

Indian Diaspora Council

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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PRESS STATEMENT

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Commemoration of Centennial of Abolition of Indian Indenturedship (CCAI)

The **Indian Diaspora Council (IDC)**, in collaboration with several organizations and institutions in various countries, is coordinating a series of high profile global events to mark the centennial of abolition of Indian Indenturedship.

March 20, 2017 marks the centennial of the official abolition of Indian Indenturedship, an era spanning 1834-1917. The history and consequences of Indian Indenturedship are deeply embedded with importance, meaningful history and reflections to millions of descendants living in many countries which were the recipients of Indian Indentured labourers: Mauritius, Fiji, South Africa, Reunion Island, Francophone countries, Malaysia, Trinidad, Suriname, Guyana, Jamaica, Guadeloupe, Martinique and other countries of the Caribbean; as well as second migration to USA, Canada, UK, Netherlands, France and other countries.

Centennial Commemoration 2017 team is well organized with a coordinating group of 5-7 persons team in each country impacted by Indian Indenturedship. It is supported by prominent patrons and well-wishers, academic institutions, historians/researchers/writers, civic and cultural organizations, media and historic preservation groups.

The objective is to mark the centennial of abolition of Indian Indenturedship in a historic commemoration that it truly deserves. There many planned events in all counties affected by Indian Indenturedship and release of a comprehensive book entitled: *Centennial of Abolition of Indian Indenturedship: End of an Era of Indian Migration, followed by Challenges and Progress*. This book will be a compilation of relevant articles by prominent writers, historians and researchers selected from respective countries to commemorate the centennial of abolition of Indian Indenturedship and to provide insights on challenges, progress and achievements during and after that historic era. This keepsake volume is intended to be a historical document for scholars, students, libraries, Indian diaspora researchers and the general public.

Planned events are as follows:

- Kick-off press conference and seminar: 12th September, 2016 in New York, USA
- Release of publication: *Centennial of Abolition of Indian Indenturedship: End of an Era of Indian Migration, followed by Challenges and Progress*: 1st January, 2017
- Conference session at Uttar Pradesh Divas 2017 (Lucknow, India): 4th January, 2017
- Panel Session at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2017 (India): 8th January, 2017
- Coordinated country commemoration conferences & cultural presentations in impacted countries: 5th March, 2017. (Cities: Suva, Port Louis, Singapore, Kula Lumpur, Hong Kong, Naypidaw, Sydney, Auckland, Kolkata, Chennai, New Delhi, Lucknow, Patna, Saint Denis, Durban, Amsterdam, Paris, London, Toronto, Orlando, Georgetown, Paramaribo, Port of Spain, Kingston (Jamaica), Kingston (St. Vincent), Corozal (Belize), St. Georges (Grenada), Castries (St. Lucia), Basse-Terre (Guadeloupe), Fort-de-France (Martinique). Other cities would be added as needed.
- Commemoration Conference at Indian Consulate in New York: 5th March, 2017
- Global Convention in Port of Spain (Trinidad & Tobago): 18th – 20th March, 2017. Activities to include: Conferences, Break-out sessions, Workshops, resolutions, action items team, cultural entertainment, receptions and banquets; recognition awards for notable achievements.

For more information, please contact international coordinator of Centennial Commemoration 2017, Ashook Ramsaran @ ashookramsaran@gmail.com

IDC is an international non-profit organization of shared heritage, aspirations and interests.