



Indian Diaspora Council

**Indian Diaspora Council International**

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

[www.indiandiasporacouncil.org](http://www.indiandiasporacouncil.org)

Post Office Box 650523 New York 11365 USA

**PRESS STATEMENT**

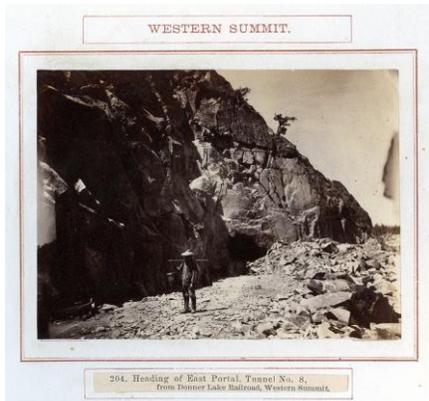
*For Immediate Release*

March 12, 2019 (EST-USA)

**Indian Diaspora Council (IDC) supports Resolution honoring Chinese railroad workers**

*In a March 12, 2019 letter to: Hon. Grace Meng, US Congress Member, New York's 6<sup>th</sup> District:*

“The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and its global affiliates fully support the Resolution which you have sponsored, and which has been co-sponsored by several other Members of the US Congress, to honor the almost 12,000 Chinese railroad workers in the United States who helped build America’s transcontinental railroad during the 19th century. The Resolution acknowledges “the risks Chinese laborers faced between 1865 and 1869 as they toiled in dangerous conditions on the monumental engineering project, all while dealing with discrimination and unequal pay and treatment”.



“The Resolution memorializes the deaths of the nearly 1,200 Chinese railroad workers “who were killed by accidents, avalanches, and explosions while working in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Comprising more than 80% of the workforce of the Central Pacific Railroad Company, Chinese laborers endured racial discrimination and deplorable living conditions, and were given the most difficult, dangerous jobs and paid lower wages than their white counterparts”.

“IDC fully supports the proposed resolution and postage stamp as fitting tributes on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion on May 100, 1869 of the 1,776 miles long Transcontinental Railroad “considered one of the most remarkable engineering feats in American history”.

“In supporting this Resolution, IDC is reminded of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of abolition of Indian indentureship of Indian laborers during the period 1826 thru’ 1917 from India to numerous English, French and Dutch colonial plantations in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, and the extremely harsh, slave-like conditions which the Indian laborers endured. As with Chinese railroad workers in the USA, the history and consequences of Indian Indentureship are deeply embedded with tremendous significance, importance, meaningful history and reflections to millions of descendants living in many countries which were the recipients of Indian Indentured labourers”.

“We urge passage of the Resolution and issuance of the commemorative postage stamp recognizing the contributions of Chinese laborers on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of completion of the Transcontinental Railroad”.

*For more information contact:*

Ashook Ramsaran at [AshookRamsaran@gmail.com](mailto:AshookRamsaran@gmail.com)

Mobile (USA) [+1 917 519 5783](tel:+19175195783)

*Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.*