindi as the national language of the country. We should conduct all our state activities in our respective state languages and national activities
in Hindi only. This is quite contextual today as it was in the past. Keeping in view these thought of Gandhi, the constituent of the constitution, wrote in Article 343 (17th Port) of the constitution -

"The Official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the union shall be the international form of Indian numerals."

Hindi is the language of our unity and integrity. It is the vein of the Indian culture and its philosophy. To protest against the use of Hindi tantamounts to the protest against our national unity and Indian culture. In the words of Hon'ble V.V. Giri. 'It is futile to talk of the nationality of India without Hindi'.

At present the students studying in Assam seen to be most worried. It is generally seen that about 80% of the students studying Hindi hail from poor families, who study Hindi either by being inspired or under some compulsion. There is no proper arrangement for the study of Hindi in the colleges of Assam, barring a few of them. Gauhati University is the only University where students have the provision for studying Hindi upto the post graduate level. The department of Hindi has been opened in Assam University, Silchar, from the session 1998-99. Inaugurating the opening ceremony of the Hindi department the chancellor, Dr. Jayanta Bhusan Bhattacharya remarked that even many old universities do not have as many language departments as there are in Assam University. In the very first year, 30 students were admitted for study in spite of a lot of inconvenience, with the assurance that all arrangements would be made gradually. We are aware of it.
The Hindi department is going to be opened in the Arunachal University Itanagar, from the current session. It is known from reliable sources that the syllabus has already been prepared.

The Universities of Dibrugarh and Tezpur have not yet adopted any solid steps in this direction.

The co-operation of the Assam government, central government, the University Grants Commission and the ministries of the central government functioning in this state is indispensable in this respect. The great scholars of Hindi who are associated with Hindi education are expected to work hard for this purpose. This is the only means to provide a concrete shape of Hindi in the sphere of Higher education. There has been no lack of effort in this respect, we hope that in the near future the departments of Hindi will be opened in these universities with the co-operation of the University Grants Commission and the government and they will benefit those who like Hindi and want to learn it.

The contributions of Hindi films and televisions to spread Hindi in the non-Hindi speaking regions on a large scale cannot be ignored. As a result of this the interest in Hindi among the students has grown enormously. It is to be noted that 80% among the total no. of students studying Hindi at the post-graduate level, are non-Hindi speaking and that only 20% are Hindi speaking. It appears that it is the non-Hindi speaking people who are ahead of the Hindi speaking in adopting Hindi. From this we can form an idea about the future of Hindi in this non-Hindi speaking state.
The Asom Rastrabhasa Prachar Samiti is playing a significant role in this respect. Like other organisations of India, the Rastrabhasa Prachar Samiti Wardha, The Asom Rastrabhasa Prachar Samiti, Guwahati have been propagating Hindi even before our independence. These institutions played a very important role in making teachers available for the schools when Hindi was made a compulsory subject in the curriculum.

In the third meeting of the managing and executive bodies of the Parishad, held on 07.09.97 in the meeting hall of the samiti, the following resolutions were adopted for the propagation and expansion of Hindi:

Sri Jibeswar Barua, a member of the samiti proposed to take up the resolution that, the candidates having passed the 'Praveen' examination of the samiti, should be allowed admission in M.A. classes of Hindi. The President of the meeting wanted to know the views of other members of the samiti as well as that of Dr. Dharmadeo Tiwari, Prof. and Head, department of Hindi Gauhati University. Dr. Tiwari opined that such a resolution could only be accepted when the syllabus of 'Proveen' would be developed to the Degree (major) level of Gauhati University. Only then the matter would be put before the vice-chancellor for consideration. After that it would be produced before the Academic council for discussion. The secretary asked the meeting to proceed accordingly and to discuss the matter further with Dr. Tiwari.

Member Sri Gunin Dutta informed the meeting that there was no provision for the graduates (with Hindi) to pursue their studies for M.A. (in Hindi). So the samiti should take an initiative in this regard.
Dr. Tiwari informed that there was no provision for Major course in the curriculum of Dibrugarh University. So there is no facility for M.A. study in Hindi at the University of Dibrugarh. The graduates of that University should therefore be facilitated to continue their studies at Guwahati.

Dr. Panesh Chandra Sarma provided the information that the University of Manipur allowed the B.A. Proveen students to get themselves admitted into the M.A. classes in Hindi. The University of Guwahati also should take upon itself the responsibility of making such a provision.

6.2. The Scheme of Hindi University

The recommendation to establish an international Hindi University under the scheme was made in the 1st World Hindi Sammelan at Nagpur in January 1975. Since then this resolution was under consideration. Later on, the same resolution was repeated in the 2nd World Hindi Sammelan held in Mauritius in 1976.

The 3rd World Hindi Sammelan was held in Delhi in 1983 and the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi extended her support for establishing the International Hindi University.

A committee was organised under the presidency of Dr. Shivmangal Singh 'Suman' in 1992 and it produced its report in May 1993. Recommendations were made in this report regarding the form and necessity of international Hindi University.
Hindi has attained the status of the official language and it is established as a link language in the country. Hindi has great significance at the International level. Hindi is being taught not only in almost all universities of the country but also in about hundred and fifty universities of the world.

A great number of people of Indian origin live in Mauritius, Fiji, Guana, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago etc. There was no centre for any programme or co-ordination for the fulfilment of the necessities and demands of Hindi at the International level. This deficiency was made up by the establishment of an International Hindi University at Wardha (Maharastra).

This University was established chiefly to develop Hindi as an International language. It was meant for conducting curriculum for teaching Hindi in and outside of country.\(^5\)

Inaugurating a press conference held on 23rd August'95 at the samiti office. Mantri Sri Bhubneswar Barman said that besides certain financial matters the samiti had sent a scheme of establishing a Hindi University in Assam. The progress of Hindi would be to a great extent, if such a scheme is accepted by the Central Government. Presently nearly 2 lakhs students appear every years at 900 examination centres arranged by the samiti. There are 27 aided schools and 200 recognised schools under the samiti.\(^6\)

The aim of establishing such a university is to develop and expand Hindi by teaching, reading and research. Thus, the main aim behind it is to recognise Hindi as a chief international language.
6.3. **The Scheme of the Central Directorate of Hindi for the Non-Hindi speaking states**

The Directorate of Hindi is conducting various extensive programmes and schemes for the propagation and expansion of Hindi. These schemes, helping the Hindi lovers, scholars, writers, researchers, students and teachers and also the translators would help to bring different languages nearer to each other at the all India level in the near future. These schemes provide a common platform of Hindi to the people of various languages which helps to acquire the knowledge of different Indian languages and literature through Hindi. It also helps to understand each other through the exchange of ideas by means of discussions and conversations. Mention is hereby made of many of the schemes among the extensive programmes of the Directorate -

1. Educational Excursions of non-Hindi speaking Hindi students.
2. Camps for non-Hindi speaking new Hindi writers.
3. Lectures by professors during the course of Excursions.
4. Seminars.
5. Rewards to non-Hindi speaking writers for writing books in Hindi.

Two educational excursions are organised for the students of the non-Hindi speaking states studying Hindi language and literature at the graduate and post-graduate levels. In each educational tour, 50 students are taken to three universities of the Hindi speaking areas and voluntary institutions.
of Hindi. They are introduced to renowned scholars, litterateurs of Hindi and to those who are serving the cause of Hindi. They are also taken to places of historical and literary importance, to the extent possible. This helps the students to understand the practical form of Hindi. They also learn the difference regarding pronunciation. This scheme also helps them to know various obvious and latest information about Hindi language and literature. The students coming from various states gather in a place for 9 or 10 days and exchange their views and thoughts through Hindi. Thus, the minds of the younger generation begin the understanding and appreciation of unity from the platform of Hindi.

Among the three Hindi speaking states, Delhi occupies the 3rd position and it is here that the excursion comes to an end. The talented students get certificates and other useful materials of study. They talk about their experiences gained during the course of their journey. Every student gets the second class fare and daily allowance under this scheme. Till date 48 educational tours (excursion) have been arranged by the directorate. The students of Gauhati University also took part in them several times and established a kind of co-ordination by making themselves familiar with the various sphere of learning available in those Hindi speaking states.

Eight camps are arranged every year for the new writers of non-Hindi speaking areas to provide them with the extensive and latest knowledge of the story, poetry, One Act plays and other literary forms. At least four renowned scholars and litterateurs are invited to guide the new-writers in the camps which continue for 8 days. There are discussions held on the writings of these new-writers, necessary corrections are made and the writers are acquainted with the new and latest dimensions added to literature.
and attempts are made to provide some new directions to their talents with regard to creative and critical writings. They are introduced to the local writers and scholars. They are also introduced to the language, literature and the culture of the region. The minds of the new writers of various languages are stamped with indelible and unforgettable impressions after a period of 8 days together. They get a concrete and positive direction through this scheme or planning colleges and the voluntary institutions extend their helps in organising such camps. The new writers are provided with certificates in the valedictory function. They are also provided with the second class railway fare and daily allowance. The litterateurs who guide the new authors are entitled to first class railway fare daily allowance and the honorarium of Rs. 50/- per day.

Several new writers coming to these camps are establishing themselves in the perspective of the contemporary literature. The Directorate has arranged 138 camps so far, in which the non-Hindi speaking writers of Assam have co-operated on two occasions.

Four professors from Universities of non-Hindi speaking regions go every year to three universities of Hindi speaking as well as non-Hindi speaking areas to deliberate lectures on Hindi literature; they exchange their views and thoughts with the professors and students in those universities, such exchanges of thoughts and ideas from the Hindi plat forms unite the professors and students both intellectually and emotionally. The professors have to deliver three lectures in three universities and they are given in fare of class one officers along with the daily allowance and an honorarium of Rs. 50/- per lecture. 169 such lecture have been arranged by the Directorate so far.
The seminars are arranged every year on various Indian literary forms and comparative literature. Four senior professors from Hindi speaking areas and four non-Hindi speaking scholars and litterateurs participate in the seminars and discuss various literary topics. They also read their papers in these seminars. This scheme manifests the fundamental tendency of Indian literature. It is really a strong preparation or initiative to know the Indian mentality and Indian folk consciousness through various types of Indian literature written in Hindi. The scheme also helps us to know the similar elements among the different languages of Indian literature, the achievements of Indian literature in Hindi and the translations of Indian literature in various Indian languages. The Directorates has organised 20 seminars so far, which were attended by professors, litterateurs, scholars etc. They have been granted the railway fare given to the 1st class government officer, with daily allowance and an honorarium of Rs. 50/- per day.

To encourage the writings of Hindi, sixteen rewards have been declared for the non-Hindi speaking Hindi writers. Initially the reward was worth Rs. 2,500/- but now it has been increased to Rs. 25,000/-. Each award winner get Rs. 25,000/- in cash, with a shawl, a trophy and a certificate. They feel elated after receiving such a reward in the capital of India. It is a matter of supreme pride not only for the writer but also for Hindi literature. They are granted the railway fare given to the first class government officers. Till now 356 writers have been awarded by the Directorate. Most of them have reached the pinnacle of their literary career.

The research scholars working in the Universities of non-Hindi speaking regions are granted financial help to go to the Hindi speaking states
for collecting research materials. Also they can consult the scholars & litterateur of Hindi speaking region. Such financial help is extended to 20 research scholars every year. Thus it helps the practical aspect of the research work. 385 such financial grants have been extended to the research scholars.

The voluntary institutions (organisations) serving the cause of Hindi can help expedite the propagation and expansion of Hindi. The Directorate of Hindi should take responsibility of guiding and granting financial help to such organisations. The Directorate has its four regional offices in Madras, Hyderabad, Guwahati and Calcutta. These offices can keep on eve on the activities of these organisations, specially with regard to the examination conducted by them.

The candidates of the North-eastern regions appearing in the IAS examination with MIL Hindi as a paper, and whose mother tongue is not included in the 8th schedule, can attain a course (Hindi civil service programme) through English medium from October to September free of cost.

There are several books prepared on the art of conversation, self teaching, cassettes on teaching in English and various Indian languages, basic grammar and dictionary which are available for purchase.

The Directorate makes available a number of books and magazines and distributes them free of cost among the people in the non-Hindi speaking states so that the covers of Hindi can acquaint themselves
with the latest tendencies and progress of Hindi literature. By availing themselves of the literary creations, they are enabled to increase their desire for learning Hindi and its literature. Such books and magazines are also contributed by the public libraries, central Schools, Colleges, Universities and Voluntary Institutions of Hindi, so that the people curious to know and learn Hindi may derive the maximum benefit. This free distribution of the creative and analytical literature of the latest type helps a good deal to link the thoughts of various Indian languages and literature with Hindi under this scheme. 12,38,572 books have been distributed in the country and 324491 books abroad, free of cost.

Another scheme namely 'Rajbhasa Hindi ki Balchal ke Swaroop ka Sarbekshan' was introduced by the Director to conduct a survey on Hindi as an official language. This scheme aims to trace out the standard form of conversation in the official Hindi and to update its vocabulary and syntax. This will be helpful for an easy conversation among the government employees and the common people. Such a survey is being conducted in several different contexts (agriculture, police, law, health, education, administration, telegraph, bank etc.) and at four levels (centre, state, district and local). In the first stage the survey has been conducted in the Hindi speaking regions and there are only few centres remaining in the non-Hindi speaking states.

Thus the Directorate of Hindi at the centre is making all effort for the propagation, expansion and growth of Hindi in accordance with the expectations of the constitution. The schemes of the Directorate are equally useful for both the Hindi and non-Hindi speaking people. Besides students
scholars, professors, writers both new and old pracharaks with regard to Hindi, may derive immense benefits out of such schemes and plannings. The Directorate of Central Hindi is, in fact, performing a Herculean task by discharging its duty in spreading Hindi to the common people, creating an interest in them for Hindi. Providing incentive prizes to the literary talents, making available the main tendencies and creative works of Indian literature in Hindi, providing on all India platform to that Indian mind for mutual deliberation adopting proper steps for installation of Hindi at the world level under the cultural exchange programmes and making Hindi the medium of all kinds of expressions.

From the year 1998-99 the Directorate of Central Hindi. The Ministry of Human resource development, education department, government of India, New Delhi, have decided to reward the Hindi writers of non-Hindi speaking regions. This scheme has been framed and under taken by the central Hindi Directorate of the Ministry of Human resource development, government of India and its chief aim is to encourage the Hindi writers in the non-Hindi speaking areas. 19 awards will be given to the books written in the categories noted below. Each reward amounts to Rs. 25,000/-.

1. Fictional plays reminiscences Travelogues of Journeys, literary Art such as Discourse and poetry, science and technology etc. have been included in the said literature. Besides, creative and critical literature can also be included into the purview of discussion. Dissertations/research papers will not be accepted.

2. the books written on the regional culture of India and the translation of the literary creations written in any Indian language will be considered fit for the award.
Qualifications

1. Those writers whose mother tongue is other than Hindi or those who have accepted some other Indian languages as their mother tongue whose reference is available in the census conducted in India or those who have appeared in the high school examination through the languages other than Hindi or those who have published books in Indian languages other than Hindi can be included in this scheme.

2. The books published during the last 3 years can be considered for this reward. The manuscripts of books written on the regional culture in about 100 pages can be considered for this reward.

3. Books that have been financed by the autonomous organisations of the central or the state government can not be included in this scheme.

4. The employees of the central Directorate of Hindi. The members of the Ministry of Human resource development or their departments will not be included in this scheme. Other government employees can participate in this scheme with the prior permission of the departments concerned.

The address for the applicants from Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya is as follows:

Deputy Director (L) Central Hindi Directorate.
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Education Department, C/o Das Enterprises.
Jayanagar, P.O. Khanapara, Guwahati-22.
6.4. **The Scheme of Central Hindi Institute**

The central Hindi Institute is an autonomous institute of the central government which is conducted by the education department, a Ministry of Human resource development and Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, a registered institution under the government of India. This institute was established originally in 1959 and it was taken over by the Central government in 1961 at the National and international level according to the direction of article 351 of the Indian constitution. The Head office of the Institute is at Agra and its regional offices are working in Delhi, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Shillong and Mysore. It has established itself as a centre of higher studies of Hindi language and literature in the academic world. Its chief objectives are -

1. To establish a balance among the attempts made for reforming Hindi training at various educational levels and to encourage them.

2. Formation, reformation and restructuring of the syllabus of Hindi in the form of 1st, 2nd and 3rd language.

3. To encourage the comparative study and research between Hindi language and literature and the other languages and literature.

4. To write text books exercise books and teachers guide books and other helpful materials and standardise them for imparting training for Hindi at various levels of education.

5. To create teaching materials and implement texts for the training of Hindi in the form of a foreign language.

6. To organise meetings, seminars, workshops, lectures etc. for conducting research in Hindi language and literature for the enhancement of the spirit of research.
Besides, the short term (for 3 weeks) refresher courses are organised in Agra and at the other regional centres of the institute regularly. Such courses have become very essential in view of the increasing use of Hindi in the administration and other business spheres. The Guwahati office of the institute has organised two such refresher courses in 1994 from 08.08.94 to 27.08.94 and in 1995 from 18-11-95 to 08.12.95, with the help of the Gauhati University. This programme continued for 21 days in which the professors of the local colleges and those of Gauhati University took an active part. Besides for the benefit of the students, meeting, seminars, workshop and lecture series on Hindi language and literature are organised in addition to the All India essay and debating competition among the students. The institute also provides teaching materials and makes teacher appointments as demanded by the college and other related agencies. Besides, the institute distributes books freely among the school students of the north eastern region.

Thus it goes without saying that the central Hindi institute is doing a good job for the propagation of Hindi in the non-Hindi speaking state of Assam by organising -

1. The Hindi workshops
2. Refreshers/Orientation courses
3. Seminars and Discussions.

Attempts will be made for such constructive work to continue in the future.

6.5. **Importance of Journalism**

Journalism plays rather a more dominant role than other means in acquainting us with the condition of the society, state, country and foreign
lands. It is said about literature that 'The thought should be unique irrespective of the language. The same is almost true regarding journalism. Language is of least importance if it is concerned with the welfare of the society and human value. According to Dr. Arjun Tiwari - सदियाँ की अभिव्यक्ति पत्रिका भावों की उद्भूति और व्याख्या नैतिकता की वादनपूर्वक ही पत्रकारिता है। The journalist is the teacher of the society. So, he should always be careful regarding his mission of public welfare. We cannot claim to have performed our duty properly by blaming others. Its authenticated power is its faith in human values. The very essence of journalism becomes non-existent without this power.

Whatever might have been the aim of the birth of Hindi dailies magazines and journalism, it is clear, that in the course of its development, journalism is not only a means of providing information and entertainment but also a guide to society and a deciding factor of its values. The readers of papers and magazines cherish very high hopes on journalism. According to Dr. Ram Mohan Pathak -पत्रकारिता मात्र साध नहीं, साधन भी है। विकास साहित्य टिकाउं नहीं होता। स्वायत्त प्राप्त करने के लिए जित विशिष्ट तत्त्व की आवश्यकता है यह आज की साहित्यिक पत्रकारिता में नहीं के बाहर है। Journalism is its sound and healthy form is expected to make a significant contribution in stirring the public mind and in guiding it to right direction. Journalism becomes in significant without these two elements. The ideal role of journalism is to refine the public opinion and provide welfare to all by a proper analysis of the news. So, it should not confine itself only to present news. In fact, journalism is also a kind of literature, though it is beyond the bounds of pure literature. It has its own aim. It is based on the principles of utility which connect it with the society and the readers.
Journalism, even if incorporated within the great and broad circle of literature, has got its separate identity. The paradoxical style is frequently used in literature. But any journalistic writing in the paradoxical style is not free from flaws. The news style should be simple and clear. Hindi critics has named it 'Akhbar Nabisi' and 'Parchebaji' etc. journalism should refine public taste. It should be interesting, constructive and thereby a guide of the society. All these specialities can be discerned in Hindi journalism from the very beginning.

6.6. Role of Assam in the field of Hindi Journalism

This chapter incorporates the opinions and thoughts of the enlightened scholars of languages other than Hindi and the future of Hindi journalism has been determined on the basis of those thoughts and opinions. The Hindi magazines published in Assam as a means of propagation at the national level may be considered of less importance, but they play a significant role as a medium of expression for the apprentices of Hindi in a non-Hindi state like Assam. The present decade has proved much more fertile for Hindi papers and magazines in Assam. Three dailies 'Sentinel', Uttarkal' and 'Purbanchal Prahari' have been published regularly throughout the decade. 'Purwai' the Sunday issue of 'Sentinel', 'Lohit Bharati', the Sunday issue of 'Purbanchal Prahari' and 'Saptasetu' have greatly encouraged the literary activities. It goes without saying that the ground prepared by late Chhaganlal Jain, the leading Hindi journalist is bearing fruits in the present decade. From this we can guess the bright future of Hindi journalism. Dr. Krishna Narayan Prasad Magadh wrote about the Hindi magazines of Assam in 1979 that -
आसम के बन-पत्रिकाओं ने पुर्ते दायित्व का निवाह किया है। एक ओर इसने जरी हिंदी के लिए किया वातावरण निर्मित किया है, वही दूसरी ओर उससे काफी अधिक महत्त्व का काम यह किया है कि आसम के सामाजिक, राजनैतिक वातावरण एवं असमीय साहित्य से हिंदी पाठकों को सच सम्पन्न बनाया है। परस्पर विनियोजन इनकी महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है। इसका महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है। इसका महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है। इसका महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है। इसका महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है। इसका महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है। इसका महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है। इसका महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है। इसका महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि रही है। Indeed what Dr. Magadh said at that time is quite relevant even now.

All magazines of Hindi except 'Rastrasevak', 'Akela' and 'Purbajyoti' had a very short life. 'Rastrasevak' being the magazine of the Samiti is still being published regularly. 'Akela' is also struggling for its survival. 'Purbajyoti' ceased its publication after continuing for twenty seven years.

There were two apparent reasons for which the magazine stopped its publication -

(1) Health of Sri Jainji and (2) Frequent strikes by the employees of the press. This may be partly true about 'Purbajyoti' but what about those thirty odd magazines which ceased to be published after a few months of their publication. The reason may chiefly be ascribed firstly to, the financial crisis and secondly to lack of interest among the readers for Hindi magazines and papers. Here it is quite natural to give a reminder of the facts on the Hindi magazines written in 'Pariksha Guru' by lala Sri Nivas Das. He has thus written about the earlier deplorable condition of Hindi journalism -

अखबार जारी कार्यालयों को नफा के बदले मुक्तता उठाना पड़ता है। हमलोग अपना दिमाग खपाकर देश की उन्नति के लिए आर्थिक लिखते हैं, पर अपने देश के लोग उसकी तफ और उड़कर नहीं देखते। इससे जी हुआ जाता है। दैर्घ्य अखबार के कारण मुख्य पर एक हजार रुपये का कर्ज हो गया और आगे की प्राप्तियां का तर्क निकालना भी बहुत कठिन मान्यता होता है। प्रथम तो अखबार के पत्रकारों के हर काम, और जो है उनमें भी
This was the condition of Hindi papers in the last decade of the previous century in the Hindi speaking areas, which was not different from the condition of Hindi papers in Assam 15 years ago. This is proved by the leading article written by Chhaganlal Jain in 'Purbajyoti' Atmanivedan' March, 1950. He wrote -

"The problems of finance is closely linked with the indifference of the readers. Unless the readers subscribe, the magazines will remain unsold and the problem of publicaiton will always be there. Sri Chhaganlal Jain mentioned about the financial crisis. In an article published in 'Purbajyti' after it had completed one year. He continued to hint at the financial problems in his articles that followed."

An all round discussion was held in January 1994 on behalf of 'The Sentinel' after the completion of a hundred and fifty years of journalism.
(1846-1996) in Assam to ascertain the extent that could be expected from Hindi journalism in Assam. About thirty five well known persons of the society participated in the discussions. The views and ideas of those important and well-known persons of the society such as journalists, school and university teachers, film artists, social workers, industrialists and businessmen on litterateur have been published in 'Purwai' (the Sunday issue of Sentinel) on January 29, 1994. The important aspects of their ideas and views are extracted below -

There are chiefly three dimensions of Hindi Journalism in Assam. First of all, the Hindi news papers should establish a close link with Assam emotionally. The sooner it is done, the better it will be for Hindi journalism to reach its goal.

The Hindi translation of Assamese literary works like poems, stories etc. should be made available by the Hindi papers to its readers to acquaint them with Assamese literature. The main aim of Hindi journalism should be to make the premise for the emergence of the best Hindi writers authors, cultural workers, artists and dramatists. The news items of the north-east should have a wide coverage in Hindi papers.

1. Along with that the problems and probabilities of Assam should be assessed and evaluated correctly. XXX the region has a good number of readers who read neither the Assamese nor the English news papers. They only want Hindi news papers XXX Thus it becomes the pious duty of the Hindi news papers to be particular about the choice and interests of the
readers, in order to avail a wide circulation. They must undertake to solve their problems themselves.

~ DHIRENDRA NATH BEZBARUAH.
Editor, The Sentinel, English.
Guwahati

2. I think that the future of Hindi is fairly bright. It is getting popularity and is bound to adopt it as the national language in the long run XXX. It is, no doubt that Hindi and Hindi journalism are new for the local people. So, it is essential to focus the news items on politics and literature in the Hindi newspapers. Journalism should have a realistic base. If people come across their own ideas and thoughts in the Hindi newspapers, then they become a part of their own life XXX. The literary writings such as stories, poetry etc. of the local languages such as, Assamese, Bodo etc. should be translated into Hindi.

~ KANAK SEN DEKA. Editor.
Agradoot (Assamese).
Guwahati

3. We want the growth of Hindi journalism in Assam. In fact, the image of Assam has long been distorted by the partisan press of Calcutta. It has always presented the north east in the distorted form. This attack has been continuing for the last hundred years. We desire to spread our feelings to the other parts of India. Even the newspapers of the city level are lacking in representing the feelings of the people in their correct forms. It is therefore essential to develop the newspapers in such a way so that they can bridge the gap between the people of Assam and those of other parts of the country. It is the pious duty of the press to connect Assam with other parts of the
country and make a display of the miseries of the people of Assam and the north-east.

~ DHIREN CHAKRAVARTY, editor,
Ajir Batori (Assamese),
Guwahati.

4. Language is of least importance in case of the newspaper. In which ever language it is published, Assamese, Hindi or English the most important thing is that whether the writings are healthy or not, whether the Journalists present the correct news or the wrong one. Good journalism always proves to be good. I cannot support that language brings any difference in it.

~ PARAG KUMAR DAS, editor,
Budhbar, Assamese,
Guwahati.

5. Hindi journalism can do something for Assam when it works independently in a democracy; otherwise nothing can be expected from it.

~ AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN, editor,
Sadin, Assamese,
Guwahati.

6. The necessity of Hindi newspapers was being felt for the last several years. It is so because Hindi newspapers link one language with the other and maintains a kind of emotional relation between them. Hindi in my opinion should try to make people aware of the folk culture and folk art of Assam besides the translation work done by it. The extremist activities are growing here without any check day by day. The people of other states along with those of Assam are ever curious to know about this grave situation. So,
in my opinion, there is a great need of Hindi news papers, as it is the only language which is read by the people of both high and low class of the society. It is therefore essential to attach more importance to the news relating to the north-east. So, I should like to say that the Hindi news paper performs the noble function of national unity.

~ HOMEN BORGOHAIN,
Senior Litterateur and editor,
Asom Bani (Assamese),
Guwahati.

7. The publication of Hindi news paper from Assam is a good thing. By it, we the non-Assamese people who have settle here permanently, can express ourselves with a variety of written materials. The news papers should print news keeping in view the welfare of the state as a whole and throw sufficient light on the main problems of it.

~SUKUMAR BAGCHI, editor,
Samay Prabah (Bengali),
Guwahati.

8. Journalism is a means of establishing a balance between various tribes and groups. XXX The Hindi news papers should publish the Hindi translations of the literary works of other Indian languages. At last I must say that the role of Hindi news papers is very significant in Assam. So the Hindi news papers should attach much importance to local news.

~ K. NONGSEIN, Journalist,
Shillong.

9. The aim and objectives of the papers and magazines published from Assam must be clear - (1) To draw the attention of the people at the all
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India level to the financial and social problems of the common men of the state. (2) To acquaint the Hindi speaking readers with the tradition and culture of Assam.

It is true that a great deal of praise worthy work has been done through the papers and magazines published in Assam. But the non-Hindi speaking people of the state must be made aware of the fact that their problems have not been ignored, but a special attention has been taken for the solution of their problems and that has been served with devotedness.

~PHANI TALUKDAR.
Senior Journalist & Playwright.
Guwahati.

10. It is not we only but almost the entire mass of Assam who anticipate and expected that the problems of Assam should be presented correctly before all through Hindi journalism. It should be completely free from prejudice. It should be remembered that the common mass is very strange and complicated. The Asamese society is formed of different ethnic groups and it has the impact of the history of hundreds of years. Each of these groups had its rule in certain parts of the state. Each tribe enjoyed royalty from time to time and contributed something to the growth of literature and culture of the state. We hope that the Hindi writers and journalists of Assam should present the problems of the state before all the people of India and the serious thinkers and scholars should try to find out the solution of these problems.

~ MOHIM BORA.
Litterateur and Former President.
Asom Sahitya Sabha.
Assam.
11. People outside Assam know very little about its cultural heritage and the mode of life adopted by them. Even the non-Assamese inhabitants of the state do not know about these assets. We expect that the Hindi journalism of Assam should adopt new steps for it. The chief duty of Hindi journalism is to present the literary and cultural specialities of Assam by original writings or through translation. Hindi journalism has to remain alert in performing its duty in this respect.

~ Retd. Prof. NILIMA DUTTA,
Poetess & Retd. Prof.
Dept. of Philosophy,
Gauhati University.

12. The Hindi newspapers published from Assam are mostly confined to the Hindi speaking people. So it is the responsibility of these papers to publish such cultural aspects and specialities so that the other Indian readers get the opportunity to understand the background and events connected with the local people.

~ NAVA KANTA BARUA,
Famous Poet,
Writer and ex-professor of English,
Cotton College.
Guwahati, Assam.

13. There are two important liabilities before the Hindi newspapers published from Assam firstly, there should be a realistic description in the Hindi newspapers about the present financial, social, political and cultural condition of the north-east along with its inheritance and tradition. Secondly Hindi being understood by the majority of Indians, the Hindi newspapers
can play a positive and concrete role to link this region with the rest of the
country through the Hindi news papers published here.

~ DR. BIRENDRA NATH DUTTA.
Litterateur, Critic and Professor,
Deptt. of Folk Lore.
Gauhati University.

14. The real significance and fruitfulness of the Hindi news papers
and journalism lies in expressing the hopes and desires of the local people
and in establishing a national consensus and feeling about them. This will
comment the relation and contact of Assam with the rest of India.

~ DR. HIREN GOHAIN, Litterateur.
Prof. Deptt. of English,
Gauhati University.

15. The Hindi news papers of Assam should write abundantly about
the Hindi speaking people of Assam, then only the local people will own
them. The problems of Hindi speaking should be properly ventilated. Those
who have settled here should know more and more about the people of the
state. XXX The Hindi speaking people must be acquainted with the culture,
music etc. of the state. This is the real duty of the local Hindi news papers
and magazines.

~ YOGESH DAS.
Famous Litterateur &
Lacturer in Assamese.
B.Barooah College,
Guwahati

Jahnu Baruah, the famous director of Assamese Movies, holds
that the main target of the Hindi journalism should be to have a close link
with the problems of the state and not with those relating to Delhi, Patna and Jaipur.

The poet Akhtar Rashid opinions that the significance of the Hindi papers is to establish a bridge between Assam and other states of India.

According to Kalpana Bezbaruah, child psychologist (Assistant), Assamese news papers are confined to the state only, whereas Hindi news papers can unite the Assamese people emotionally with the Hindi speaking people.11

In the opinion of Kapurchand Jain (Patna), secretary of the Indian Digamber Jain Mahasabha and co-editor of the 'Jain Gazette' (weekly), Hindi journalism can play a significant role in reducing the wide spread difference of opinion between the Hindi speaking and non-Hindi speaking people of the state.

Similar ideas and feelings have been expressed by other people and they clearly indicate the kind of expectation and anticipation one can think of Hindi journalism in Assam.

The extracts quoted above mention the opinions and views of some of the non-Hindi speaking people. From the views expressed through them it appears that the enlightened people of Assam are quite satisfied with Hindi journalism in Assam and that they hope that this will strengthen the national unity. So, taking all things into consideration, the future of Hindi journalism is bright in Assam.
6.7. **Condition of Hindi Students in Assam**

The students of Hindi are worried about the position of Hindi in Assam. At present a question arises that what will be the future of those students who have completed M.A. in Hindi? Their future seems to be uncertain as no proper steps has been adopted by the central government for the development of Hindi in this region.

For instance it suffices to mention that there are nearly 157 Central offices only in Guwahati where undertaking banks and other central offices are included. According to the standard rule prepared by the official language department there should be one post of Hindi translator and one Hindi typist in each of these offices. Where number of the Ministrail employees is 25 or more than that. If this number goes beyond 75 then there are two posts of translator and two of typists. It increases at the rate of three when the number of ministrail employees is 175. If there are hundred employees, one post goes to the officer of Hindi official language. Out of the 157 offices mentioned above, only 57 are such where the number of the employees is negligible, that is less than 25. The remaining offices have more than 25 employees and are entitled to the post of Hindi.

The Ministry of Home has established a regional office at Guwahati for supervising the implementation of Hindi in the North east. Its responsibility is to fill up the posts wherever they fall vacant and posts should be created where necessary. Besides, there is the provision of appointing the unemployed youths on those posts with the co-operation of the state government, S.S.C, the local University and U.P.S.C.
A co-operative team spirit for work is the need of the hour for taking the country on the path of progress. The attempts of the central government to make Hindi job-oriented is praise worthy. But it should be diverted in the right direction. The Central Government should immediately release the posts of Hindi being kept hidden under the redtapism. There should be a campaign launched for recruiting the local educated youths. For this co-operation should be sought from the S.S.C., state government, University etc. So that the youths of the region are no more exploited and Hindi is adorned further in the form of the official language.

6.8. Conclusion

Central Government has introduced many schemes for the implementation of official language Hindi.

1. Probodh, Praveen, Pragya examinations are arranged for the non-Hindi speaking Central Government employees, so that they can acquire the working knowledge of Hindi. Training Centres have been set up to impart in service training to Central Government officers/employees in Hindi. Hindi typing and Hindi stenography it is compulsory to attend the prescribed examinations and also to get training in Hindi for the non-Hindi speaking employees.

2. The offices also can arrange such training itself for their employees. As for example Guwahati Refinery.

3. Bi-lingual computers should be available in the offices.

Addressing the Rajbhasa seminar held at Rabindra Bhavan, Guwahati on 1st November'97 Sri Dev Swarup, the Joint Secretary, Rajbhasa department, Home Ministry, said that Hindi must be brought nearer to computer. He requested Rajbhasa officers, chief of the offices to use only bilingual software. So that the official affair can be performed both in Hindi and English.
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