

1860 FOOTPRINTS



Unveiling the names of more than 4 000 Indentured labourers, inscribed on the wall behind them, at the Freedom Park Memorial, in Pretoria, yesterday afternoon (Tuesday), were, from left, Tanga Kollapen, veteran activist Ahmed Kathrada, Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane, activist Amina Cachalia and chairman of the 1860 Legacy Foundation Gauteng, Jody Kollapen
Picture: FAKIR HASSEN



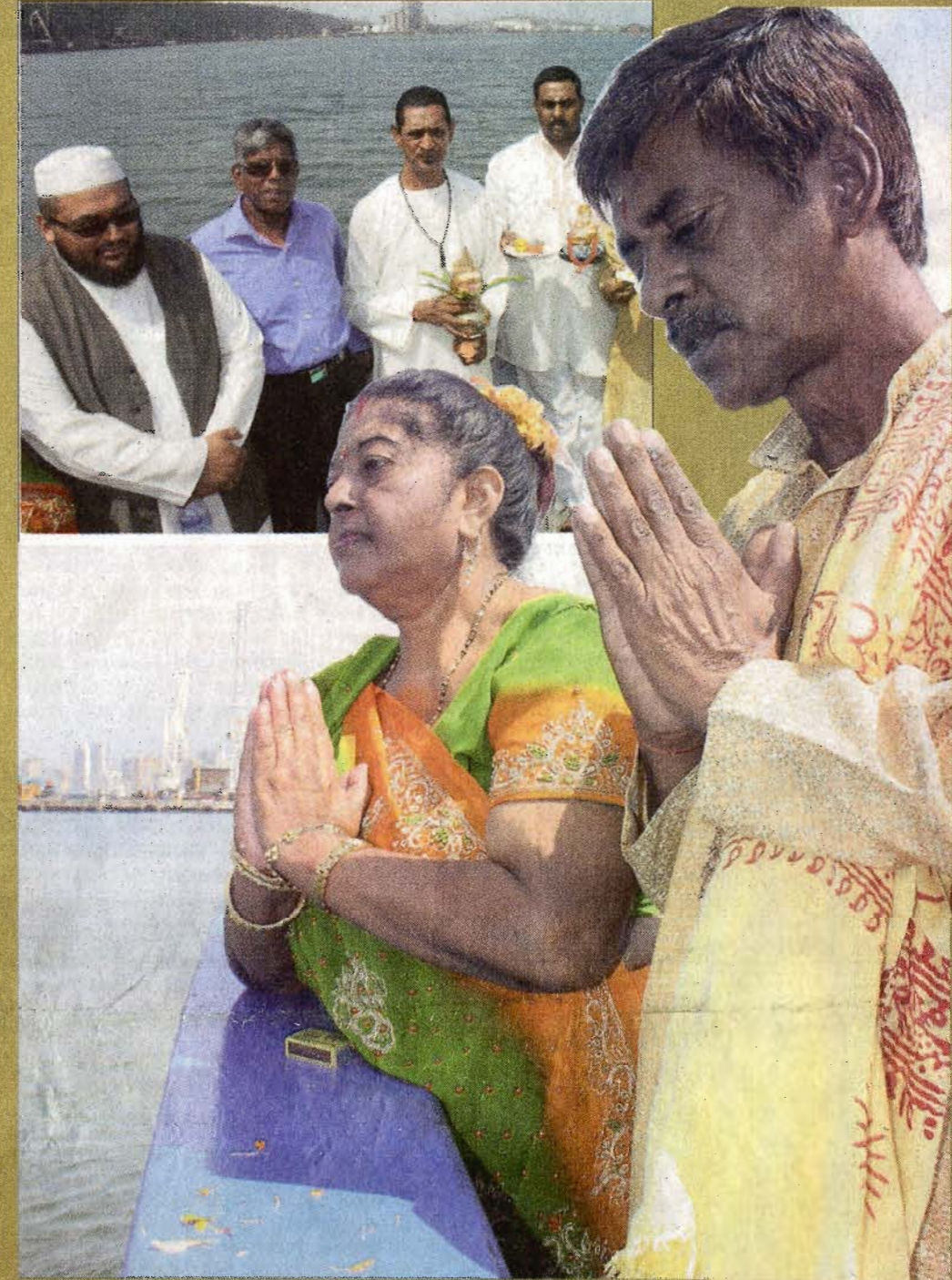
Getting ready to instal the time capsule at the old Burger Street Prison, in the Pietermaritzburg CBD, were Koushik Maharaj and Melanie Vewess (both of the PMB 1860 Legacy Foundation), uMgungundlovu District Mayor Yusuf Bhamjee, Ela Gandhi and her son Kidar Ramgobin (both descendants of peace icon Mahatma Gandhi)
Picture: NINEY RUTHNAM



ABOVE: Participating in a traditional hawan ... Seelan Achary, left, the Indian Consul General Anil Kumar Sharan and KZN Premier Zwell Mkhize. Looking on (behind Sharan) is Brookdale Primary, Phoenix, principal Rabu Soman and pupil, Karina Singh

ABOVE RIGHT: Religious leaders from the various faiths ... Moulana Mohammad Farouk Soofie, left, Pastor Joey Govender, Nanda Ramsamy and Deon Ramnarain, who performed a thanks-giving prayer, a few kilometres out at sea, just off Addington Beach

RIGHT: Lotus fm producer Anitha Soojansingh left, and Hindu priest, Aniruth Gowtham
Pictures: ZAIL SINGH



MOOSA'S
salvage

(ON POINT ROAD)

DIRECTIONS: WE ARE LOWER DOWN POINT ROAD, PAST HOSPITAL ROAD, PAST SOUTH BEACH AVENUE. WE ARE ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE. LOOK OUT FOR OUR FLAGS!

261 Point Road, Durban Tel: 031 332 5395/ 083 578 6679

30th BIRTHDAY

EXTENDED TRADING HOURS THIS SUNDAY

urger Street Prison, in the Pietermaritzburg
oth of the PMB 1860 Legacy Foundation),
Gandhi and her son Kidar Ramgobin (both
Picture: NINEY RUTHNAM

Religion unites 1860 efforts

YOGAS NAIR

AUNITED religious front. That was the theme of the 1860 celebrations to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians to South Africa at various venues.

These included Addington Beach in Durban, where the SS Truro dropped anchor; on November 16, 1860, the installing of a time capsule at the old Burger Street Prison in Pietermaritzburg and a colourful event at the Freedom Park in Pretoria.

Dressed in traditional saris, dhotis, kurtha tops, sherwanis and punjabis, a high profile delegation of religious, community and political leaders, including KZN Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize, MEC for Human Settlements Maggie Govender; 1860 Legacy head Ashwin Trikamjee and Seelan Achary, spokesman for the 1860 Commemoration Council, converged on Addington Beach, at about 5.30am yesterday (Tuesday), to pay tribute to our forebears through a multi-faith prayer and a boat trip around the harbour.

The service commenced with praise and worship by Pastor Joey Govender; recital of a prayer from the Quran by Lotus fm sports presenter Althaf Suleman and a colourful hawan by Pundits Deon Ramnarain (Shree Marieammen Temple, Mt Edgecombe); Nanda Ramsamy (Andra Maha Sabha); and Madan Maharaj and Aniruth Gowtham (both of the Northcroft

Hindu Dharma Sabha).

After participating in the hawan ceremony, Mkhize paid homage to the contribution and achievements of South Africans of Indian descent and praised this historic occasion as "an important moment in history that helped shape our Rainbow Nation".

Said Mkhize: "We are one nation and our loyalty is with our country. But being able to express our different languages, religion, culture and respect for each other, makes us a unique nation. In most countries religion and culture is a source of conflict; in South Africa, this is a basis for unity."

He said while many of the Indentured labourers had the option of going back to India after their term of Indenture had ended, many remained and this was a symbol of their "loyalty and patriotism" to our country.

"At that time, our country was not developed and the Indentured Indians were subjected to harsh conditions. But, they were prepared to nurse a vision for South Africa to ensure a bright future for their children and the generations that followed. They embraced the challenges and built schools, temples, churches, mosques and businesses - 150 years on and this legacy is still alive."

Mkhize said all South Africans should draw lessons from this and work together to overcome challenges such as poverty; HIV/Aids; fraud; corruption and the drugs scourge. President Jacob Zuma echoed similar sentiments in a media statement.

Said President Zuma: "Their odyssey from slave to full and equal South African citizens is intertwined with the struggle for freedom and democracy in South Africa. Their entrepreneurial spirit, their perseverance in the face of insurmountable odds, their identification and involvement with our country's pursuit for liberation, has endeared them to our fellow citizens. The names of Dr Kesaveloo 'Goonam, Monty Naicker, Mac Maharaj will forever remain etched in our country's soul."

Speaking in parliament yesterday, IFP MP Narend Singh said the legacy of the Indian community was far greater than curry and rice and bunny chows.

Said Singh: "More than ever before I dream of a homogenous country, in which Indians take up their rightful place and finally become citizens who are proud to be South Africans."

Meanwhile, writes **PATRICK HLAHLA (Pretoria News)**, at the Freedom Park celebrations, in Pretoria, a number of well known South Africans who included former Robben Island prisoner Ahmed Kathrada, the chairman of the National Religious Leaders Forum, Ashwin Trikamjee, and former Minister in the Presidency Esop Pahad, attended. At this event, a plaque with the names of some of the first Indians to arrive in the country was unveiled by Gauteng Premier Nomvula Mokonyane and the chairman of the 1860 Legacy Foundation, Jody Kollapen.

SEE PAGE 3



Minority Front leader Amichand Rajbansi and his wife Shameen Thakur-Rajbansi, also performed a prayer in honour of their forefathers, who arrived from India in 1860, at Addington Beach, yesterday morning

Picture: SUPPLIED

Remnants of Indentured labourers in Illovo

**MARIMUTHU SUBRAMONEY –
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

TUCKED away, at the bottom of several hills, about six kilometres from the South Coast town of Kingburgh, is the historical sugar estate village of Illovo. Here, more than 140 years since the Indian Indentured labourers arrived to work on the estate, there are still about 100 families or about 500 descendants, of the early Indians, who have made this little village their permanent home.

As soon as you enter the village, you are immediately transported to an era when Indian sugar labourers, despite their hardships, developed a close-knit community through their religion, culture, song, and dance.

At the entrance to the village, two temples and a church greet visitors. A short distance away is a primary school where some children and grandchildren of the early workers obtained their schooling.

A number of the original barracks homes are still standing, alongside renovated and newly built, modern houses.

A short distance away, in an area called Illovo Heights, is the main Illovo Maha Vishnu Temple, which has its origins some 140 years ago.

COMEDIAN

When a **POST** team visited the village recently, we bumped into an energetic and sprightly man, 73-year-old retired estate worker Rangasamy Gounden. A talkative Gounden, who was

a Theerookuttoo (six foot) dancer, stage performer and comedian, for more than 50 years, took us on a tour of the village before inviting us to his humble home.

His lounge was adorned with photographs of his parents, grandparents, other family members and two large portraits of legendary Tamil actors, MG Ramachandran and Sivaji Ganesan.

Said Gounden: "I was born in Illovo, in a place called Mill Barracks, along with four brothers and two sisters."

Gounden did not go to school because at the time there were none in the area. However, he did learn to speak his mother tongue, Tamil, and was regularly involved in temple and cultural activities.

He said his grandparents

came from a village near Madras (now Chennai) in Tamil Nadu, India.

"I started work as a field hand in the sugar estate at the age of 15. My first salary was one pound and two shillings and six pence, a month.

"I worked as a field hand for 20 years and also cut cane. Thereafter, I worked in the nursery and retired in the painting department. My working life spanned more than 50 years."

According to Gounden, the early Indian workers were first housed in Karridene, before being moved to the Tin Barracks and Top Barracks, in Illovo. The Indian workers were housed in the current village about 100 years ago.

The Illovo Sugar Estate was first started by the Pierce fam-

ily before being sold to its current owners, the CG Smith family.

He said most of the workers were Tamil and Telugu speaking, with a handful of Hindi-speaking people, most of who worked as labourers on the estate and at the sugar mill.

"After the mill was moved to Eston about 30 years ago, the company established a syrup plant in its place. Some of the people moved to Eston while others were taken on to work at a sugar mill in Cool Air, near Pietermaritzburg."

Gounden said Illovo was known for its cultural and religious activities.

"I took part in many six foot dances and was also a stage performer and comedian. We also took part in the eistedfodd and shows in and around Dur-

ban and many other areas."

Another resident who worked for the Illovo company for more than 40 years is Shunmagum Naidoo. Born in an area called Thata Place, in Illovo in 1939, Naidoo's grandparents came from the former Madras Presidency, parts of which are now in the current state of Andhra Pradesh in South India. His father was also born in Illovo.

"My four brothers, who are all late and my sister, were also born here. I started work at the age of 17, as a tea boy and I remember my first salary was six pounds. When I retired five years ago, I was earning about R6 000 a month," he said.

Naidoo, who has three sons and a daughter, said in addition to the religious and cultural activities that kept the people to-

gether, they also enjoyed football. Some of the football teams that came out of Illovo were Young India, Pirates, Blue Birds, United, and Workshop.

LEADERS

There were a number of leaders who contributed to the social, religious, cultural, sporting and educational development of the community. They included K Velayudan, who came from Kerala in India; Muthoo Gounden; Veerasamy Chetty; Latchappa; Chinna Naidoo; Kamsal Archery; V M Reddy and PA Naicker.

Despite the hardships and poverty, the Illovo community managed to produce a number of teachers, three doctors and lots of business people.

"You know we also had two

political activists in our village. They were C S Naidoo and Aniff Omar, who were forced to flee Illovo because of harassment by the police. Naidoo went to Canada and Omar went to Port Elizabeth. Both visited us recently and have made contributions to the activities of our temples and cultural life," said Naidoo.

Vijaya Shunmagum, 46, said she would not trade living in Illovo for anything.

"We all are very united and we still share food with our neighbours," she said.

According to Shunmagum, the entire village is involved in spiritual and cultural activities. She and two of her relatives formed the Sri Saraspathy Ragam and perform at funerals, ceremonies and other prayer functions. **SEE PAGE 6**

CULTURE AND RELIGION GUIDED THEM

FROM PAGE 5

"We are all trying to keep alive the rich culture and traditions of our forefathers, who sacrificed so much for us."

Further south, about 30km away and near Scottburgh, is the little settlement of Renishaw, which is owned by the Crookes family.

As one enters the village, the Marantha Church, which was first built of reed by Indian workers, and the Sri Saiva Sithantha Sungum temple, greet visitors.

There are about 27 Indian families living in company-built two-room houses. Most of the heads of the families are retired, while only about eight still work for the the Crookes Bros.

"Culture and religion played an important part in the lives of our forefathers who lived in this village," said 67-year-old Chinsamy Moodley, who retired in 2007 after working for Crookes Bros for 37 years.

"My grandparents, who were from India, and my parents, first lived in an estate called Colin Cotry before moving to Renishaw where we stayed in the Mill Barracks. But in 1976 the area was hit by a huge flood and there was a lot of damage. The company then moved us to Illovo and even assisted with relocating the temple."

Moodley said his six brothers, three of whom have passed on, and four sisters were born in Renishaw. His surviving sib-

lings live in the Umzinto-Park Rynie areas, and in Durban.

"I remember when I first started work I was paid three pounds a month and given ration of mealie rice, flour, oil, dhal and salt. My father used to earn about four pounds a month."

Moodley and his wife, Muni-amma, who was also born in Renishaw, have three sons and two daughters who are all professionals.

"Despite our family working in Renishaw and on other Crookes family estates for more than 100 years, we don't know what the future holds for us. We are still paying rent and hope this house will be given to us in our retirement years."

Another resident, Devi

Govender, 58, whose family also worked in the area for more than 100 years, said Renishaw was their historical home.

CROOKES

Govender, a widow, said both her grandparents and parents had worked in the sugar estates owned by Crookes Bros for more than 100 years.

"We all live here as a family and help one another in times of need. The temple is a meeting place for us and we have a service once a week," she said.

One of the residents still working for Crookes Bros is Michael Pillay, 59. His father, Kanabathy Pillay, and mother, Kamachee, had worked in the fields and in the mill as labour-

ers for more than 52 years each.

His grandparents, who had come from India, had also worked for Crookes Bros.

Pillay, who is in charge of the Marantha Church, said they would celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2012.

"We were told that the early workers first built the church with reed and mud. Later it was upgraded with wood-and-iron and about 80 years ago, it was built with blocks.

"We hope to have a grand centenary celebration in two years' time."

Other estates in the area where Indian Indentured labourers toiled to make a home for themselves and their families include Ellingham and Ocean View.

CHILLINGout

with **NINEY RUTHNAM**

Remembering the arrival of Indians in 1860

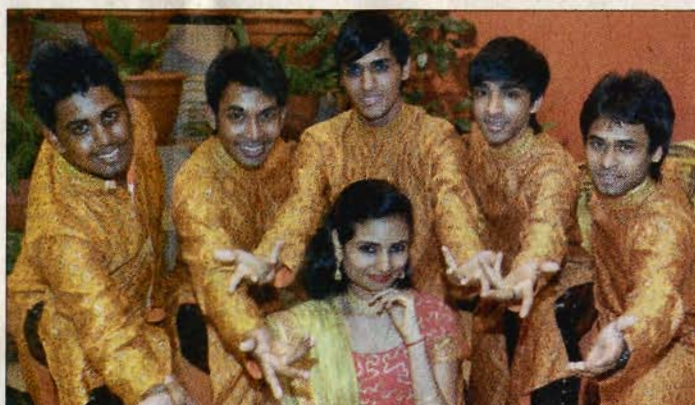
To commemorate the arrival of Indian Indentured labourers to South Africa, 150 years ago, **POST** held an 1860 celebration at Independent Newspapers offices in Osborne Street, Greyville, last Wednesday. Celebrations included a live broadcast with *Lotus fm*, the announcement of the winners of the trip to India and the kitchen studio competitions as well as a Sari Queen Contest



THE **POST** editorial and advertising teams get ready to cut the 150th celebratory cake



Sumaya Dawood, left, Satish and Susheela Balgobind, Eurasha Singh with daughter Yadvu and Tareen Dawood (back)



Dancers, kneeling from left, Nirmesh Rambhir, Qraam Rahim, Shaneel Sookdeo, Yesheen Bhagwande and Suaran Singh with Astami Sewsunker (seated) of the Nateshwar Dance School



Nirvana Hemraj, centre, was crowned Sari Queen while Omeshnie Naidoo, right, was first runner up and Sindile Maluleka, left, was second runner up



Lotus fm team... back from left, Magesh Pillay, Althaf Suleman and Arlette Lazarus. Seated Shirdika Pillay, left, and Byron David



Lilly Chetty, left, Arthi Maharaj, Nitesh Dayal, Devagie Naidoo and Asodi Abboy

Gold Circle Race Day

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians to South Africa, Gold Circle hosted a raceday, on Saturday. Celebrations included a Sari Queen and Eastern Wear competition as well as the announcement of the winner of a trip to Mumbai, courtesy of Jet Airways



From left: Hemant and Bronwyn Ramlugan, Rama and Esme Padayachie, Minister of Communications Roy Padayachie, Indian Consul General Anil Kumar Sharan and his wife Simita, Dumisani Ngema, Roy Moodley and Moga Pillay (chairman of Gold Circle, KZN)



Winner of the Jet Airways, trip to Mumbai, India, Raeza Hassan, centre, is presented with her prize by Robbie Naidoo, left, and Samir Chada (right), both of Jet Airways



Winners of the Sari Queen competition ... Pooja Mothiram, left, (2nd princess), Tanusha Moodley (Queen) and Raksha Sookdhoo (1st princess)

Pinky Mothie's Bollywood Show Girls ... standing from left, Naquita Chuttergoon, Rebecca Gopichund, Terisha Gopichund, Shante Pillay and Avishka Mothiram. Seated, from left, Alicia Sheodin, Sanam Rampatha and Nicole Naidoo



From left: Shyam and Shreen Gyanda with Jay and Sheri Jagathpal



Ronnie Chetty, left, with Mohini and Deena Murugasen



Anitha Ramfol, left, Ansuyah Moodley, Sharan Haricharan, Anne Carter, Roy Sheodin and Pinky Mothie



CHILLINGout



with **NINEY RUTHNAM & ZAIL SINGH**

Triple Anniversary Banquet

The Indian Academy of South Africa held a triple anniversary commemorative banquet, to mark the 150th anniversary of Indians to South Africa, the 50th anniversary of the academy and of the Indian Annual South Africa, at the International Convention Centre, Durban, on Saturday



LEFT:
 Recipients of the Nadaraja Award...Chintamoney Naidoo, left, Pushpa Jutta, Ishwarlall Mangaroo and Kumari Ambigay

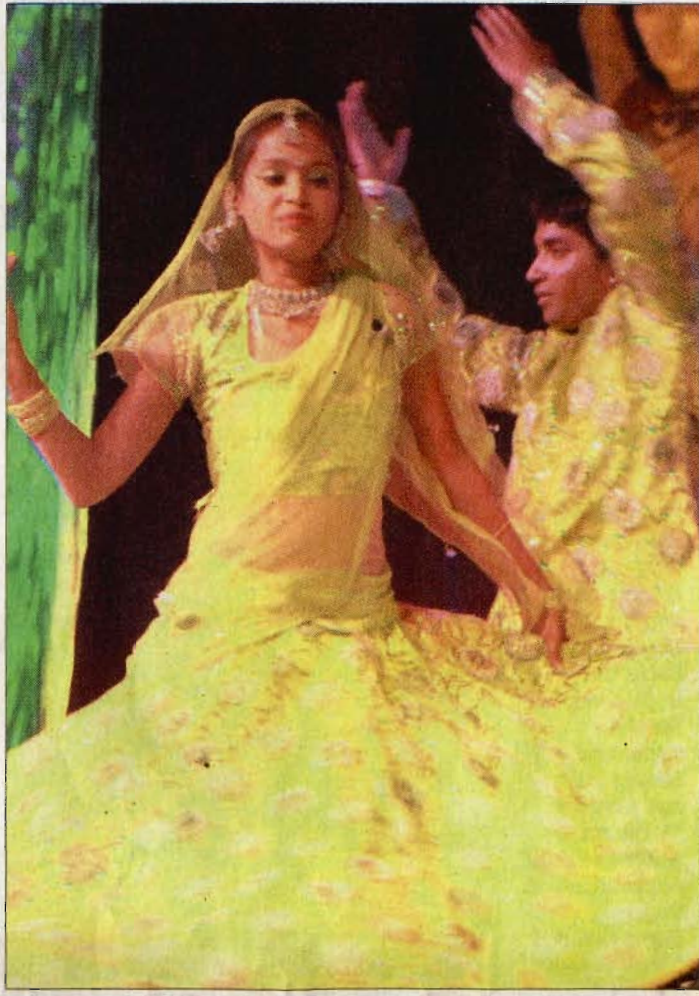
BELOW:
 Guests were entertained by a group of dancers from India



ABOVE: Representing the Willowton Group, Rayseelan Naidoo, left, accepts the Corporate Award on behalf of Sammy Naidoo, while Tilly Komagum Naidoo and Neerendra Ishwarlall Ramharakh, both received the Golden Peacock Achiever award



RIGHT:
 TV personality Jayloshini Naidoo, left, Tholisiah Perumal (TP) Naidoo and his daughter Vasantha Naidoo



Thanks Giving Prayer

Bethshan Worship Centre held a thank you prayer, to commemorate the arrival of Indians in South Africa, at their church in Alpine Road, Springfield, on Sunday



Jo-Anne, left, and Terrence Govender with Tammy Moodley, Karson and Trisha Naidoo



Ruby Naidoo, left, Ravi Naidoo, Faizee Bodha, Mervin Samuels and Regina Samuels

Cultural Show for 1860

The South African Tamil Federation held a cultural show on Saturday, at the Enchanted Gardens at the Clairwood Park Race Course, to celebrated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians to South Africa



Members of the Tamil Federation dressed as Indentured labourers ... Shanthi Ravichandram, left, Shagithya Vengatraman, Soundlla Moodley, Ann Naidoo, Shirley Govender, Kalay Moopanar, Amby Murugan, Nad Moodley (back), Savatri Reddy, Sada Naicker, Ramany Vengatraman and Percy Naidoo



Sathia Pillay, left, Ravi Padayachee, Mickey Chetty, Poomoney Naidoo, Radha Pillay and Sigarmoney Naidoo



Musicians Venkatesh Raghavendran (Hridangam), left, Saranya Vengatraman, Sangitha Vengatraman (both on the Veena) and Srinivasan Venkatramani (keyboard) entertained guests with their soothing melodies

150 years celebrated with bhajans

THE special 152-page supplement published by **POST** last Wednesday to mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first Indentured Indian labourers occupied a special place at a celebration to commemorate the event by the Pretoria Bhajanai Mandram on Sunday.

Bhajan Maalai, a garland of bhajans until evening, saw a host of bhajan groups from throughout the country participate at the impressive Shree Ayyappaa Kshetram in Erasmus, Pretoria, from 6am until



Guru Srinivasa Iyer, left, and Dr Raj Kolapen, next to the exhibition of each page of the POST 150th anniversary supplement laminated and put on display

Picture: FAKIR HASSEN

6pm.

Besides the bhajan renditions and discourses, an exhibition of the history of the Indian community was also held, alongside plans to develop the temple premises situated on the banks of the Hennops

River, into a community centre. The participating bhajan groups included: The Laudium Mandir Bhajan Mandal, the Pretoria Tamil League, Rishi (Laudium), the Benoni Bhajan Mandal, the Shree Kaalamman Kovil Mandram

(Benoni), the Middleburg Hindu Samaj, Samarasa Sunmarka (Johannesburg), the Laudium Sunday Mandir Bhajan Group, the Kalaivani Innisai Mandram (Centurion), the Bal Bhaktha Bhajan Mandal (Laudium) and the Pretoria Bhajanai Mandram.

“Our past 150 years echoes with sentiments of gratitude and generosity, fortitude and forbearance, suffering and sacrifice, vision and tenacity,” said Dr Raj Kolapen, who spearheaded the campaign to build the temple. “Our forefathers made significant contributions in the political, social, economic, cultural, educational and spiritual fields. They left us with a legacy and living proof that noble intentions, effort and sacrifice bring the desired results in time. We must not dwell on the past, but use it to build the future.”

Indians praised for sacrifice in war

THE story of Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian Ambulance Corps came under the spotlight at the 90th annual Remembrance Sunday event at the Cenotaph in Harrison Street in central Johannesburg on Sunday afternoon. It was part of a series of events launched countrywide to mark 150 years since the arrival of Indentured Indians to South Africa.

National Civic Remembrance Sunday honours all South Africans, who made the supreme sacrifice for their country in wars and conflict, including the struggle for democracy.

"About 1 000 Indian stretcher-bearers, mainly Indentured labourers from Natal's sugar estates, served under Gandhi in the Anglo-Boer War of 1899 to 1902," said the Acting Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Parks Tau.

"They were in action at the Battle of Colenso and the Battle of Spionkop, coming under fire more than once. In 1906 Gandhi again raised a medical corps for the British forces in what became known as the Bambata Rebellion.

"The young Gandhi's experience of Colonial conflict spurred him on to dedicate his life to the cause of peace and non-violence. Gandhi went on to become a world leader of the anti-war



Marie Pillay-Ramiah and Valerie Sebastian, of the 1860 Legacy Foundation Gauteng, laid wreaths at the Cenotaph in honour of the Indian Ambulance Corps formed by Mahatma Gandhi at the turn of the 19th century Picture: FAKIR HASSEN

movement," added Tau. Professor Gerrie Lubbe, who served the Via Christi Community Church, in Lenasia, from 1970 to 2006, led the service.

"We honour the Indian community for the way they served in times of war and peace and for their contribution to freedom in South Africa," said Professor Lubbe.

They toiled and reaped success

CANDICE SOOBAMONEY

IN MAY 1911, the SS Umzinto left Madras and arrived in Durban a month later.

On board was an 18-year-old youth, Sebak Maikoo, of Dooghara village, in the district Sitapur, in Uttar Pradesh, India.

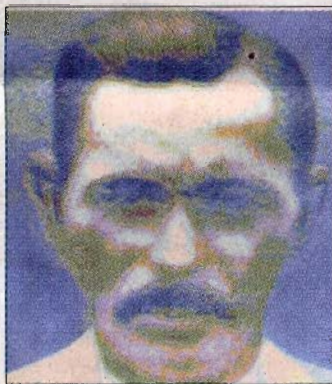
He arrived as a free passenger and was employed by Mr L Estrange and William Edmond as a market gardener, in the Fawnleas, Noodsberg and New Hanover areas, outside Pietermaritzburg.

After a few years, Maikoo relocated to William Street, in the Pietermaritzburg CBD, where he worked as a self-employed market gardener.

His daughter, Renuka Hurburun, 67, of Manjee Place, Effingham Heights, Effingham, said he sold his produce to the white residents in the area.

He later married Bhagwanthie Sarawan, who lived on the same street, in 1917.

The couple worked side by side as hawkers and in addition to this, they ran a poultry



Renuka Hurburun's parents, Sebak Maikoo, left, and Bhagwanthie Sarawan



Pictures: SUPPLIED

business in nearby East Street.

They went on to have 14 children, seven girls and seven boys.

The surviving sons are: Chundarpal, 90; Haripal, 88; Ishwar, 75, and daughters: Sookmathie Jugnath, 91; Krishna Shah, 84; Sheila Kallie, 76; Bindu Singh, 73; and Premilla Manik, 69.

Renuka is the youngest.

She said her dad went on to become the first Hindi teacher

in Kwa-Zulu Natal, having taught at the Shri Vishnu Temple Hindi School, in Longmarket Street, Pietermaritzburg.

"He was well-versed in Hindi and wanted to pass his knowledge onto the children."

Renuka said her parents worked hard to provide for their large family.

"They worked long hours and were often tired when they got home, but they never complained. My parents were un-

doubtedly role models," said Renuka, who added her eldest brother, Chundarpal, also worked alongside their parents to contribute toward the household income and help educate the remainder of the brood.

She said her dad, a member of the Ved Dharam Sabha, in Longmarket Street, died in 1945 at age 52, and her mum passed away in 1993 at age 92.

"Today, the Maikoo family, of Pietermaritzburg, has many teachers, engineers, doctors, lawyers and businessmen.

"The perseverance and inspiration that was ingrained in us, by our parents, enabled us to instill the same values in our children, grandchildren and subsequent generations.

"As a strict Hindi teacher, he inculcated high morals of Hindi Dharma (values and norms by which we should live) in his teachings, which influenced our lives tremendously." She said her brother Chundarpal, of Allandale, Pietermaritzburg, was a Hindu priest.

1860 events a catalyst to unite the community

THE 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indentured labourers to South Africa, in 1860, has been variously referred to as a celebration, commemoration or commiseration, depending on ideological orientation. There has been general agreement that it is an historic event worthy of some recognition.

Of note, has been the unprecedented focus on the Indentured, who arrived here, first, on November 16, 1860, on the SS Truro, to sow the seeds for the generations that followed.

With the 1860 Legacy Foundation being established in almost all provinces and cities where the descendants of Indentured labourers live and work, including the Free State from which they were banned until very recently, the wheels began to turn, albeit at a spin bowler's pace, as it began to resemble a case of too many chiefs, and not enough Indians.

However, with the Legacy Foundation, whose roots were firmly planted at the Kendra Hall in Durban on February 3, 2009, in the forefront, and others, like the 1860 Commemoration Council, making a valuable contribution, with initiatives such as Eastern Friday, the momentum has since grown. Admirably.

What, though, is the significance of the 150th anniversary? Some political analysts have suggested that it has provided a platform to bolster and mobilise a community that, at times, feels increasingly betrayed, isolated and marginalised in a democracy that is supposed to reflect our Rainbow Nation. Rudderless and leaderless, this community is floundering in the post-apartheid era, devastated, no doubt, by the impacts of affirmative action, crime, cronyism and corruption.

The various 150th anniversary events have served as a catalyst to unite the descendants of Indentured labourers; reflect with pride their trials, tribulations and tenacity to transcend adversity against almost impossible odds; reinvigorate the community from apathy; continue the struggle for justice, democracy and non-racialism, and above all, providing a pedestal for a new layer of independent leadership, capable of articulating the challenges facing the community without fear or favour. We owe it to the next generation who will pass judgment in 2060!

POSTCARDfromtheEDGE

1860 TO 2010
AND BEYOND



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