

Ashook Ramsaran Meeting with Hon. Sripriya Ranganathan, Secretary (CPV & OIA)
September 26, 2026 at the Indian Consulate in New York, USA



TOPICS of DISCUSSION

- **OCI Card Applications**
 - Difficulties & delays encountered by Indo-Caribbeans.
 - Proving identity and direct linkage to India.
 - Impact on travel and establishing businesses.
- **Commemorating 16th Anniversary of Kolkata Memorial** (Est. 11th Jan. 2011)
 - A historic recognition & significant tribute to Indian indenture (1828-1917).
 - The Kolkata Memorial at Kidderpore Depot in Kolkata.
 - IDC's Proposal for a PBD2027 panel session in Kolkata.
- **Accessing Indenture Migration Records in India**
 - Useful for history, research, proving identity for OCI & tracing family roots.
 - Locations: Kolkata (West Bengal), New Delhi, UP, Bihar, others.
 - Needed OIA's help to identify locations, access, scanning records and sharing.
- **Updating the 2001 High Level Commission Report**
 - Comprehensive report on the Indian Diaspora issued in 2001.
 - Precursor to the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD).
 - The Indian Diaspora has vastly expanded, and to many more countries.
- **IDC Collaboration with Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SPMP) Kolkata**
 - Commemoration of Indenture Memorial on 15th September (1st departure).
 - Annual conference on 15th September at Kolkata Memorial site.
 - Establishment of an Indenture museum at Suriname Depot, Kolkata.
 - Application: UNESCO designation of Departure Depots as heritage sites.
- **Prime Minister Modi ji's interest in strengthening heritage linkages**
 - With Ashook Ramsaran on 21st Nov 2024 in Guyana at Indian Arrival Memorial.
 - Expressed interest in strengthening the bonds of history and heritage.
- **Chennai (Madras) Indenture departure port**
 - Approximately 10%-12% of indenture from India through Madras port.
 - Need to preserve sites and records same as Kolkata.
 - Need for OIA's assistance to do so.
- **OIA Interaction with previous Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees (PBSA)**
 - Request for regular interaction & engagement with previous PBSA.
- **Engaging the Indo-Caribbeans in Tri-State NYY/NJ/CT:**
 - Hold an annual event/forum on/for Indo-Caribbeans at the Consulate.
- **Know India Program (KIP) in the Caribbean Region:**
 - Increasing numbers of young people are visiting India with KIP.