



**MESSAGE FROM SADASIVAN NAICKER  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
TISI SANGAM, FIJI**

It is a profound pleasure to contribute to the 57<sup>th</sup> Convention of Sanatan Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji in my capacity as the National President of the Then India Sanmarga Ikya Sangam, Fiji. Our annual conventions is an occasion for members and friends from various parts of Fiji and abroad to get together, meet, strengthen our bonds and at the same time create an opportunity to discuss possible solutions to the challenges faced by our faith based organizations.

As it has been rightly the custom at previous such annual conventions without exception, we pay our respect and deeply felt gratitude to the founders of the Sanatan Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji. It were these Girmitya founding fathers who supported and made real their vision of a Fiji where their descendants will have a good sense of their identity, as well as dignity in the evolving Fijian society.

This year (2016) is significant to us as it marks 100 years since the decision to end the indenture system in Fiji. Although the Indenture scheme officially ended in 1920, and last ship carrying the indentured labourers arrived into Fiji on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1916. Between 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1879 and 11<sup>th</sup> November 1916, a total of 60,553 Indians arrived as Indentured labourers or Girmityas.

Since its inception the Sanatan Pratinidhi has been in the forefront in the field of education for all communities throughout Fiji, together with the preservation of arts, culture and tradition in terms of building Temples, schools, training for promotion of religion and contributing towards nation building. This year's theme "Sanatan-Promoting Unity in Diversity" is timely and appropriate. What would we be without our religion, our culture and our language?

Looking at the program for the convention I am impressed with the various religious and sports activities planned for members, youths and mothers which I am sure will really provide the platform for a lot of rich experiences during the four day convention. I must take this opportunity to thank the leaders of the Sanatan Pratinidhi Sabha and the organizers of this year's convention.

We all know that traditionally our conventions were held during the Easter. However, due to the extensive damage suffered by the nation this year the conventions had to be postponed. It takes a lot of determination and manpower to organize conventions of such magnitude and I sincerely thank the Sanatan Cuvu Branch for hosting this year's convention.

On behalf of the Then India Sanmarga Ikya Sangam, I wish you all a fruitful and rewarding convention.

