

Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017 a Resounding Success



100th
1917 2017
Anniversary of
Abolition of Indian Indentureship



INDIAN DIASPORA WORLD CONVENTION 2017

Centennial of Abolition of Indian Indenturedship: End of an Era of Indian Migration & Embarking on New Frontiers and Achievements

17th - 20th March 2017 - Trinidad & Tobago



Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017 -- A Resounding Success

The Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017 was a resounding success, held in Trinidad & Tobago from 17th March – 20th March 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the official abolition of Indian indentureship. Each of the series of events with capacity attendance, was historic and substantive, focusing on the centennial and its impact, to complement the entire convention which was attended by delegates from various countries, including high ranking officials from various countries including India.

20th March 2017 marks the centennial of official abolition of Indian Indentureship, an era spanning the years 1834-1917. The migration contract process finally concluded in 1920. The long, painful history, perseverance and achievements of Indian Indentureship are deeply embedded with tremendous significance, history and reflections to millions of descendants living in many countries. These are the countries in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean which were the recipients of Indian Indentured labourers seeking better livelihoods. They included: Mauritius, Fiji, Malaysia, South Africa, Guyana, Trinidad, Suriname, Jamaica, Belize and other countries of the Caribbean, as well as former French colonies of Reunion Island, Seychelles, Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana.

The convention was conceptualized and introduced by the Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) president Ashook Ramsaran as a global event with several countries participating, and the convention was hosted by partners and affiliates IDC Trinidad & Tobago headed by Dr. Rampersad Parasram, National Council of Indian Culture (NCIC) headed by Dr. Deokinanan Sharma; Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha (SDMS) headed by Shri Sat Maharaj and Vijay Maharaj; and several other supporting organizations and partners. Mr. Deo Gosine coordinated on behalf of IDC international and Ena Maraj who chaired the Monument Centennial Committee.

Hon Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago was the chief guest at the opening ceremonies on 17th March held at NCIC and spoke of the contributions of Indian indentured labourers in the development of Trinidad & Tobago and other impacted countries. The event included commemorative cultural presentations and was highlighted by remarks and centennial tributes by PM Rowley; Hon. Moses Nagamootoo, Prime Minister of Guyana; Shri Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs, India's Ministry of External Affairs; Sir Anand Satyanand, former Governor General of New Zealand; Shri Harish Dwivedi, Indian MP representing Uttar Pradesh; Smt. Rama Devi, Indian MP representing Bihar; Hon. Brenda Hood, Grenada's Minister of Culture; Amb. Bishwadip Dey, India's High Commissioner to Trinidad & Tobago; the traditional lighting of the lamp was by Ashook Ramsaran, Dr. Rampersad Parasram and Dr. Deokinanan Dharma, all of whom remarked on the significance of the centennial and its impact on many countries globally.

A keep sake convention commemorative magazine was released at the opening ceremonies by IDC president Ashook Ramsaran. It included an attractive cover design, messages of congratulations and good wishes from 22 prominent officials, organizations and institutions, including Smt Sushma Swaraj, India's Minister of External Affairs; PM Rowley (Trinidad & Tobago), PM Nagamootoo (Guyana); PM Ralph Gonsalves (St Vincent); PM Keith Hollness (Jamaica); His Excellency King of Zululand; former presidents Bharrat Jagdeo and Donald Ramotar; Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi; and several others from various countries.

The academic conference, with theme of “*The Global Indian Diaspora - Challenges, Progress and Charting New Frontiers*” and chaired by Dr. Primnath Gooptar, was held on 18th -19th March at spacious NCIC facilities, and included prominent international experts, historians and researchers discussing and deliberating pertinent matters related to: Commemoration of the centennial of abolition of Indian Indenturedship; History of Indian Indenturedship; Perspectives on the end of an era - Indian Indenturedship; Hardships, endurance, religious sustenance and cultural survival; Opportunities with challenges for Unparalleled Progress and Achievement; Descendants of Indian Indenturedship and the PIOs experience; Second journey; Motivation, Assimilation & Adaptation.

Inaugural session of the academic conference featured Shri Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs, India’s Ministry of External Affairs as keynote speaker, who spoke on India’s engagement of the diaspora and the bonds connecting many generations of Indians around the world; others included: PM Nagamootoo, Smt. Rama Devi, India’s MP representing Bihar, Dr. Rampersad Parasram, Sir Anand Satyanand, Ashook Ramsaran and Dr Deokinand Sharma.

IDC International president Ashook Ramsaran, ably assisted by IDC Trinidad & Tobago coordinator Deo Gosine and Resolutions co-chairperson Dennis Ramdahin, concluded the conference with a summary wrap-up and a series of progressive agenda resolutions adopted by convention. These resolutions included: Convening the Indian Diaspora World Convention annually in different countries of the Indian Diaspora on rotating basis, following up on the resolutions and actions items adopted at each convention, and beginning with Indian Diaspora World Convention 2018 to be convened in Durban, South Africa in March 2018. Additional resolutions adopted: Develop a practical, progressive and visionary road map for more engagement and progress in all segments of society globally: Science & technology, education, medical and professional, agriculture, economics, politics, human rights advocacy, gender equality, infants and youth, environmental sustainability, health and well-being, inter-ethnic relationships, peaceful resolutions of conflicts; and other social improvements.

On the evening of March 18, Amb. Bishwadip Dey, India’s High Comm. to Trinidad & Tobago, hoisted a reception/dinner at his residence. In addition to superb cultural presentations, Shri D. Mulay and Smt. Rama Devi spoke about India’s connection to the Indian diaspora and the strong and enduring bonds.

A classic gala banquet was held at the Girls College of Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha (SDMS) with chief guest former Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago, Hon. Kamla Persad Bissessar who articulated the history and impact of Indian indentureship. A series of colorful presentations highlighting indentureship was presented by the students. Sir Anand Satyanand spoke of his roots from India to Fiji and New Zealand.

A suitably designed commemorative monument at Saith Park in Chaguanas, Trinidad & Tobago on 20th March 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of official abolition of Indian Indentureship, a historic milestone in the journey of people of Indian origin who left India generations ago. As honoured tribute and well deserved recognition of those who made the journey, endured unexpected hardships and achieved beyond expectations. This historic milestone in the journey of people of Indian origin who left India generations ago would another significant and historic marker of their journey to other lands seeking better livelihoods.

The inscription read: *In Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Abolition of Indian Indentureship (1834-1917) and in recognition and honoured tribute to those who made the treacherous journeys from India to far away lands and endured severe hardships while seeking better livelihoods following emancipation of slavery in 1834, and with profound gratitude for the pioneering spirit and invaluable contributions by Indian indentured labourers and their descendants to the social, cultural and economic development of their new homelands.*

The unveiling was done by HW Mayor of Chaguanas, Hon. Gopaul Boodhan; Hon. Beverly Reid-Samuel, Permanent Sec. Ministry of Comm. Development, Culture & Art; HE Amb. Bishwadip Dey, Indian High Comm. to Trinidad & Tobago; Deo Gosine, chairman Deo Gosine Foundation; Ena Maraj, chair, Centennial Commemoration Committee; Ashook Ramsaran, president of IDC Int’l. Other participating in the ceremony included: Sir Anand Satyanand; MP Suruj Rambachan; Jamaica’s Ambassador Pendergast; Rampersad Parasram and Dr. Deokinanan Sharma.

Opening Ceremonies at NCIC



Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017

Commemoration of 100th Anniversary of
Abolition of Indian Indentureship

Theme: **GLOBAL INDIAN
DIASPORA-CHARTING NEW FRONTIERS**

17th – 20th March 2017

Trinidad & Tobago



Friday 17th March 2017 – Evening

Venue: NCIC NAGAR

28-38 Narsaloo Ramaya Marg Road

Chaguanas 502128

Trinidad & Tobago

OPENING CEREMONY & CULTURAL EVENING **Tentative Program**

- *National Anthem*
- *Interfaith Invocation*
- *Song:* Mrs Seromanie Maharaj
- *Welcome:* Pundit Deokinanan Sharma
- *Cultural Presentation*
- *Greetings:* Pundit Dr Rampersad Parasram (IDC-TT)
Mr. Ashook Ramsaran (IDC Int'l)
- *Cultural Presentation*
- *Messages (8):* Amb. Shri Mulay, Secretary Ministry of External Affairs, India

Hon. Moses Nagamootoo, Prime Minister of Guyana
Shrimati Rama Devi Member of Parliament (Bihar), India
Sir Anand Satyanand, former Governor General of New Zealand
Hon. Brenda Hood, Minister of Culture & Cooperatives, Grenada
- *Cultural Presentation*
- *Conv. Launch* Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley, Prime Minister (Chief Guest)
- *Closing Remarks*
- *Master of Ceremonies:* Mr. Surujdeo Mungaroo

Opening Ceremonies at NCIC





Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017

Commemoration of 100th Anniversary of
Abolition of Indian Indentureship

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

Theme: GLOBAL INDIAN

DIASPORA— CHARTING NEW FRONTIERS

17th – 20th March 2017

Trinidad & Tobago



Academic Conference 2017

18th -19th March 2017

Venue: NCIC NAGAR

28-38 Narsaloo Ramaya Marg Road,
Chaguanas 502128, Trinidad & Tobago

Saturday 18th March 2017

8.00- 8.40 am	Registration
8.40- 8.45 am	Remarks by Day Chair: Brinsley Samaroo

PANEL 1 THE HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL CONTEXTS

Panel Chair: Bridget Brereton

8.45- 10.15 am	PRESENTERS
	Nisha Ramracha Significance of History and Archaeology Studies within the Indian Diaspora.
	Crispin Bates Post 1857 migration and the role of Intermediaries in the South Asian Diaspora.
	Vishnu Bandhu : Racial and Political Discrimination and Victimization in Guyana
	Hira Singh: How Indian Indenture Civilized England.
	Ramshankar Dubey: Causes of Migration of Indentured Labor from Central Province and Berar (India) Overseas
10:15-10:25am	BREAK

(Inaugural Session) FORMAL OPENING OF CONFERENCE

Tentative Program

- **Chairman IDCTT** -V Dr. Rampersad Parasram
- **Welcome Chair Academic Council**- Dr. Primnath Gooptar
- **Remarks IDC International**- Ashook Ramsaran
- **Introduction of ARSP Delegate** - By Dr. Deokinanan Sharma (NCIC)
- **Message** - ARSP Delegate
- **Address** Amb. Shri Mulay, Secretary Ministry of External Affairs, India
- **Addresses by** Hon. Moses Nagamootoo, Prime Minister of Guyana
Shrimati Rama Devi Member of Parliament (Bihar), India
Sir Anand Satyanand, former Governor General of New Zealand
Hon. Prince Ishwar Ramlutchman Mabheka Zulu (South Africa)
Brenda Hood, Minister of Culture & Cooperatives, Grenada
Other invited officials

Concluding Remarks



Academic Conference 2017
18th -19th March 2017

12.00 12.45PM LUNCH BREAK

PANEL 2 IDENTITY IN THE INDIAN DIASPORA

Panel Chair: Tarachand Singh

12.45-2.15 PM	PRESENTERS
	Shirin Haque Who am I? It depends! - The evolving nature of identity.
	Kheera Daly-Novoa Antyeshti Samskaara: Hindu Funerary Rites.
	Chan E.S. Choenni Hindustanis in The Netherlands: a success story .
	H Joy Norman Report of Canadian Mission Work in the Guaico Field 1891-1948
	Vashti Singh Hindu religion in the construction of the cultural self and other. The education legacy of Dharam Veer Siewdass Sadhu

Panel 3 CHALLENGES FACING THE DIASPORA INDIANS

Panel Chair: Vishnu Bissram

2.20-3.50 PM	PRESENTERS
	Kumar Mahabir The marginalization of Indian men in advertisements in Trinidad and Tobago
	Tarachand Singh Indo-Caribbean's growing economic status in New York
	Nivedita Misra Neil Bissoondath's A Casual Brutality and Rabindranath Maharaj's Homer in Flight: Making and Un-making Nations
	Terencia Joseph Abolishing Indian Indentured Labour in Saint Lucia
	Arnold Thomas Adaptation and Survival in a Small Society- The Indians of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
3.50- 4.00 PM	BREAK

PANEL 4 DOCUMENTING THE INDIAN DIASPORA

Panel Chair: Vijay Maharaj

4.00 : 5.00 PM	PRESENTERS
	Daren Ganga Indian Involvement in Cricket in the Caribbean
	Satnarine Balkaran Singh Expressions and dimensions of 'pain' within some Indo-Caribbean performative traditions
	Jassie Singh Dispersal of Food from the Indian Subcontinent.
	Khalil Rahman Ali Indian Indentured labourers and their descendants across the world
	Sasenarine Persaud Documenting the Diaspora in Poetry

Academic Conference at NCIC

Academic Conference 2017 - 18th -19th March 2017 Sunday 19th MARCH, 2017

AM Session	
8.30- 8.35 am	Remarks by Day Chair: Primnath Gooptar

PANEL 5 THE GLOBAL INDIAN DIASPORIC COMMUNITY IN THE 21st CENTURY/YOUTH AND GENDER ISSUES

Panel Chair: Sherry Ann Singh

8.35- 10.15 am	PRESENTERS
	A Anesh: The future of citizenship in the global age
	Kapil Kumar: The Idea of Bharat (India) and its relevance for Diaspora
	Ghan Shyam : Indian Diaspora in the Land of Opportunity: A Study of the Indo-Caribbean Community in New York City
	David Rampersad, Halima-Sa'adia Kassim, Navin Boodhai and Florence Louis-Edouard Consideration of research management and diasporic bonding between higher education institutes in Trinidad and the Indian Diaspora: a case study approach
10.15-10:30am	Sylvia Lucia Gilharry Perez
	Highlighting Diasporic Indians' Contribution in a Multi - ethnic Society in Belize
10:15-10:30am	BREAK

PANEL 6 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES - Panel Chair: Maurits Hassan Khan

10.30-12.00am	PRESENTERS
	Vassan I. Ramracha: Indian exceptionalism in Trinidad
	Baytoram Ramharack, Cheddi Jagan and Jung Bahadur Singh
	The Shaping of an Indian Imagination in Guyana (to be read by Vishnu Dutt
	Vish Dutt : Re-establishing ancestral ties with India after a hiatus of 104 years
12:00-12:30	Dennis Ramdahin: Diasporas Development Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation in the Ancestral Lands of Bihar/Uttar Pradesh, India.
	Vishnu Bissram: Chandra Shekhar Bhat
12:00-12:30	LUNCH

PM Session	
Writers Forum: New Book Presentations - Chair: Kumar Mahabir	
	PRESENTERS
	Kumar Mahabir
	Joy Norman
	Doolarchan Hanooman Singh
	Satnarine Balkaran Singh

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS - Chair: Dr Arnold Thomas

1:15- 2:30	PRESENTERS
	Guyana
	Jai Sears Grenada
	Sylvia Perez Belize
	Gangaram Pandey Suriname
	Tarachand Singh USA
	India
	Khalil R. Ali U.K.
	Chan Choenni Netherlands
	Arnold Thomas St. Vincent
	Radica Mahase Trinidad

Chair: Ashook Ramsaran	
230- 4:00	Open Discussions
	Resolutions
	Future Programs
	Closure

Indian High Commissioner's Reception Dinner

In honour of the delegates attending "Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017"



High Commissioner of India

&

Mrs. Mayura Dey

requests the pleasure of the company of

Mr. Ashook Ramsaran

to a reception

on Saturday, 18th March, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

*at India House 21-23 Trinidad Crescent,
Federation Park, Port of Spain*


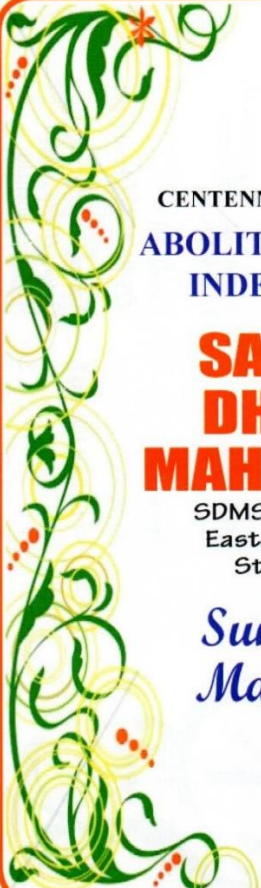
R.S.V.P.: 627-7485/ hicipos.hc_ss@yahoo.com

Dress: Elegantly Casual





Gala Banquet at SDMS




**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
ABOLITION OF INDIAN
INDENTURESHIP**

**SANATAN
DHARMA
MAHA SABHA**

SDMS Headquarters,
Eastern Main Road,
St. Augustine.

*Sunday, 19th
March, 2017*



Programme

5.00 – 6.00 pm	- Arrival of Guests	- Tassa Drumming by <i>Vishnu Boys Hindu College</i>
6.00 pm	Programme Begins-	Dharmacharya <i>National Anthem (Orchestra)</i>
Recitations	-	Vrishni Maharaj <i>Vrishni/Sister</i>
Speaker	-	Yacoob Ali <i>(President ASJA)</i>
Skits (Baal Vikaas) 1.	Arrival Fatal Rozack	<i>Caroni Hindu School</i>
2.	Working Cane field	<i>Munroe Road. Hindu School</i>
Speaker	-	Sonia Persad-Mahase <i>Principal Lakshmi Girls Hindu College</i> President Medal Winner - <i>Priya Maharaj</i>
Speaker	-	Sir Anand Satyanand (NZ)
Speaker	-	MP Harish Dwivedi (India)
Feature Speaker	-	Kamal Persad-Bissessar <i>Former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago</i> <i>Now Leader of the Opposition</i>



Dinner/Music Kaveesh & Band





Centennial Monument



Unveiling of:
**Commemoration Monument marking
the Centennial Anniversary of
Abolition of Indian Indentureship
20th March 2017**



Date: **20th March 2017** - the 100th anniversary of abolition of Indian Indentureship.

Time: **10:0am – 12:00pm**

Venue: **Saith Park, City of Chaguanas, Trinidad & Tobago**

Centennial Monument:

A suitably designed commemorative monument at Saith Park in Chaguanas, Trinidad & Tobago on 20th March 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of official abolition of Indian Indentureship, a historic milestone in the journey of people of Indian origin who left India generations ago. As honoured tribute and well deserved recognition of those who made the journey, endured unexpected hardships and achieved beyond expectations. This historic milestone in the journey of people of Indian origin who left India generations ago would another significant and historic marker of their journey to other lands seeking better livelihoods

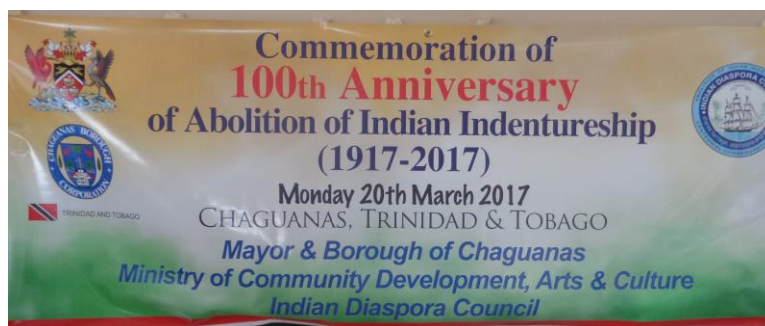
Unveiling by:

HW Mayor of Chaguanas, Hon. Gopaul Boodhan; Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Community Development, Culture & Art, Hon. Beverly Reid-Samuel; HE Indian High Commissioner to Trinidad & Tobago, Hon. Bishwadip Dey; Deo Gosine Foundation chairman Deo Gosine; Centennial Commemoration Committee chair Ena Maraj; president of Indian Diaspora Council International, Ashook Ramsaran; other officials, representatives and partners in Trinidad & Tobago.

Program Summary

- Introductions
- Interfaith statement
- Welcome by HE Mayor of Chaguanas
- Remarks by Hon. Permanent Secretary, Min. of Comm. Development Arts & Culture
- Remarks by HE India's High Commissioner to Trinidad & Tobago
- Remarks by HE Pendergast, Ambassador of Jamaica to Trinidad & Tobago
- Remarks by Dr. Deokinanan Sharma, president of NCIC
- Remarks by Hon. Suruj Rambachan, MP
- Remarks by Dr. Rampersad Parasram, convention committee chair
- Remarks by Prince Ishwar Ramlutchman, South Africa
- Remarks by Sir Anand Satynanad, former Governor General of New Zealand
- Remarks by Deo Gosine, chairman of Deo Gosine Foundation chairman,
- Remarks by Ashook Ramsaran, president of Indian Diaspora Council International
- Recognition: Deo Gosine & Ena Maraj
- Thanks and appreciation
- Unveiling of Monument
- Lunch

Moderators (MCs): Ena Maraj & Seeta Sahatoo







Resolutions Adopted at Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017

The concluding session of Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017 on March 19, 2017 focused on open discussion, recommendations, future programs and projects, plans of action and adaption of resolutions. It provides a much needed forum in this convention for brief reflections on the past and more in-depth deliberations on the present and future.

The adoption of appropriate resolutions is a crucially important conclusion of the convention and highlights those issues of interest and concern to the global Indian Diaspora. The adopted resolutions would then be skillfully used as a road map or road maps for Indian Diaspora Council to chart pathways and encourage others to participate in a continuing series of progressive actions re: Youth, social issues, education, science and technology, investments, entrepreneurship, economic empowerment and connections for improving social and political progress.

In addition, the adopted resolutions would be promptly brought by Indian Diaspora Council to the attention of respective officials, institutions and agencies in various countries, bringing awareness and seeking redress where appropriate.

Resolution Committee Members:

Dr. Satish Rai (Australia); Dennis Ramdahin (USA); Ashook Ramsaran (USA);
Dr Piyush Agrawal (USA); Deo Gosine (Trinidad & Tobago); Vidur Dindyal (UK);
Selvaraju Sundram (Malaysia); Harbachan Singh (USA); Farook Khan (South Africa);
Prof. Frances Ponaman (France/Guadeloupe).

Session on March 19, 2017: “OPEN DISCUSSIONS. RESOLUTIONS, FUTURE PROGRAMS

Chaired by: Ashook Ramsaran *Co-chair:* Dennis Ramdahin *Co-Chair:* Deo Gosine

Resolutions Adopted by Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017

- I. Convene the Indian Diaspora World Convention annually in different countries of the Indian Diaspora on rotating basis, following up on the resolutions and actions items adopted at each convention, and beginning with Indian Diaspora World Convention 2018 to be convened in Durban, South Africa in March 2018.
- II. Develop a practical, progressive and visionary road map for more engagement and progress in all segments of society globally: Science & technology, education, medical and professional, agriculture, economics, politics, human rights advocacy, gender equality, infants and youth, environmental sustainability, health and well-being, inter-ethnic relationships, peaceful resolutions of conflicts; and other social improvements.
- III. Strengthening economic engagement among the Indian Diaspora and with India and other entities through regular results oriented forum, meets, trade shows, exhibitions which uplift social progress at all levels.
- IV. Recognize outstanding achievements in the Indian Diaspora in all disciplines to reward, motivate and encourage excellence.
- V. Scholarships for youth achievement to reward, motivate and encourage excellence.

- VI. Publications in print and on-line on specific topics such as: Women in the Diaspora; Country-Wise History and Census; Notable achievers in specific disciplines.
- VII. Erecting appropriate monuments in each of the Indian Diaspora countries in collaboration with India to recognize Indian arrival days and other significant historic events.
- VIII. Actively engage other ethnic groups for better understanding, education and collaboration.
- IX. Seek formal apology and economic reparations from Britain for Indian indentureship and its painful consequences to those impacted.
- X. Seek access of appropriation of available funding in New Delhi set forth by the British Gov't for development work in Bihar/UP.
- XI. Establishment of a global *Girmitya* Institute with objectives to educate, inform and advance the interests and concerns of *Girmitya* while highlighting the accomplishments and achievements.
- XII. Use of technology as an active platform to connect and network among the Indian Diaspora, to inform, advice, seek input and actively engage all groups and ages, as well as global digitalization of indentureship archives.
- XIII. Acceptance of alternate authenticated documentation for PIO Card for those PIOs who are unable to obtain original documents due to poor records in countries where Indian laborers migrated from 1834-1920.
- XIV. Advance more coordination of educational exchanges between universities in India and among PIO countries.
- XV. Convey to the Government of India the issue of conversion of old currency to the new currency immediately and relief for PIOs with old currency.
- XVI. Use of petitions by PIOs to seek advance causes, promote issues of interest and seek redress for grievances.
- XVII. Consider establishment of regular forum for parliamentarians of Indian origin to assess, evaluate, update and review matters of interest and concern among PIOs.
- XVIII. Request to India's Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (Overseas Indian Affairs) for a new High Level Commission to make updates to the 2001 High Level Commission census and report.
- XIX. Seek government protection of religious groups.
- XX. Use of sports matches and tournaments among PIOs and India to foster a closer bonds.
- XXI. Adoption and maintenance of historic places to preserve and promote their intrinsic cultural values.
- XXII. Seeks ways for economic engagement among the Indian Diaspora and with India which would also foster closer bonds and enhance social and cultural advancement.

Motion to adopt the slate of resolution by: Dr. Chandershekhar Bhat

Motion approved by: Dr. Gopal Arora

Motion seconded by: Dr. Mukesh Aggarwal

Vote taken among all present: All in favour; no dissent.

✓ Resolutions are adopted by unanimous vote on March 19, 2017

Publications

Convention Magazine

A keep sake convention commemorative magazine was released at the March 17 opening ceremonies by IDC International president Ashook Ramsaran, joined by Shri Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs, India's Ministry of External Affairs; Dr. Rampersad Parasram of IDC Trinidad & Tobago (IDC TT); Dr. Deokinanan Sharma of National Council of Indian Culture (NCIC); Mr. Deo Gosine, IDC Country Coordinator Trinidad & Tobago; and Ms. Ena Maraj, chair of Centennial Monument Committee.

The magazine included an attractive cover design, messages of congratulations and good wishes from 22 prominent officials, organizations and institutions, including Smt Sushma Swaraj, India's Minister of External Affairs; Hon. Prime Minister Keith Rowley (Trinidad & Tobago), Hon. Prime Minister Nagamootoo (Guyana); Hon. Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves (St Vincent); Hon. Prime Minister Keith Hollness (Jamaica); His Excellency King of Zululand; former presidents of Guyana Bharrat Jagdeo and Donald Ramotar; former Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Mahendra Chaudhry; Sir Anand Satyanand, former Governor General of New Zealand; Shri Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs, India's Ministry of External Affairs; Hon. Brenda Hood, Grenada's Minister of Culture; Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi; Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR); Lord Bhikhu Parekh, House of Lords; Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry; and several others from various countries.

Contents include:

- Messages of congratulations and good wishes
- Profiles of affiliates and partners
- Events programs
- Articles

Publications

Digital Publication: Centennial of Abolition of Indian Indenturedship:

A commemorative digital publication to be launched by September 15, 2017.

Title: Centennial of Abolition of Indian Indenturedship:

End of an Era of Indian Migration, New Frontiers & Achievements

Contents to include:

- History of Indian Indenturedship to each of the various countries
- Perspectives on the end of an era - Indian Indenturedship
- Hardships, endurance, religious sustenance and cultural survival
- Opportunities with challenges for progress and achievement
- Descendants of Indian Indenturedship and the PIOs experience
- Second journey – Example: Suriname to Netherlands
 - Motivation, Assimilation & Adaptation; Linkage to country of birth and to India
- Perspectives in India – the Indian migration story
- Foreword, Profiles, commentaries

Upcoming Calendar of Major Events

The following were announced at the concluding session on 18th March 2017:

- Economic Engagement among the Indian Diaspora: October 2017; venue to be determined
 - Article III of Resolutions: Strengthening economic engagement among the Indian Diaspora and with India and other entities through regular results oriented forum, meets, trade shows, exhibitions which uplift social progress at all levels
 - Convener: Deo Gosine, Indian Diaspora Council Country Coordinator, Trinidad & Tobago

Upcoming Calendar of Major Events

- Next Indian Diaspora World Convention 2018: March 2018 in Durban, South Africa
 - Article I of Resolutions: Convene the Indian Diaspora World Convention annually in different countries of the Indian Diaspora on rotating basis, following up on the resolutions and actions items adopted at each convention, and beginning with Indian Diaspora World Convention 2018 to be convened in Durban, South Africa in March 2018.
 - Convener: Ishwar Ramlutchman, Indian Diaspora Coordinator South Africa

Issued 14th April, 2017

Issued by Ashook Ramsaran