



Indian Diaspora Council

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Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

www.indiandiasporacouncil.org

Post Office Box 650523 New York 11365 USA

May 02, 2022 (EST-USA)

Press Statement

Guyanese Calling for 5 May to be designated as INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY



A May 2, 2022 letter signed by several hundred persons to Guyana's President Irfaan Ali requested that the government consider "5th May be designated as "Indian Arrival Day", and that another date be designated as "National Immigration Day".

"It's a long overdue recognition of the tremendous contributions of people of Indian origin to the unique history, vibrant culture and economic progress in Guyana", stated Ashook Ramsaran, President of **Indian Diaspora Council International**. Ramsaran continued, "We also recognize the invaluable contributions over several generations that persons of Indian origin have made to the diverse culture and economic development of Guyana".

Ramsaran and Ramnarine Sahadeo Jr. (Toronto, Canada) collaborated on the petition, garnering signatories in Guyana, USA, Canada, UK, South Africa, Reunion Island, Mauritius, France and India.

The organizers of the petition stated that this petition does not, in any way, diminish the many contributions of other ethnic groups in Guyana, in particular the descendants of African slaves brought to then British Guiana against their will yet persevered under inhuman conditions.

Further, it should be noted that several countries with significantly smaller percentages of people of Indian origin celebrate Indian Arrival Day as national holidays. Examples: Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and others.

For more information contact: Ashook Ramsaran at AshookRamsaran@gmail.com Mobile (USA) +1 917 519 5783

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.