INTERNATIONAL WEB-SYMPOSIUM

ON

Election of President Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi in Suriname: Perspectives from the Region, India and Indian Diaspora

FIRST SESSION: INAUGURAL 8 August 2020 (4:30 PM- 5:45 PM, IST)

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY

Organisation for Diaspora Initiatives
(ODI India)
&
Diaspora and International Migration Programme (DIMP), CAS- School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Ashook Ramsaran - Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC)

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Election of President Chandrikapersad "Chan" Santokhi in Suriname: Perspectives from the Region, India and Indian Diaspora

SECOND SESSION, 8 August 2020 (5:45 PM- 7:15 PM, IST)

Panel Moderator
Prof. Kavita Sharma,
Immediate Past President,
South Asian University,
Chairperson ODI International

Panel Discussant
Prof. Ajay Dubey,
School of International Studies,
Jawaharlal Nehru University,
President, ODI India

Speaker
Prof. Maurits S Hassankhan,
Former Member of Parliament &
Professor Anton de Kom University
of Suriname

Speaker
Prof. Lomarsh Roopnarine
Professor, Caribbean and Latin
American Studies, Jackson
State University, USA

Speaker
Prof. Brinsley Samaroo
Former Professor, University of
West Indies,& Former Senior
Minister & Member of Parliament
of Trinidad and Tobago

Vote of Thanks
Mr. BK Pandey
Research Fellow, CAS,
JNU & Secretary-General,
ODI India

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International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru
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POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Suriname gained its independence from The Netherlands in 1975.

The population is approx. 575,000.

Dutch as the official language and Hindi taught in schools.

Various distinguishable ethnic groups include:

- 27.4% Persons of Indian origin (Hindustanis)
- 21.7% Maroon-Bushinengue
- 5.7% Creole-Mullato
- 3.7% Javanese
- 3.4% Other Mixed
- 3.8% Indigenous Amerindian
- 1.5% Chinese
- 1% Europeans
- 1.8% Others

Source: Wikipedia

GIRMITIYA MIGRATION ARRIVAL HISTORY

While it is generally known that a Girmitiya is a descendant of Indian Indentured labourers to Fiji, the Indian Diaspora Council International has defined a Girmitiya as a descendant of **all** Indian Indentured labourers who were taken from India to several British, Dutch and French colonies during the periods 1826-1920 under the system of indenture labour.

Arrival History by Country & Territory

Country	Date of First Arrival & Ship Name	Number of Arrivals
Guyana (formerly British Guiana)	May 5, 1838 - Hesperus	238,909
Trinidad & Tobago	May 31, 1845 - Fatal Razak	143,939
Guadeloupe	December 24, 1854 - Aurélie	42,326
Jamaica	May 7, 1845 - Maidstone	36,412
Suriname (formerly Dutch Guiana)	June 5, 1873 - Lalla Rookh	34,000
Martinique	May 6, 1853 - Aurelie	25,509
French Guiana(South America)	1854	19,276
St. Lucia	May 6, 1859 - Palmyra	4,354
Grenada	January 27, 1857 - Maidstone	3,200
St. Vincent	June 1, 1861 - Travancore	2,472
Belize (formerly British Honduras) located in Central America	1858 – Sepoy Indians 1882	1,000 from 1857 revolt 3,000 from Jamaica
St. Kitts	June 3, 1861 - Dartmouth	361
Nevis	1874	315
St. Croix	1863	321
Reunion Island	April 13, 1828 - Yangon	120 000
Seychelles	1898	6,315
South Africa	November 16, 1860 - Truro	150,000
Fiji	May 15, 1879 - Leonidas	60,965
Mauritius	November 2, 1834 - Atlas	451,796

Ashook Ramsaran - Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC)

BABA EN MAI
5 JUNI 1873 MONUMENT VAN DE HINDOSTAANSE IMMIGRATIE 5 JUNI 1993
"waar het mij goed gaat, daar is mijn vaderland"
ONTHULD OP ZATERDAG 04 JUNI 1994 DOOR DE
STICHTING HINDOSTAANSE IMMIGRATIE

PERSPECTIVES from the REGION, INDIA & the INDIAN DIASPORA

- Political
- Economic
- Social
- Cultural
  - Challenges
  - Opportunities

PERSPECTIVES from the REGION, INDIA & the INDIAN DIASPORA

- **Political**
  - ✓ Broad-based multi-ethnic coalition
  - ✓ CARICOM support
  - ✓ OAS support
  - ✓ Netherlands support

  - **Challenges**
    - ✓ National debt
    - ✓ Corruption

  - **Opportunities**
    - ✓ Broad-based multi-ethnic coalition
    - ✓ Potential oil revenues

PERSPECTIVES from the REGION, INDIA & the INDIAN DIASPORA

- **Economic**
  - ✓ Huge national Debt
  - ✓ Limited export capacity

  - **Challenges**
    - ✓ Increase exports
    - ✓ Increase internal/external investments

  - **Opportunities**
    - ✓ Successful Surinamese Diaspora
    - ✓ Indian Diaspora entrepreneurs
    - ✓ Huge potential oil revenues
    - ✓ Medical, specialty hospitals, pharma

PERSPECTIVES from the REGION, INDIA & the INDIAN DIASPORA

- **Social**
  - ✓ Significant poverty levels
  - ✓ More than a decade of corruption

  - **Challenges**
    - ✓ Enormous national debt
    - ✓ Health & education sector investments

  - **Opportunities**
    - ✓ Successful Surinamese Diaspora
    - ✓ Indian Diaspora entrepreneurs
    - ✓ Oil revenues & local refinery
    - ✓ Medical, specialty hospitals, pharma

PERSPECTIVES from the REGION, INDIA & the INDIAN DIASPORA

- **Cultural – the Indian Diaspora**
  - ✓ Significant achievement for a PIO
  - ✓ Increased pride among PIOs globally

  - **Challenges**
    - ✓ Cautious steps in a multi-ethnic society
    - ✓ COVID-19 and limited travel, hospitality

  - **Opportunities**
    - ✓ Enhanced Surinamese Diaspora
    - ✓ Increasing Indian Diaspora engagement
    - ✓ Opportunity for India's outreach

PERSPECTIVES from the REGION, INDIA & the INDIAN DIASPORA

❑ Challenges

- ✓ Significant poverty levels
- ✓ More than a decade of corruption
- ✓ Huge national debt
- ✓ Limited export capacity
- ✓ Health & education sector investments

❑ Opportunities

- ✓ Successful Surinamese Diaspora
- ✓ CARICOM, OAS, Netherlands support
- ✓ Indian Diaspora entrepreneurs
- ✓ Huge potential oil revenues
- ✓ Broad-based multi-ethnic coalition