IGNOU 2022 Diploma in Migration – January 25, 2022

Presentation by Ashook Ramsaran

Good evening, Namaste.

Greetings to esteemed officials, participants and organizers of this forum:

I am pleased to be invited to share my remarks and commentary at this launching event of the Post Graduate Diploma in Migration and Diaspora (**PGDMIDI**) at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (**IGNOU**) School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (**SOITS**).

I am honored to be among such qualified participants from India, Mauritius and Kenya, which reflect on the high caliber, significance and potential benefits of **PGDMIDI.**

I commend **IGNOU** for launching the **PGDMIDI** studies and **SOITS** for developing such a comprehensive curriculum. I also commend Dr. Sadananda Sahoo and Prof. Nandini Kapur for their initiative, and I support their efforts to provide more in-depth education on a topic that is of interest to many in India as well as the expanding Indian Diaspora living outside of India.

To quote:
"To impart the skills of using social science knowledge and tools to understand/make sense of the current issues and concerns relating to global movement of people, products and ideas and hence helping various stakeholders including those who are in policy to engage more meaningfully with the world unfolding before them".

The interest is not only in academia. As envisioned in the concept, the lessons and analytics contained in the curriculum can be quite useful in policy making decisions in both government and private sectors.

"The programme would help in providing informed understanding of migration processes, role of diasporas in development, development-migration nexus, information for policies, planning and researches, various regulations related to international migration, best practices in migration and diaspora engagement, human rights issues of migrant communities, etc".

As we all know, migration enlarges the number and extent of the Indian Diaspora – from colonial times to present day migration to most countries of the globe, the latter which has seen a rapid growth recently - until curtailed by Covid-19 and its effects worldwide. Based on the pre-pandemic trends, migration will continue to be a major contributor to the expanding Indian Diaspora.

As such, **PGDMIDI** studies become more valuable and essential as a means of understanding the trends, developing analytics and policies crucial to understanding as well as providing useful information and recommendations for policy making decisions. It is also important to document these trends for present and future academicians and researchers. It's important for historical purposes

Besides in-person studies, technology provides the appropriate, accessible and widely used platform for studies on a global scale to be more inclusive, enlarge the studies participants and foment more in-depth and global dialogue and discussions – all for the betterment of the **PGDMIDI** curriculum.
While migration of Indian labourers started in earnest with large numbers from Tamil Nadu region to Malaysia, large numbers were taken by the French from South India starting in 1827 to Reunion Island – and later to other French colonies in the French Caribbean.

Simultaneously, the British started Indian migration under Indian Indenturedship in 1834 to Mauritius, the English/Dutch speaking Caribbean, and South Africa, officially ending the process in 1917 after an Act of Parliament. There were exchanges and trading of labourers among the colonial powers so that descendants are presently in countries that speak English, French, Dutch and Spanish.

Many of the descendants of Indian Indenturedship have also migrated to Europe (UK, France & Netherlands), USA and Canada. They number about 10-12 million worldwide.

During colonial times, many Indians went to UK on a voluntary basis to work and study. Today, their numbers are approx 1.5 million, with prominent positions in government, House of Lords, Parliament, business, academia, religious and civic organizations.

In addition, the British employed thousands of Indians in railroad construction in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, etc.) and many of their descendants migrated to UK, Canada and USA as well.

The Gulf countries have, until Covid-19, employed millions of Indian labourers who worked in all sectors as the service and labour force. At one time, that number was about 5 million.

Looking at large populations of Indians outside of India:

- USA 4.3 million
- Malaysia 3.2 million
- UK 1.5 million
- S/Africa 1.5 million
- Caribbean 1.3 million
- Canada 1.2 million
- Mauritius .8 million
- Netherlands .4 million
- Singapore .4 million
- France .3 million
- Fiji .3 million
- Australia .3 million
- East Africa .2 million
- Gulf States 5.0 million *

The population of Indians outside of India estimated to be: between 28 Million & 32 million (pre Covid-19).

It is also attractive for major multi-national corporations to employ Indians in Europe and North America – as well as in India working remotely. It is estimated that post Covid-19 when back to normal, that migration would resume at its earlier rate, especially with the tremendous shortage of skilled and unskilled labour in the developed countries due to Covid-19.

While one would like to think that this huge population should be homogenous, it is very diverse with different histories, languages, customs and levels of assimilation – although from the same roots. That is understandable as several generations were born outside of India in multi-ethnic societies. Hence the difference between NRIs (non-resident Indians) and PIOs (persons of Indian Origin).

So it behooves continuing research, studies and analytics.

I am confident that the **PGDMIDI** curriculum would address this in a comprehensive way.

The **PGDMIDI** program is good for the Indian Diaspora, for better understanding, for strengthening the bonds with India and encouraging prudent and effective policies and schemes as was done by the former Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs – to further engage and enhance the Indian Diaspora.

Thank you and best wishes.

Ashook Ramsaran, born of Indian parents in Guyana, resides in the USA. He is the President of the Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) and former president of Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO). He is widely recognized for his civic and community service, including Government of India Pravasi Samman Award.

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Launch of

Post Graduate Diploma in Migration and Diaspora (PGDMIDI)

Indira Gandhi National Open University

25th January 2022, Tuesday

3:30 pm IST/ 5:00 am New York/2:00 pm Mauritius/ 01:00 pm Kenya/11:00 am CET

Prof. Nageshwar Rao
Vice Chancellor
Indira Gandhi National Open University

Chief Guest

Dr. Marina Manke
Head, Labour Mobility and Human Development Division, Department of Migration Management, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Guests of Honour

Ms. Riva Ganguly Das
Former Secretary (East)
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

Dr. Swaroop Ranjan Mishra
Member of Parliament
Kenya

Ms. Subhasnee Luchmun Roy
Member of the National Assembly
Mauritius

Mr. Ashook Ramsaran
President, Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), New York

Prof. Shachi Shah
Director, SOITS, IGNOU

Programme Coordinators

Dr. Sadananda Sahoo
SOITS, IGNOU

Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur
SOITS, IGNOU

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Indira Gandhi National Open University

School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS)

Launching of

PG Diploma in Migration and Diaspora

25th January 2022, Tuesday

3:30 pm IST/ 5:00 am New York/2:00 pm Mauritius/ 01:00 pm Kenya/11:00 am CET

Programme Schedule

Welcome Address	03:30 - 03:35 PM	**Prof. Shachi Shah,** Director SOITS, IGNOU
About the Programme	03:35 - 03:40 PM	**Dr. Sadananda Sahoo,** Programme coordinator SOITS
Chief Guest	03:40 - 03:50 PM	**Dr. Marina Manke** Head, Labour Mobility and Human Development Division Department of Migration Management, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Guests of Honour	03:50 - 04:00 PM	**Ms. Riva Ganguly Das** Former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs Government of India
	04:00 - 04:10 PM	**Dr. Swaroop Ranjan Mishra** Member of Parliament, Kenya
	04:10 - 04:20 PM	**Ms. Subhasnee Luchmun Roy** Member of the National Assembly, Mauritius
	04:20 - 04:30 PM	**Mr. Ashook Ramsaran** President, Indian Diaspora Council (IDC), New York
Presidential Address	04:30 - 04:40 PM	**Prof. Nageshwar Rao** Vice Chancellor, IGNOU
Vote of Thanks	04:40 - 04:45 PM	**Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur,** Programme Cordinator, SOITS

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Indira Gandhi National Open University
School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies (SOITS)
P.G. Diploma in Migration and Diaspora (PGDMIDI)

Objective of the Programme: To impart the skills of using social science knowledge and tools to understand/ make sense of the current issues and concerns relating to global movement of people, products and ideas and hence helping various stakeholders including those who are in policy to engage more meaningfully with the world unfolding before them.

Target Group and Stakeholders of the Programme: While the specific target group of learners of this programme of study comprises graduate students in India, its courses of will be of interest to

- Professionals working in development sector at global and local levels
- Artists, writers, social scientists interested in the dynamics of social transformation
- Diaspora cultural associations across the world
- Diplomats and other professionals at Foreign Affairs Ministries in India and abroad, institutions promoting cultural exchanges like the Indian Council for Cultural relations (ICCR), Ministry of Tourism
- Entrepreneurs/ corporates with consumer base abroad in cultural and ethnic products like films, music, food, yoga, spiritualism)

Launch Cycle: January and July	Launch Cycle: January and July
Total Credits: 32	Total Credits: 32
Programme	Programme Fee: 6100 (Six thousand one hundred only)
Eligibility:	Graduate in Any Discipline
Programme Begins :	January 2022
Term End Examination	December/June
Last Date for submission of Admission Form	As per dates given in the Advertisement
Last Date for Submission of Examination Form	As per University norms
Medium of Instruction	English
Programme details	As per previous advertisements

Regarding academic information you may write to the Programme Coordinators:
Dr. Sadananda Sahoo and Prof. Nandini Sinha Kapur
Contact Address: School of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinay Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi 110068. Phone No: 011-29573378
Email: pgdmidi@ignou.ac.in

P.G. Diploma in Migration and Diaspora (PGDMIDI) covers both theoretical and project works. The main objectives of the programme are to impart the skills by using social science knowledge and tools to understand/ make sense of the current issues and concerns relating to global movement of people, products and ideas and hence helping various stakeholders including those who are in policy to engage more meaningfully with the world unfolding before them. The programme is important for professionals working in Government, Foreign Trade, UN organisations, Embassies and External Ministries, Migrant and diaspora organizations etc. The programme helps in providing informed understanding of migration processes, role of diasporas in development, development-migration nexus, information for policies, planning and researches, various regulations related to international migration, best practices in migration and diaspora engagement, human rights issues of migrant communities etc.

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