



Namaskaram and Welcome to the 2019 TISI National Convention.

Our National Conventions have always been an occasion that people look forward to as an important part of the Sangam calendar of activities. It has also become a major event in Fiji celebrating a membership gathering in the thousands over the 4 day period.

This has been made possible only through the dedication of our members and their families who travel from long distances including overseas countries to participate in the various activities during the convention. The weekend also is a platform to make new friends and renew friendship.

The first convention or the general assembly of the South Indians in 1926 was to create an organization that they could be part of to provide an identity for them and their children; and to find and carve out ways to improve theirs and the lives of the future generation. The key decision as to empower people with knowledge and values through education.

Since then education has been and continues to be the core function of TISI contributing significantly to the promotion of knowledge and values. And it is important therefore that TISI promotes and supports efforts being made for values based educational system regardless of religious beliefs. Our 2019 convention theme “Preserving Culture and Values in Strengthening Education” is to reaffirm and to consolidate the foundation ideals of TISI and for the current and generations. We feel proud that we have maintained the visions of our founders.

To organize an event of such a scale and to the expectations of the many requires commitment and many months of planning to ensure a successful and enjoyable convention. For that I commend Chairman Ajay Kumar and his team of committee members and the Lautoka District for their efforts and arrangements. A new set of young members took the responsibility to spearhead the TIV Sports and I convey our appreciation to Krishna Gounder and his team. TISI together with TIV embarked on a reform program in the later part of 2018 which required a lot of work to be accomplished by burning the mid-night oil to scrutinize and to organize the event based on the approved policies. The Young Team has done well.

I congratulate Mrs Irene Sami on her appointment as Acting TIM President and absolutely certain that she and her team have left no stones unturned to organize activities for the TIM members over the weekend. Furthermore I record TISI's and my personal appreciation to Mrs Walliamma Swamy for her services as National President of TIM. Thank you.

To everyone enjoy and find happiness through the pathway of happiness. Thank you.

Mr. Damend Gounder

Secretary General

TISI Sangam Fiji