

September 8, 2011

True ghost stories helped win Fiji National University's Payroll Officer, Jainand Kumar, a prize in the national Hindi Story Writing Competition.

He was amongst the winners announced at a celebration of World Hindi Day held by the Fiji National University Hindi language department on Thursday 9 September.

The Indian High Commissioner, Mr Vinod Kumar and Acting Vice Chancellor, Dr Surendra Prasad presented the awards during a programme that included lively Indian dancing and song by FNU students.

A cultural fusion item with music and words composed by the FNU Music Department staff was also part of the performance.

Acting Vice Chancellor, Dr Prasad spoke about how language identified people and how it was used to give a better insight into a person's own community and their place in the world.

Hindi was a living language that was fast becoming a global language, and FN was doing its best to contribute to that development.

The University runs Hindi language programmes at certificate and diploma level and is available as a major at degree level. Dr Prasad said it was intended to introduce postgraduate studies in Hindi also.

Chief judge of the of the short story competition, Indian High Commission Second Secretary, Mr Ramvir Prasad commented on the quality of the writing, the language structure and emotional depth, as well as the creativity. Contestants deserved congratulations, he said.

Prizewinners in the student category were: 1<sup>st</sup> Vinay Vishal of Bulileka Sanatan College, Labasa; 2<sup>nd</sup> Shalu Sharma of MGM High School, Suva; 3<sup>rd</sup> Kritika Roy of Nadroga Arya College, Sigatoka; and consolation prize winners were Shreen Lata, Deepika Sharma, Avinash Prasad, Dristika Jos and Shreety Singh.

In the senior category, Ramesh Chand won first prize, Maya Singh was second, and third was Parasram Sharma. Ranjita Prakash, Irene Lata, Anshu Mala, Jainand Kumar and Sneha Krishna were awarded consolation prizes.