

Today we sum up the results of the past year in the vital and exciting task of festering a national language, a language which is destined to become one of the great languages of Asia and of the World. A great nation is worthy of a great language, and it is the duty of all to strive towards the creation of a truly great idiom. India is a multi-national and multi-lingual state. A number of her languages have a rich cultural background. This diversity is not a source of weakness, but a source of strength and vitality, for each literary idiom enriches the national life. Above this diversity there exist an undeniable cultural unity, a precious legacy of the Past, a treasure which the sons and daughters of India should carefully cherish and enrich with new cultural achievements. No nation is great without a great cultural heritage. India has a unique cultural record. A country which has never followed the path of conquest outside the geographical limits of the Indian sub-continent, India has seen her culture spread throughout Asia, and this process is not at an end, and we can foresee a greater influence of Indian thought on the present World torn by strife and conflict. In the Middle Ages Sanskrit was the vehicle of Indian culture, and under the Gupta Empire it became the language of culture of a large part of the Asian World, just as Latin has once been the cultural language of Medieval Europe. I like to think about Hindi as a link with this cultural Past. In Medieval India people did not distinguish between classical Sanskrit and the spoken vernacular, for Sanskrit and the spoken vernacular were not considered to be distinct idioms but different styles of a single speech. This is an important point, for

by accepting it, we remove the mental gulf which is apt to form between the cultural heritage of the Past and modern conditions. The creation of a truly national language can only develop on a great cultural foundation. One often hears the opinion expressed about the difficulty of creating an adequate scientific terminology indispensable in our Modern World. Such fears before the magnitude of the task should not deter one from striving towards the creation of national ^a speech. Much of this scientific terminology has become international, and will have to be adopted with due regard to the phonetic structure of the language. Moreover, Hindi has an exceptionally rich storehouse in Sanskrit, and personally I do not see any danger or difficulty in introducing Sanskrit words into Hindi. Hindi cannot and should not be divorced from Sanskrit, the All India language of culture and philosophy. The relationship between the ancient idiom and the spoken form should be allowed to develop in a gradual and natural way, avoiding all artificiality. Hindi writers will have to find the true Middle Way in this vital problem, mindful of India's historical role.

India, having developed her doctrine of dynamic neutrality, has a vital role to play in the modern World, and to perform her great task she requires a great national idiom, conscious of its cultural heritage, and destined to become the vehicle of an equally great cultural future.