Why Study Hindi or Urdu?

Hindi is...
- the 3rd most commonly spoken language in the world
- a dominant language of modern media (cinema, web)
- a critical language economically and politically for the growing consumer market in South Asia

Urdu is...
- the national language of Pakistan
- an official language of India
- critical for understanding the Afghanistan-Pakistan and South Asian region
- a tremendously important language strategically in South Asia

Although written in two different scripts, Hindi and Urdu are mutually intelligible at the conversational level.

Together, Hindi and Urdu are the 4th most spoken language on the earth (projected to overtake Chinese language by 2030).

Hindi and Urdu share common vocabulary for everyday language with similar grammar to English, so you can learn both forms with little effort.

The two scripts you learn in Hindi-Urdu will enable you to learn other related languages as well.

Hindi utilizes the Devanagari script, which is used to write, or is related to, other languages in South Asia, including:
- Nepali
- Marathi
- Sanskrit

Urdu is written with the Arabic alphabet, giving you an advantage with the following languages:
- Arabic
- Persian/Farsi
- Kurdish
- Baluchi
- Pashto
- Sindhi

From a newly commissioned officer based in Qatar: "My daily roles vary, from base patrol and entry control, to search and customs. I work with Coalition Forces, Host Nationals and Contractors from across the globe, many of which speak Hindi or Urdu. I had no idea I would use my language skills this early in my career!"