Ashook K. Ramsaran
Indian Diaspora Council Int'l
www.IndianDiasporaCouncil.org

Indian Diaspora Council

175th Anniversary Celebration of Indian Arrival Day in Guyana on May 5, 2013

TOPICS of DISCUSSION

CONTENTS

- INTRODUCTION
- SIGNIFICANCE OF INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY
- PLANNING FOR 175TH ANNIVERSARY
- MONUMENTS & NEW STAGE
- PLANNING MEETINGS
- CONFERENCE – 4TH MAY, 2013
- UNVEILING AT HIGHBURY – 5TH MAY, 2013
- UNVEILING AT MONUMENT GARDENS – 5TH MAY, 2013
- PHOTOS
- CONCLUSION

The KOLKATA MEMORIAL - 11 Jan. 2011

175th Anniversary Celebration of Indian Arrival Day in Guyana on May 5, 2013

MEETINGS & PLANNING

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY IN GUYANA (May 5, 1838 – May 5, 2013)
PLANNING FOR 175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION IN HIBURY & GEORGETOWN

Replica of ship of "Indian Arrival" at Monument Gardens in Guyana

India Arrival Day

Arrival Day is observed on 5th May annually, commemorating the first arrival of Indian laborers who came on May 5, 1838 on the ships, *Whitby* and Hesperus that landed with 936 Indian indentured workers after a hazardous journey crossing from Calcutta to then British Guiana. The Indian community, descendants of these first immigrants, mark the occasion by holding religious and cultural functions. The *Hesperus* left Calcutta on the 20 January 1838 with 165 passengers and arrived in Guyana late on the night of the 5 May, by which time 13 had already died. The remaining 135 men, 6 women and 11 children were distributed between the 8-10 May to the plantations Vreedenstein, Vreed-en-hoop and Anna Regina.

Guyana's Culture Minister Dr. Frank Anthony (7th from left) joins stakeholders in turning the sod during ceremony for the construction of the Indian Monument Gardens in Georgetown, Guyana

Published On: Sat, Nov 24th, 2012

New Indian monument to be commissioned in Guyana

An Indian Monument is being established by the Indian Commemoration Trust (ICT). Minister of Culture, Dr. Frank Anthony said these structures are being used to instill history in the minds of the current generation. Chairman of the ICT, Dr. Yoni Persaud stated that the area where the structure will be located will be used for large cultural and social gatherings. It will be commissioned on May 5, 2013 to mark the 175th anniversary of Indian arrival to Guyana.

-----Original Message-----
From: **Ashook Ramsaran** <ramsaran@aol.com>
To: ypersaud <ypersaud@demrum.com>; rsankar <rsankar@rogers.com>; pradeepsamtani <pradeepsamtani@gmail.com>
Sent: Wed, Mar 6, 2013 7:36 am
Subject: Good news from MOIA - Financial support of Commemoration of 175th Anniversary of Guyana's Arrival Day - May 4-5, 2013

March 6, 2013

Gentlemen:

I just spoke with MOIA Joint Secretary T K Manoj Kumar who informed me that funds in the amount of **15 Lakhs** have been approved for Gov't of India's support of the commemoration of 175th Anniversary of Guyana's Arrival Day - May 4-5, 2013. Release of funds will begin in April.

Also: Joint Secretary T K Manoj Kumar is checking the files to provide the dimensions of the Kolkota Memorial for you to use in the construction.

Best regards,
Ashook

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175th Anniversary Celebration of Indian Arrival Day in Guyana on May 5, 2013

PROGRAMME

COMMEMORATION OF 178th INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY in GUYANA
EVENTS PROGRAMME

24th April, 2013
18:00 hrs- Inauguration of new stage, Monument Gardens, Georgetown

1st May, 2013
18:00 hrs Indian Food Festival, Monument Gardens

2nd May, 2013
16:00 hrs- Book and Painting Exhibition, Monument Gardens

3rd May, 2013
19:00 hrs Cocktail Reception, Monument Gardens

4th May, 2013
09:00 – 12:00 hrs- **GOPIO Seminar**
- History of Indians in Guyana
- Contributions of Indians to Guyana's progress
- Perspectives from other ethnic groups

12:00 – 13:30 hrs- Break
14:00 – 17:00 hrs Visit to Sugar Estate and Distilleries
20:00 hrs Nritygeet, National Cultural Centre

5th May, 2013
10:00 hrs **Highbury, Berbice**
- Unveiling of Memorial
- Cultural Presentation
- Lunch

15:00 hrs **Monument Gardens, Georgetown**
- Unveiling of Memorial
- Cultural Presentation
- Reception/Dinner

On these shores they set foot ....

This memorial commemorates the thousands of indentured Indian labourers who arrived here starting on 5th May, 1838 and until 1920 from far away homelands in India seeking better livelihoods for themselves and their families.

This is honoured tribute, gratitude and lasting remembrance of their pioneering spirit, determination, endurance, resilience and sacrifices despite harsh conditions and overwhelming obstacles; for triumph of the spirit of Indianness that they maintained and passed on to their descendants.

Individually and collectively they have made invaluable contributions to the diverse culture and economic development of Guyana and other lands they adopted.

Photo of Kalicharan Memorial Replica at Highbury and Monument Gardens, Guyana

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COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE

Celebrating 175 years
of the Arrival of East Indians in Guyana

Contents

175th Anniversary Celebration of Indian Arrival Day in Guyana on May 5, 2013

CONFERENCE ON 4TH MAY 2013

175th Anniversary Celebration of Indian Arrival Day in Guyana on May 5, 2013

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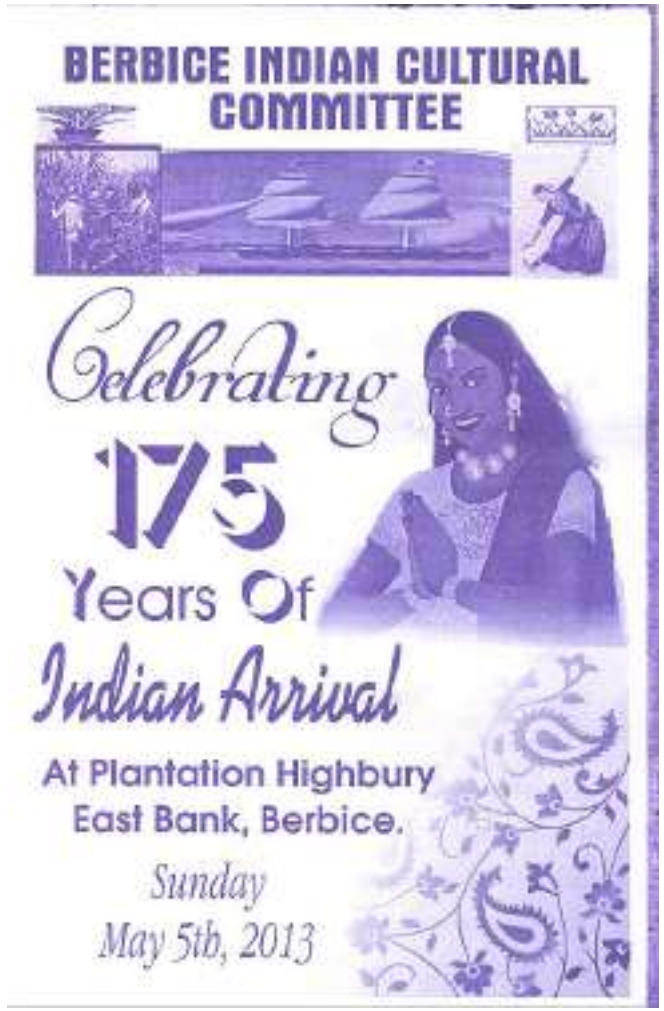
PROGRAMME AT HIGHBURY 5th May 2013



12.	Introduction of Guest Speaker	Charrandass Persaud
13.	Guest Speaker	Chancellor of the Judiciary - Justice Cecil A. Singh
14.	Song	Artie Sukhai (Chesney)
15.	Song	Devendra Sookraj
16.	Dance	Whim Waterside Mandir
17.	Dance	Samatlie Goberdhan
18.	Song	Julie (Gangaram)
19.	Song	Mahase & Rekha
20.	Tassa Group	
21.	Dance	Shivani
22.	Pt. Lalaram	
23.	Dance	Amal Kumar & Navin
24.	Dance	Nicola & Group
25.	Song	Priya & Vishal
26.	Dance	Saregama Group
27.	Song	Amir Salish
28.	Song	Devendra Durga Persaud
29.	Closing Remarks	

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INDIAN ARRIVAL MONUMENT AT HIGHBURY

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INDIAN ARRIVAL MONUMENT AT MONUMENT GARDENS

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Ashook K. Ramsaran

Ashook K. Ramsaran, born in Guyana (formerly British Guiana), is 3rd generation of Indian origin. His great grandfather arrived in Guyana from India in 1853 and his great grandmother arrived in 1860 as Indian indentured labourers to work on British owned sugar plantations.

Ramsaran resides in the USA since emigrating from Guyana in 1968. He earned advanced engineering degrees at Polytechnic-New York University and established an electronics manufacturing company in New York. He is married to Camille Ramgadoo (also of Guyana), father of Arnold and late Gerald, grandfather of Jaden and Gavin, all residing in Queens, New York.

Ramsaran is President of Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC); Executive Vice-President, Queens Civic Congress (QCC); Chair, Community Advisory Council, NY Presbyterian Hospital/Queens NYP/Q); Board Member, Center for Caribbean & Latin Amer. Studies, St. John's University (SJU/CLACS); Delegate of Queens General Assembly (QGA); Executive Board Member, India Empire (a Diaspora Publication, Delhi, India); and board member of several other organizations; past President, GOPIO Int'l.

Ramsaran was instrumental in the 2011 establishment of the Kolkata Memorial (India) and its inscription recognizing Indian Indenturedship 1834-1917; the Indian Arrival Monuments at Highbury and Monument Gardens in Guyana (2013) and others in Trinidad; Grenada, as well as street namings in New York to recognize outstanding individuals and institutions.

Ramsaran has been accorded numerous national and international awards, including the prestigious Government of India's Pravasi Samman Award, Indian Commemoration Trust (Guyana); National Council of Indian Culture (Trinidad); Guadeloupe and others; Several New York State/City, organization and official proclamations, citations and awards.