



**MANIPAL UNIVERSITY  
JAIPUR**

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Format

Event Report



**MANIPAL UNIVERSITY  
JAIPUR**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES**

**In collaboration with**

**Apravasi Ghat Trust Fund Mauritius, International Scientific Committee,  
Indentured Labour Route Project Gathari Girmitiya Research Foundation,  
Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius**

Organised conference on  
**The Saga of Girmitiya Migration: Re-engaging Homeland, Culture, History  
and Memory**

**International Conference**

**12-13 APRIL 2022**

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## 1. Introduction of the Event

The Department of Languages, SHSS, Manipal University Jaipur organizes a Three-Day International Conference (Scopus indexed) on Girmitiya Migration from 27-29 April 2022 wherein Dr Neha Singh, Convener of the Conference, briefly introduced the theme of girmitiya migration and its relevance. The aim of this event was to find out a solution to maximize the global efforts in abolishing the different forms of slavery and labour exploitation

### • Objectives of the Event

The conference aims to create a dialogue between scholars from different disciplines to:

1. Provide a global platform to researchers and academicians to explore the possibilities of gaps in girmitiya migration.
2. Endorse a multidisciplinary forum to discuss the colonial expansion behind the exploitation of labour.
3. Address the need and solutions to safeguard the tangible and intangible heritage of the *girmitiya* community.
4. Maximize the global efforts in abolishing the different forms of slavery and labour exploitation and their repercussions in the present day.

## 2. Beneficiaries of the Event

Faculty, Research scholars, and Postgraduate students

## 3. Details of the Guests

- Chief Guest, Mr Avinash Teeluck, Minister of Arts and Cultural Heritage, the Republic of Mauritius
- Guest of Honour, J. P. Singh Joorel, Director, INFLIBNET
- Keynote Speaker, Prof Crispin Bates, Professor of History, the University of Edinburgh, UK
- Mr. Satyendra Peerthum, Member, ISC-ILRP, Coordinator-IOC, Senior Historian, AGTF, Mauritius
- Dr. R.B. Bhagat, Professor, International Institute of Population Studies, Mumbai
- Mr. Chand Ramgoolam, Director, Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, Mauritius



- Dr. Ghanshyam, Professor, Department of History, Banaras Hindu University, Banaras
- Dr. Amit Kumar Mishra, Associate Professor, Ambedkar University Delhi
- Dr. Priyanka Tripathi, Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT-Patna
- Dr. Kamala Naikar, Head, Department of Language, Literature, and Communication, The University of Fiji
- Prof. Richard Allen, Professor Emeritus, Framingham State University, Massachusetts, USA
- Dr. Satnarine Balkaransingh, Economist & Artist from Trinidad
- Prof. Irudaya Rajan, Chairman, International Institute of Migration and Development, Kerala
- Dr. Brahma Prakash, Assistant Professor, Jawahar Lal Nehru University
- Dr. Amba Pande, Research Officer, Jawaharlal Nehru University

#### **4. Brief Description of the event**

The South Asian labour migration started with the introduction of the indentured labour system in 1838. This labour migration tried to fill the gap of African slaves who were denied serving colonial powers after the abolition of slavery in 1833. More than 1.5 million men and women migrated to different colonies from the Indian subcontinent. The experiences of indentured labour migration from South Asia reflect the severe violence which was inflicted on labourers. The Girmitya consciousness explains the process of the deceitful recruitment process, corporal punishment, hardships, etc. The famous historian, David Northrup draws our attention to the fact that indenture labour migration can be classified as labour diaspora where people from the Indian subcontinent were pushed to migrate to different British colonies by signing an agreement of five years.

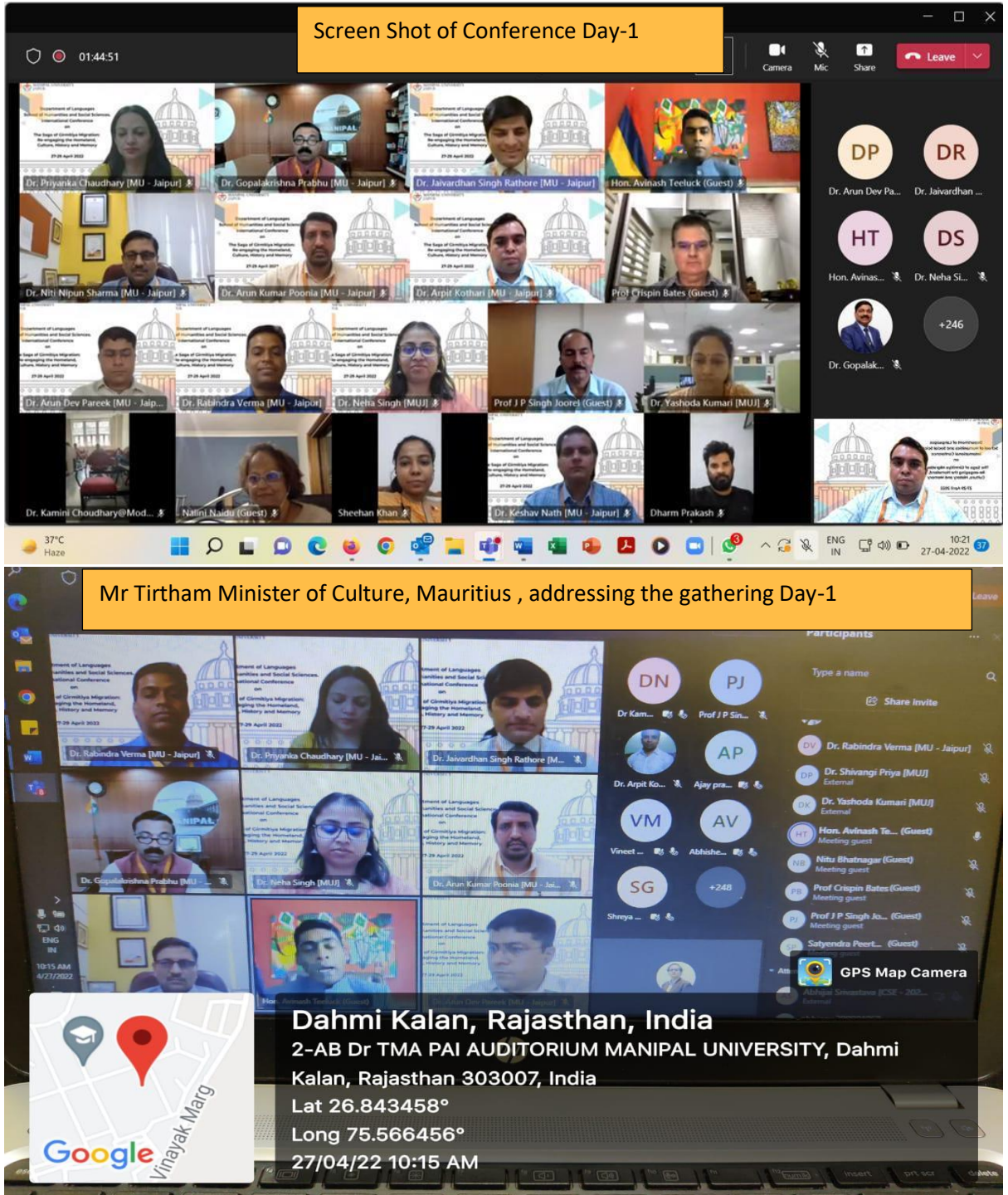
The term “girmitya” is a malapropism of the English word “agreement” under the Indentured Labour System (1834 – 1920) during British Colonial rule in India. This word is derived from “gimit” a word used by the indentured labourers, mostly from north India, who could not pronounce the English word “agreement”. The Abolition of Slavery Act (1833) created a grave scarcity of labours in European colonies. Hence, South Asia became an alternate source for ‘girmitya’ – a ‘contract labours. These labours were also known as “coolies”, “Jahajis”, “Indentured Labour” or “Indian Labourers” who were forcefully and voluntarily taken from colonial India (today’s Pakistan and Bangladesh) and scattered across the British

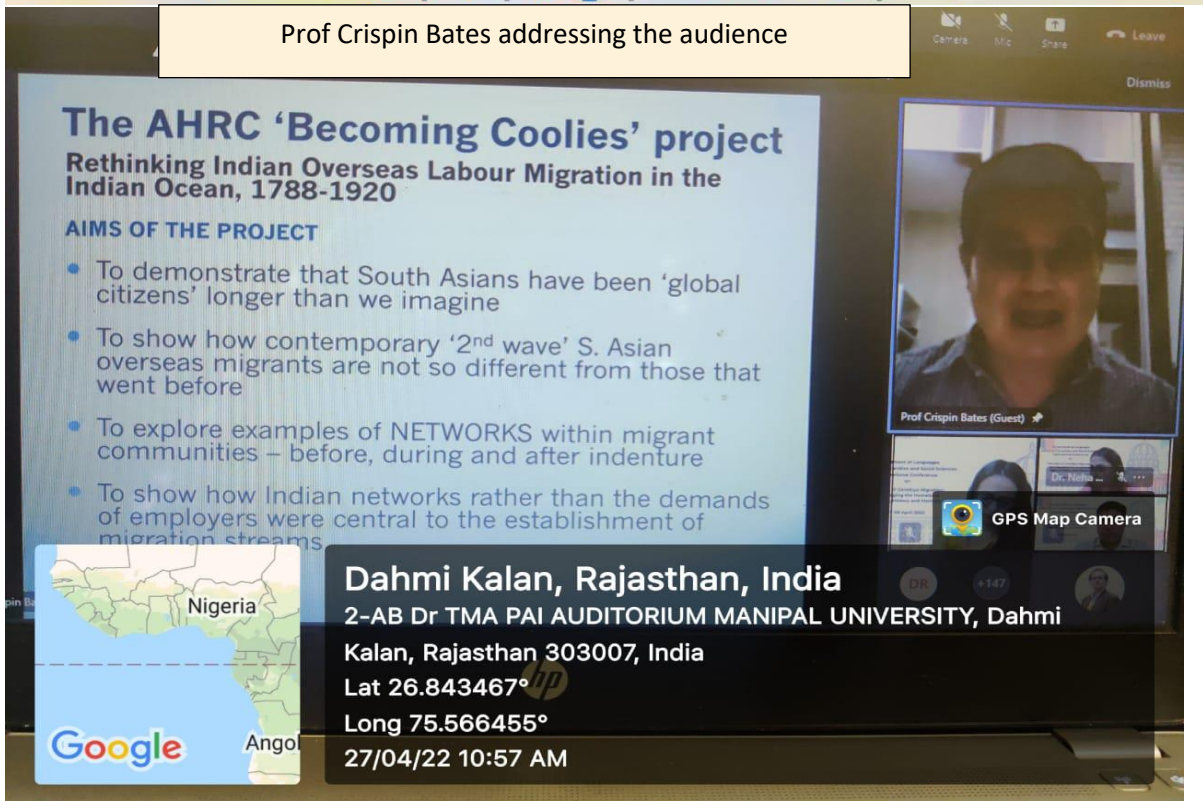
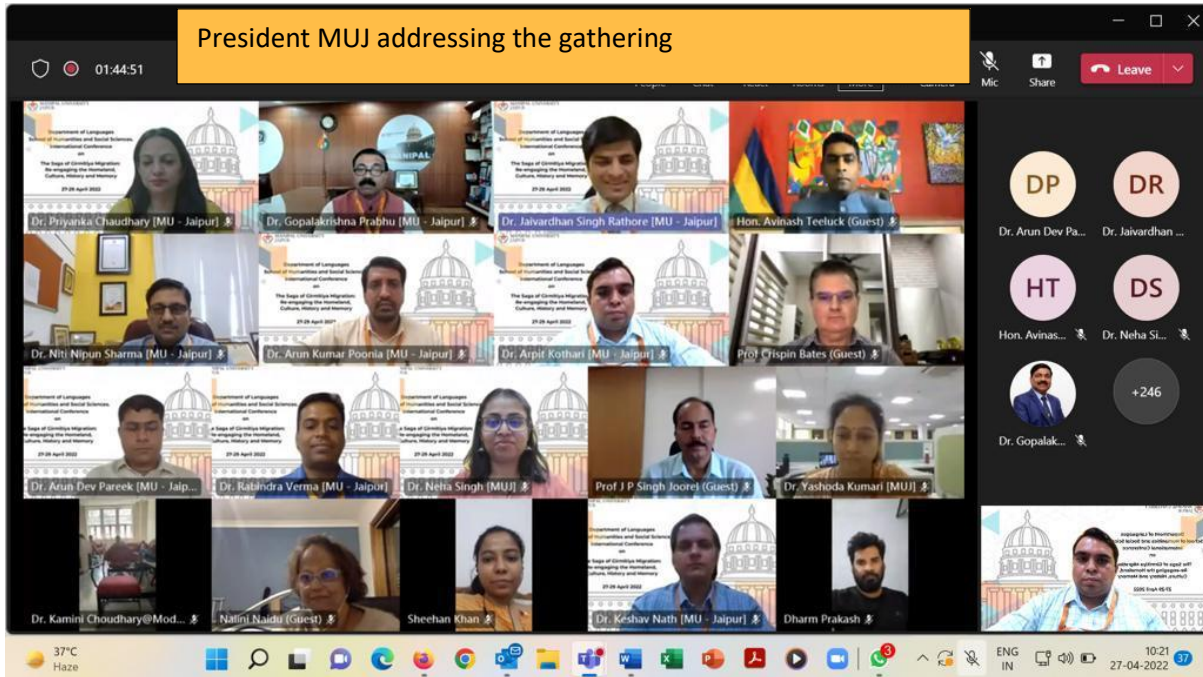


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colonies in Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa, East Africa and in the Caribbean, mostly Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Jamaica to work mainly on sugar cane plantations

## 5. Photographs







## 6. Brochure or creative of the event

**MANIPAL UNIVERSITY  
JAIPUR**

**Department of Languages**  
**School of Humanities & Social Sciences**  
organizes a three-day  
**International Conference (online)**  
on  
**The Saga of Girmitya Migration: Re-engaging the Homeland, Culture, History and Memory**  
**27 – 29 April 2022**

**Chief Guest**  
**Hon. Mr. Avinash Teeluck**  
Minister of Arts and Cultural Heritage  
Republic of Mauritius

**Guest of Honor**  
**Prof. J. P. Singh Joorel**  
Director, INFLIBNET Centre  
Gujarat

**Patron**  
**Dr. G.K. Prabhu**  
President, Manipal University Jaipur

**Patron**  
**Dr. N.N. Sharma**  
Pro-President, Manipal University Jaipur

**Co-Patron**  
**Dr. Nitu Bhatnagar**  
Registrar, Manipal University Jaipur

**Eminent Speakers**

**Dr. Crispin Bates**  
Professor  
Modern and Contemporary  
South Asian History  
The University of Edinburgh

**Mr. Satyendra Peerthum**  
Member  
International Scientific Committee of ILRP,  
Coordinator of ILRP  
Indian Ocean Committee

**Dr. Richard Allen**  
Emeritus Professor  
Framingham State University  
International Expert on  
Indentured Labour

**Dr. S. Irudaya Rajan**  
Former Professor  
Centre for Development Studies, Kerala  
Chairman, International Institute of  
Migration and Development

**Dr. Priyanka Tripathi**  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences  
Indian Institute of Technology  
Patna

**Mr. Chand Ramgoolam**  
Director  
Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund  
Port Louis  
Mauritius



## 7. Schedule of the event

 **MANIPAL UNIVERSITY  
JAIPUR**

 **MUJ**



Welcome to  
**Virtual International Conference**  
On  
**The Saga of Girmitiya Migration: Re-engaging the Homeland,  
Culture, History and Memory**

Organized by  
**Department of Languages,**  
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

in association with

International Scientific Committee, Indentured Labour Route Project, ILRP Indian Ocean Committee, UNESCO World Heritage Site Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, Mauritius, Gathari Girmitiya Research Foundation, and Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius

**April 27, 2022**

**Inaugural Program Schedule**

9:30-9:35 AM	Opening Address by Dr. Jaivardhan Singh Rathore
9:35-9:40 AM	Welcome Address by Director, SHSS, MUJ, Dr. Richa Arora
9:40-9:45 AM	About the Conference by HoD, Languages, MUJ, Dr. Priyanka Chaudhary
9:45-9:55 AM	Address by Hon'ble President, MUJ, Dr. G.K. Prabhu
9:55-10:00 AM	Address by Pro-President, MUJ, Dr. N.N. Sharma
10:00-10:05 AM	Address by Registrar, MUJ, Dr. Nitu Bhatnagar
10:05-10:10 AM	Introduction of the Chief Guest by Dr. Neha Singh, Convener
10:10-10:25 AM	Address by Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Avinash Teeluck, Minister of Arts and Cultural Heritage, Republic of Mauritius
10:25-10:30 AM	Introduction of the Guest of Honour by Dr. Rabindra Verma
10:30-10:40 AM	Address by Guest of Honour, Prof. JP Singh Joorel, Director, INFLIBNET Center, Gujarat
10:40-10:45 AM	Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Dr. Keshav Nath
10:45-11:30 AM	Keynote Address by Prof. Crispin Bates, The University of Edinburgh, UK
11:30-11:35 AM	Vote of Thanks by Dr. Arun Dev Pareek

