

Introduction

Wahid Saleh on the editorial Board

Wahid Saleh is a community activist with a vast knowledge of the Indian Diaspora and the cultural activities of the Indian community in the Netherlands. His book *Indiawijzer* - now published on the Internet (www.indiawijzer.nl) - is a valuable and comprehensive guide to everything related to India in the Netherlands. We are glad he joined the editorial board of the newsletter.

Forward the mail

Do you know somebody who might be interested in the newsletter? Forward the mail with the attachment to the person, but specifically ask them to reply to indiandiaspora@amcon.nl if they want to receive the newsletter automatically. If they want the back issue of the newsletter, just let them make a request to indiandiaspora@amcon.nl.

Your contribution

The newsletter was originally intended to inform people about the development of the Indian Diaspora webdatabase. After the formal launching of the database (scheduled for June 2006) the communication would be organized via the database.

But the encouraging reactions to our first newsletter have motivated us to this open invitation to you: please feel free to contribute to this newsletter in anyway: messages, events, your thoughts and feelings.

Reader's response (Sandew Hira)

I love this project, because I don't know exactly where we are heading with this journey, but I know the journey itself is exciting. Here is a mail I received from Satish Rai.

Dear Dew,

Thanks for sending me the newsletter and congratulations. Yes I would love to receive further issues. I would also wish to introduce to your organization about the work I have been doing on tracing ancestral roots in India, especially in respect to the indentured Indians (the girmityas) of Fiji. I refer to and your readers to my article which appears on fijigirmit.org website: http://fijigirmit.org/a_thegirmitifocus.htm and http://fijigirmit.org/ta_milaaproject.htm (The main website is: Briefly my intro as it appears on the website is: Satish Rai was born in the sugar city of Fiji and after completing his primary and secondary studies he was offered to undertake to study medicine at the University of South Pacific. However after two years he felt that Humanity and Arts was his interest and started to study Sociology. In 1980 he migrated to UK where he subsequently completed Sociology Degree with honours and then went on to do his MA. In the meantime he served as an elected councillor in London Borough of Green council (1990-94) and worked for London Borough of Newham as a Principal Anti-Racist officers. During this period he wrote a novel 'Silent Cries' on development of Euro centric racial ideology, which he later produced as a play. After migrating to Australia in 1995 he completed his MA degree and focused his efforts towards journalism and filmmaking. He also concentrated his efforts towards research on Indo-Fijians and tracing roots of descendants of Indentured Indian labourers. He stated Milaap-Discover Your Indian Roots Project and went to India several times to make documentary films on this subject. In 2004 he was offered a candidature to undertake research for Doctor in Creative Arts by the University of Western Sydney on subject of Identity among Indian community of Fiji from the indenture era to present day.

Similar to the documentary mentioned in your article I have produced two documentary films called Milaap: Discover Your Indian Roots (30 mins) and Milaap: a Royal Discovery (52 mins). At present I am editing the 3rd documentary of the Milaap trilogy Milaap: Fiji Girmityas South Indian Connection. I wonder if we can exchange the documentaries on the indenture system for benefit of our mutual audiences in the Pacific and the Caribbean and Surinam.

Love to hear from you in hope of closer cooperation between the Fiji girmityas and the Caribbean girmityas.

warm regards

Satish Rai

Oh man Satish! You are getting me all excited! Of course we will exchange documentaries. I checked your most interesting website and I was moved by the work you are doing. Probably there are more crazy people in the world like us doing this work with passion and rigor. So we start with exchanging the documentaries. As soon as we have received yours, we will organize meetings here in our community to show them. We will also contact

our local tv-stations to see whether we can get it broadcasted, even if it is on the local channels. And out of this communication we will see how things will develop.

Questions

In this section we answer questions by or readers. Please feel free to put your questions to us.

What is the frequency of the newsletter?

The newsletter is produced as often as we feel that there is some news to report about. We expect to produce the newsletter more or less once a month.

How is the newsletter distributed?

The newsletter is sent by email to people who have asked for a free subscription by email. Everybody is free to forward the mail to anyone who might be interested, but if we are to send the mail, than we need an email in our subscription list. Please send your request for a free subscription to indiandiaspora@amcon.nl.

Activity

Sunday November 6 from 14.00-17.00 hr: Think tank meeting with Dr. Jagat Motwani (USA/GOPIO-Global Organisation of People of Indian origin - www.gopio.net) (Sitla Bonoo)

In the last newsletter we announced a think tank meeting for Friday November 4 on the basis of scenes from films on Indians in the Diaspora. This meeting is now going to take place on Sunday November 6. The reason is the following.

Dr. Jagat K.Motwani, a Fulbright Scholar (1966-67), a writer and a community activist and at present Chairman of the Academic Council of GOPIO received our 1st issue of the newsletter and showed interest in our activities. He wanted to participate in our think tank meeting. Dr Motwani informed us that he would be attending the conference 'EU-India Strategic Plan: Enhancing Trade and Investment' (www.eicc.be) on 8-9 November in Brussels and would like to attend our discussion in The Hague.

Dr Motwani has done extensive research on the Indian Diaspora - specially the Indian Diaspora in the USA. One result is the book *America India: In a give and take relationship* (378 pages). See the documentation section on a description of the book. See also this link on basic data on Indians in America: <http://www.nrilinks.com/usa/indians/achieve.htm> .

As we wanted to share his knowledge and experience we extended our hospitality and invited him to stay a few days with us. Dr. Motwani has accepted our invitation and would be arriving in the Netherlands on November 5th. Hence we have postponed the date of our meeting to 6th November. Dr. Motwani will speak on the subject of 'Success of Indians in the USA', which will be followed by discussion. The book of Dr Motwani will also be available against payment.

We shall invite professionals and policymakers who are interested in the subject. If you want to attend the meeting of the Think Tank, please send an email to indiandiaspora@amcon.nl. We have room for 25 seats, so those who mail first will get a seat. Other might get disappointed.

Date: Saturday, 6-11-2005

Time: 14.00-17.00 hr

Place: our home at: Vivienstraat 36, 2582 RT The Hague (Tel.: 070-363 67 28)

Route description: <http://www.amcon.nl/routeVivien.htm>

With this first exchange of ideas with a foreign guest is the start of a new phase in our activities. It is the interaction on Diaspora related subjects with our visitors from abroad. If you are visiting the Netherlands and would like to interact with us, we extend an invitation to meet the members of the "Think Tank" and establish personal contact. We offer our hospitality and you would be our guest in our home. All you need is to follow the example of Dr Motwani and send an e-mail to us. We shall work out the details via email. If there are people in Holland, who want to act as guest for foreign contact of the Indian diaspora, please send us an email at: indiandiaspora@amcon.nl.

Reports

A message from Suriname

Rajendre Khargi is now in Suriname and met with key figures from the Lalla Rookh center.

Revival of Lalla Rookh in Paramaribo well underway ([Rajendre Khargi](#))

The renovation of the Lalla Rookh building in Suriname is going very well. Lalla Rookh is the name of the first ship that brought Indian immigrants as indentured laborers in Suriname in 1873. A group of enthusiastic young Surinamese men and women of the National Foundation for Indian Immigration (better known for its Dutch abbreviation NSHI or just "Lalla Rookh") was able to mobilize both sufficient funds and support in kind to achieve this over the past couple of years.

The first phase of the renovation (office- and conference facilities) has been completed and plans for the next phase are being drawn up. The facilities are well suited for conference activities for up to 150 people. It includes modern IT-infrastructure and catering.

According to Farid A. Ketwaru, Chairman of the Foundation, plans for the next phase will include the creation of a permanent exhibition of historical material on the Migration of Indian Indentured Laborers to Suriname. The final step will be the renovation of the old theater-facilities, located next to the office. The NSHI would like this to become the focal point for various national- and international activities on art and culture.



A new project the Foundation would like to launch is the collecting, recording and publishing of old songs (both music and lyrics) from the ancestors of the Surinamese Hindustani. These 'migration songs' as they are called need to be preserved rather quickly as the first and second generation migrants are fading away rapidly. NSHI is taking the lead in this project. The Indian Diaspora project has offered their support in finding ways to facilitate this project.

It must be noted that NSHI, totally run by volunteers, was very much part in the production of the Diary of Munshi Rahman Khan. Their work is highly appreciated both in and out of Suriname.

Website: <http://www.lallarookh.org> Email: nshi@sr.net

An academic chair for Indian studies in The Netherlands (Rajendre Khargi)

Plans to incorporate an Academic Chair for studies on Indian Migrants from Suriname are shaping up. The Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES) of The University of Amsterdam has recently completed a survey at the request of The Lalla Rookh Foundation in the Netherlands. The study takes stock of the various activities in this domain and describes several international trends in this field. The outcome of the survey will

be discussed in December in Amsterdam with the board of Lalla Rookh and various academic scholars from the Surinamese community, the University of Amsterdam, the International Institute of Social History and other institutes. A fruitful discussion is anticipated which will lead to a choice of options on the academic scope of the Chair and formal steps towards its incorporation. We will continue to report the progress on this very exciting project in the next issues of the News Letter. The Lalla Rookh Foundation, chaired by Dr. K. Sietaram, started its activities (social and cultural) in the early seventies for Surinamese from Indian origin. At that time a large group came to The Netherlands after the announcement of Suriname's independence in November 1975.

Sarnami House (sarnami = language spoken by Indians in Suriname) (Sandew Hira)

Rabin Baldewsingh, council member for the social-democrats in the municipality of The Hague and president of the Sarnami Foundation, has taken the initiative to renovate the old building of a Surinamese welfare foundation. The building was also used for organizing meetings and lectures. After the renovation of the building, it will be renamed as the Sarnami House. It will house a library with books on the history of Indian immigration to Suriname and an exhibition room with artifacts on the history of Indians in Suriname. The Sarnami House will open in the first quarter of 2006.

Bidesia (Sandew Hira)

On June 13th I attended an inspiring and fruitful meeting on the Bidesia project. The 'Bidesia: Migration, Change, and Folk Culture' project deals with the memory of migration, which flows in various cultural forms in the homeland as well as in destinations of migrants (songs, plays, artifacts etc). The project is a joint effort of Suriname (University of Suriname/IMWO), the Netherlands (Royal Tropical Institute) and India (G.B. Pant Social Science Institute (Museum) in Allahabad).

After eight months the researchers from the three countries presented their results. The Dutch contribution was in the form of a performance of poets and singers.

The Surinamese contribution was in the form of presentations by Narinder Mohkamsingh, Maurits Hassankhan and Sahienschadevi Ramdas. Narinder gave an analysis of the folk songs he collected. Maurits and Sahienschadevi dealt with the difference between the use of songs in India, when relatives left for Suriname (the first migration) and in Suriname, when relatives left for Holland (the second migration). Typically enough in the first migration the songs were composed by local singers, while in the second migration songs by famous Indian singers as Latta Mangeshkar and Mohammed Rafi were played in the radio for relatives who left for the Netherlands. These songs then acquired a different meaning. Sahienschadevi sang these songs with her incredible beautiful voice.

Badri Narayan Tiwari presented an analysis of the character of the Bidesia songs in India. I was impressed by his vast knowledge of the folk songs and the way they conveyed the emotions involved in migration. See Badri Narayan Tiwari's article for more details on his work in <http://www.iias.nl/iiasn/30/> (12th item).

The Bidesia project surely is a new way of looking at migration history and I hope we will be able to get more of their results in the near future.

Discussions and ideas

In this section we will touch upon research questions concerning the Indian diaspora. Readers who want to make a contribution between now and the release of the database next year are kindly invited to send us an email at indiandiaspora@amcon.nl.

Is the *jhandi* a specific Indo-Caribbean cultural invention? (Sandew Hira)

At the Bidesia meeting I had the pleasure of talking to Narinder Mohkamsingh. Narinder mentioned the interesting idea that the *jhandi*, a flag on a (long) bamboo stick that is planted after a Hindu ritual of sacrifice, might be a typical Indo-Caribbean invention. It is hardly to be found in India or other Indian communities. I wonder if that is the case. It would be one ritual that might be specific to the Indian diaspora in the Caribbean. If that is the case, it would be an interesting topic for studying how culture changes in the diaspora. We are interested in reactions of Indians around the world and researchers working on diaspora communities, who can shed some light on this. So please send your reaction to: indiandiaspora@amcon.nl.

A new idea? (Sandew Hira)

I did not expect Maurits Hassankhan to attend the Bidesia meeting. His responsibilities as a minister in the Surinamese government of president Venetiaan might prevent him to create space in his agenda. So I was pleasantly surprised to get a call from him that he was in the Netherlands and like us to meet again. We had dinner in Amsterdam. Sahienschadevi joined us at the dinner. And there a few new crazy ideas were born.

IndianDiaspora.nl

English translation of the historical database

In his Bidesia presentation Maurits mentioned the story of a high Indian police commissioner who contacted the Indian embassy in Suriname, because he was looking for his family in Suriname. Normally it is the other way around: Indians in the diaspora searching for their roots in India. But here was a case where relatives who were left behind are looking for offspring of those who left. Maurits did some research, but although there were some leads, conclusive evidence of relatives in Suriname was not found. But it did bring the idea to me to translate the current database on Indian immigrants in English, so that the search can be done from India. That's a challenge we will take for the coming period. At the launching of the database the Royal Archives (<http://www.nationaalarchief.nl/suriname>) had an English translation, but they deleted it. We will have to go into the matter again.

A new complementary historical database?

The following idea was also based on Maurits's presentation for Bidesia.

We have told everyone who contacted us on the genealogical database (www.nationaalarchief.nl/suriname) that there was no more information available on the relatives of the immigrants in India. All we had were the colonial records in Suriname. The records in the British archives were mostly statistics, did not contain personal information. The archives in Calcutta on the immigrants were not available. So we had to disappoint people who were looking for information linking their (great)grandparents to their family in India.

Now Maurits came up with the following information.

He studied the records of the Agent-General (AG) in the archives of Suriname. The correspondence goes like this:

- Immigrant X wants to send money to his relative in India. He goes to the District Commissioner (DC) with the money.
- The DC sends the money to the AG. The AG sends the money and a letter to the Emigration Agent (EA) in Calcutta with the request to send money to the family.
- The EA contacts the police commissioner (PC) in the police station of the village where X comes from.
- The PC sends a police agent to the village who then makes a report that contains information such as: *I have given the money; this is the family situation in the village. X's mother died, X sister is still alive* etc.
- This report ends up in the archive in Suriname via the PC, EA and AG.
- There are thousands of reports like this.

'Waw!' is the first thing that went through my mind. Here it is, the missing link! A very credible source that might contain the most valuable information on the family situation of our ancestors. In fact, if we follow the financial flow, we end up collected data on the family in India and on the process of communication between Suriname and India!

'Maurits, we should digitize the whole thing!' I shouted at the dinner table. 'It is a crime against humanity not to do it!'

Maurits looked at me, cautiously thinking of all his responsibilities and the time consuming project it might turn out to be. How is going to be financed? What is the number of records we are talking about? How is going to lead the project on the ground?

I looked at Sahieshadevi. Somebody who leads a revolt against Maurits, must have organizational capabilities. So there is our girl! And the money? 'God knows, where to find it', I, the atheist, said to a devoted muslim like Maurits.

Maurits looked at me with twinkles in his eyes and said: 'I will make an inventory of the number of records and send you a copy of some records so you can start working on the structure of the database.'

A new crazy idea was born. Would it not be nice to develop this present for our community on June 5 2008, the 130th anniversary of immigration day. How to do it? Where to get the money? Why is life so complicated? God knows. I only know that if the idea is great – and this is a great idea! – and the will is there, words and money will follow the deed.

E-science and the project-based documentation center (Sandew Hira)

Sitla and I had an interesting discussion with Jaap Kloosterman, Director of the International Institute of Social History (IISG) and Marcel van der Linden (head of the research department of the IISG) on the diaspora project. Jaap suggested that the project should be look at as an interesting experiment in e-science.

The National e-Science Centre of the UK (<http://www.nesc.ac.uk/nesc/define.html>) defines e-science as "the large scale science that will increasingly be carried out through distributed global collaborations enabled by the Internet. Typically, a feature of such collaborative scientific enterprises is that they will require access to very large data collections, very large scale computing resources and high performance visualisation back to the individual user scientists.

The World Wide Web gave us access to information on Web pages written in html anywhere on the Internet. A much more powerful infrastructure is needed to support e-Science. Besides information stored in Web pages, scientists will need easy access to expensive remote facilities, to computing resources - either as dedicated Teraflop computers or cheap collections of PCs - and to information stored in dedicated databases."

IndianDiaspora.nl

Now we come across a typical e-science problem with the diaspora project. Any research project of this nature (webbased large-scale database) will have to deal with the following problem: there are millions of books and articles in thousands of library and documentation centers across the world whose data (author, title etc) are accessible via the internet (sometimes you need to login). In the case of large libraries you can make reservations for books via the internet. A researcher normally searches a library catalogue by typing the name of the author of a text from the title and the software looks for matching records. In some cases you can use a code system such as the Universal Decimal Code (UDC). This system pretends to be "a highly flexible and effective system for organizing bibliographic records for all kinds of information in any medium (it is well suited to multi-media information collections). It is structured in such a way that new developments and new fields of knowledge can be readily incorporated." <http://www.udcc.org/about.htm>.

Would it be possible to attach a code for the diaspora project on the basis of which we can search in all library systems for documentation on the Indian diaspora? We asked Donald Haks, director of the Institute for Dutch History (ING) if he could look into this matter. The ING has specialists who follow all literature (books and articles) on Dutch history. Some 80.000 titles have been documented of which two third are articles in periodicals and readers. Donald has promised to bring the matter under the attention of his specialists. We will report the result in one of the coming newsletters and deal with the subject of a project based digital documentation center, which will be part of the diaspora database.

Partnership and the diaspora database

We are building a webdatabase that enables partners of us to have a section of the database devoted to their activities. This might be as simple as a link to their own website or as complicated as a portion of the database that is reserved for structured information. Take for example the discussion Rajendre Khargi had with our friends from Lalla Rookh in Suriname. Lalla Rookh has a series of large photographs and some artifacts on the history of Surinamese Indians. If they are able to setup up their website as a digital museum, then we could provide our reader with a link to that website. If not, they might use our webbased infrastructure which might accommodate a so-called digital museum with picture-, audio- and video-files. This offer stands for all other parties interested in cooperating with the diaspora project.

Networking

University of Amsterdam (Sandew Hira)

Prof. Dr. Mario Rutten and Drs. Sanderien Verstappen from Asian studies of the University of Amsterdam have joined the diaspora network and suggested the following. Asian Studies UvA and IAS (International Institute for Asian Studies) have been organizing a research network for Chinese communities in the Netherlands for five years already. Would we be willing to work together in organizing such a network on the Indian communities? Of course, we would and we surely will! We will be hearing more from Mario and Sanderien about the initiative through this newsletter.

Institute for Dutch History (Sitla Bonoo)

Amrit Consultancy had a meeting with Donald Haks, managing director of the Institute of Netherlands History (www.inghist.nl), and Hans de Valk, projectmanager of the project Culture Crossing Borders. The Institute of Netherlands History is part of the Netherlands Organization of Scientific Research (NWO). It was founded in 1902. The aim of the Institute is to disclose sources of the early middle ages till now. The project Culture across the Border will focus on the material in Holland on colonial history. Many source editions focus on economic and political history. This project will try to disclose sources on the colonized people.

Another aim of the project is to develop a guide with regard to Dutch sources on Asia from the end of the VOC till the second world war (1940).

Another interesting project from the ING is the Digital Biographical Dictionary. This project contains short biographies of important persons in history.

The ING is planning to set up a project on the plantation system in former Dutch colonies. We will be in touch on possible links with our historical databases.

The ING is doing an important job in documenting books and articles on history. We have asked them to investigate the possibility of introducing a code for Indian diaspora in their documentation so that in the online research you can use this code to get all books and articles in their system on Indians in Dutch history.

Organization Hindu Media (OHM) (Sandew Hira)

I happened to meet Ruud Chander, director of the OHM, at the Bidesia meeting. Ruud made us a surprising offer. The OHM has produced a series of documentaries on Indians in the diaspora. These documentaries were based on footage of which part has been used. So their archives contain video-material that could be of importance for research on the diaspora. I asked Ruud to provide us with a list of the documentaries for

publication in the newsletter. People who want to order a documentary or study the material can then contact the OHM.

Erasmus University Rotterdam (Sandew Hira)

Prof. Dr. Alex van Stipriaan is an expert on the African-Caribbean slavery (<http://fhk.sino-online.nl/staff/?lia=763&lang=nl>) and working at the Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). I happened to meet him at the Bidesia meeting. He told me that he is also working part-time for the Royal Tropical Institute. We discussed the idea of engaging his students at the EUR in research on the Indian diaspora. We will send him a list of topics (the EUR has a format for this) and the coming season (starting from February) he will bring the project under the attention of his students. Thanks, Alex!

The database (Sandew Hira)

The development of the database is in full swing. We planned to start operating in June 2006. We are 3 months ahead of our scheme. The next issue of the newsletter will go into the different modules of the database.

Indiawijzer (Wahid Saleh)

Indiawijzer - India in the Netherlands is an information portal and a database with information relating to India. It is a comprehensive overview of the Dutch organizations, institutions and individuals involved in one way or the other with India. It covers only one country - The Netherlands.

The first edition of the Indiawijzer in hard cover was published in 1992 followed by a second edition in 1999. The profit of the first publication went to the Netherlands-India Association and the profit of the second edition was donated to the Anwar Qadir Educational Trust for Higher Education in Jorhat, Assam.

Indiawijzer is now published in the Internet (<http://www.indiawijzer.nl>). The database has been designed primarily to provide information and facilitate contacts. For example: it has an up-to-date cultural agenda of India related programmes, details of artists active in Indian dance and music, a list of mandirs, mosques and gurudwaras, list of Indian restaurants, Dutch companies doing business with India and Indian companies doing business with the Netherlands, Dutch NGO's active in India, information for the tourist including do's and don'ts etc. etc.

It is updated regularly. This directory is provided as a service to the community, free of charge. Indiawijzer in its present form has more than 2.500 pages, 3.000+ images and more than 2.500 external links.

Different organisations and institutions from different countries refer to the web directory of Indiawijzer. Even Russian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Australian, Turkish and Arabian portals have included the link as an information portal to the Netherlands. Government of India in their Pravasi Bharatiya Divas site also included a link to the Indiawijzer. Google has included www.indiawijzer.nl as one of the 7 information Guides & Directories to the Netherlands.

(http://directory.google.com/Top/Regional/Europe/Netherlands/Guides_and_Directories/)

The story behind the Indiawijzer

As a secretary of the Netherlands-India Association I used to get questions from new arrivals from India, school children interested in India, the Dutch public interested in or associated with India and also now and then Dutch business organisations who wanted to do business with India.

Questions which the Embassy of India, The India Institute, The Indian Tourist Office or India Work Group or others received and were not able to answer or did not have the time to answer were generally directed to him. The result is the publication of the Indiawijzer. In Dutch Indiawijzer means guide to India. The name is Dutch. But most of the contents are in English.

Indiawijzer - India in the Netherlands was just an idea. From idea to finished product is the result of months of research, planning and hard work. This whole site is the work of one individual - from the idea to data-collection, web design and maintenance.

Documentation

Weblinks (Wahid Saleh)

Here is a link with annotated bibliography on South East Asian Diaspora and East Africa:
http://coombs.anu.edu.au/Biblio/biblio_sasiadiaspora.html .

Indian Diaspora in the USA (Wahid Saleh)

America India: In a give and take relationship.

By Dr. Jagat K. Motwani

Published by the Center for Asian, African and Caribbean Studies, New York, in cooperation with GOPIO and released in Delhi during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations, January 2003.

The book has almost every thing what one would like to know about India in America from ancient times to today: America, the dreamland of immigrants; history of immigrants (1600-2002); immigration legislation; Asian Indians: A model ethnic minority; their socio-economic statistics compared with other ethnic groups; Do Indian Americans ghettoize?; their dispersion in all the fifty sates and big metropolis cities; the Indian-ness we fear to lose; Indian values compared with American values; political participation and political clout; presidential political appointments; relationship with PIOs from indentured countries; affirmative action and Indian Americans; Mahatma Gandhi statues; civil disobedience: Thoreau - Gandhi - Martin Luther King; America - a melting pot or an ethno-cultural mosaic?; what has India given to America?; Gadar movement; and first Indian Congressman Dalip Singh Saund. The book emphasizes that India has not been on only a receiving end. It has been giving lot to the Western world, especially to America.

Hard cover, 378 pages, Price: US\$20 + \$ 2 (within USA)

To order a copy, mail a check of \$22, payable to: GOPIO, 8 Vanderbilt Parkway, Dix Hills, NY 11746. For postage to other countries please contact (631) 421-4688 or email: gopio@gopio.net.

The book is on sale during the meeting on November 6 in The Hague.

Downloadable papers (Sandew Hira)

In the diaspora database we will have a section with downloadable papers. Up to now we have collected the following papers:

1. Drs. B.N. Madan: People of Indian Origin in the Netherlands since 1947. The papers describes the Indian community (not from Suriname) in Holland. Some 15.000 people from the Indian continent now live in Holland.
2. CONTESTED EQUALITY: Social Relations between Indian and Surinamese Hindus in Amsterdam. M.A. Thesis in Migration and Ethnic Studies by Brit Lynnebakke. This thesis attempts to explain the contradiction in the quote above: Why is it that even though many Surinamese Hindus – the descendants of Indian contract labourers- have a strong interest in India, the relations between Indian and Surinamese Hindus in the Netherlands, are, generally speaking, not very good?

Sahieshadevi Ramdas has promised to send us two interesting papers she wrote: one the black magic (Inderdyal) and one on adultery in the sanathan dharm in Suriname.

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