

# Girmitiya Conference 2021

Changing identities, shifting trends, and roles

16-17 September, 2021 | Virtual

## 16 September Day I

Timing (IST) 16:00-17:00  
Inaugural Session

Timing (IST) 17:00-18:00  
Making of the Girmit (Indentured) Diaspora

### Speakers

**Bhugwan Singh**  
South Africa

**Junior Bacchus**  
Honorary Consul of for India to  
St Vincent and the Grenadines  
St Vincent and the Grenadines

**Dr Kumar Mahabir**  
Anthropologist at  
University of Guyana  
Trinidad

Timing (IST) 18:00-19:15  
Keeping Indian Culture Alive

### Speakers

**Appasamy Murugaiyan**  
Professor, Ecole Pratique des  
Hautes Etudes  
France

**Deeroop Teemal**  
President of HSS; Independent  
Senator in T&T Parliament  
Trinidad

**Padma Mythili Nanduri**  
Director, NSKB Anesthesiology  
Services Inc  
Barbados

**Ashook Ramsaran**  
President Indian Diaspora  
Council  
USA

Timing (IST) 19:15-20:30  
Girmitiyas and India

### Speakers

**Ravi Dev**  
Sangachalak, HSS Guyana  
Guyana

**Kirk Meighoo**  
Scholar, Political Scientist  
and Writer  
Trinidad

**Vikash Ramdonee**  
Rector, Royal College and  
Radio Jockey  
Mauritius

**Gabriel Pate**  
Founder, East Indian Council  
Belize

## 17 September Day II

Timing (IST) 10:00-11:00  
The Burden of History

### Speakers

**Dr Kamala Naiker**  
Senior Lecturer, Head of Department,  
Language, Literature & Communication,  
University of Fiji  
Fiji

**Nalini Moodley-Diar**  
Executive Dean, Faculty of Arts,  
Tshwane University of Technology,  
Member Executive Board UNESCO  
Indentured Labour Route Project  
South Africa

**Karen Dipnarine-Saroop**  
USA

Timing (IST) 11:00-12:00  
Voices from the Indian Diaspora

### Speakers

**Anand Jayrajh**  
Attorney, Conveyancer and  
Administrator of Estates  
South Africa

**Ajay Chhabra**  
Creator of The Girmit Experience  
UK

**Daljeet Maharaj**  
Secretary, Fiji Hindu Society  
Fiji

Timing (IST) 12:00-13:00  
Making of the Girmit (Indentured) Diaspora

### Speakers

**Virendra Gupta**  
Former Ambassador  
India

**Ruben Gowricharn**  
Professor of Indian Diaspora Studies,  
VU University of Amsterdam  
Netherlands

**Manoranjan Mohanty**  
Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching),  
Faculty of Business and Economics,  
the University of the South Pacific  
Fiji

Timing (IST) 13:00-14:00  
Keeping Indian Culture Alive

### Speakers

**Satish Rai**  
President, Global Girmit Association  
Australia

**Selwa Nandan**  
Executive Secretary, Fiji Girmit Council,  
Lautoka  
Fiji

**Sarita Boodhoo**  
Chairperson,  
Bhojpuri Speaking Union  
Mauritius

Timing (IST) 14:00-15:00  
Girmitiyas and India

### Speakers

**Pt Bhuvan Dutt**  
Patron, Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji  
Fiji

**Pt Dhunsunker H. Maharaj**  
Retired Lieutenant Colonel and  
Practicing Priest  
South Africa

**Dr Pavitrnanand Ramhota**  
Former Head of Rabindranath  
Tagore Institute  
Mauritius

Timing (IST) 16:00-17:00  
Voices from the Indian Diaspora

### Speakers

**Dr Vishnu Bisram**  
Scholar on Indo  
Diaspora Studies  
Guyana

**Dr Akshai Mansingh**  
Head of the Division of Sports  
Medicine, University of the West Indies  
Jamaica

**Dr Ramachandra Thippaiah**  
General Surgeon  
St Lucia

**Shadel Nyack Compton**  
Honorary Consul for  
India to Grenada  
Grenada

Timing (IST) 17:00-18:00  
The Burden of History

### Speakers

**Shamshu Deen**  
Former Teacher  
Trinidad

**Maurits Hassankhan**  
Professor, Aton de Kom University  
Suriname

**Dr Baytoram Ramharack**  
Associate Professor of Political Science,  
Nassau Community College  
Guyana

Timing (IST) 18:00-18:30  
Valedictory Session

Registration link  
<https://forms.gle/X8h7T2yhzTdJrTbAA>