



Indian Diaspora Council

Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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Press Statement

180 YEARS OF RESILIENCE: COMMEMORATING INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY 2025- TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), together with its global affiliates and members, pays heartfelt tribute and expresses deep gratitude to the brave souls who undertook the first journeys as indentured laborers from India. The first group arrived in the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad, on May 30, 1845, aboard the *Fatel Razack*. The image on the left depicts newly arrived Indian indentured laborers in Trinidad and Tobago.

Image courtesy: Wikipedia

We are always reminded of their pioneering spirit, determination, persistence, and endurance under extremely harsh conditions. While survival must have been the primary concern, they strived and persevered to maintain their sense of origin, traditions, and culture despite insurmountable hardships. Their children, grandchildren, and following generations will always take pride in this unique accomplishment, recognizing and appreciating the sacrifices and achievements made on their behalf. We also recognize the invaluable contributions they have made to the diverse culture and economic development of Trinidad & Tobago, while progressing at all levels of society.

“Our ancestors came here partially by choice, many were forced, but resolved and persevered under very difficult and harrowing conditions. That shared experience, that saga of shared history, fostered a unique kindred spirit of resolve, togetherness and kinship – a triumph over obstacles and difficulties with dreams and aspirations of a destiny intertwined by history and fate”.

Trinidad & Tobago has a diverse population. Indo-Trinidadians and Tobagonians, mainly descendants of South Asian indentured laborers, make up **35.4%**. Afro-Trinidadians, descended from enslaved Africans, account for **34.2%** and contribute rich African-Caribbean cultural traditions. People of mixed African and Indian heritage (Douglas) represent **22.8%**. Smaller groups include Chinese, Syrian-Lebanese, and White Trinidadians, the latter comprising less than **1%** (NCESC, 2025).



The Indian Diaspora Council congratulates the Government and people of Trinidad & Tobago on the commemoration of the 180th anniversary of that historic day. We also extend our continued best wishes to all the descendants of those early pioneers for peaceful and prosperous co-existence both in Trinidad & Tobago and other lands where they have subsequently settled.

We proudly champion the vibrant Indian traditions that sustained our forefathers and continue to enrich our cultural fabric. We call on all descendants of those early pioneers to honor their legacy by connecting with others of Indian heritage whose ancestors also braved similar journeys—together, let us celebrate our shared roots and strengthen our global bonds -*Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, Indian Diaspora Council*

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.