

C1 TISI SANGAM CONVENTION 2018

SUN ADVERTORIAL



TISI Sangam academic board chairman Amaraiya Naidu, Convention chairman Vijay Narayan, Chief guest Professor Vijay Naidu, Secretary Damen Goundar and National President Sadasivan Naicker at the the 91st TISI Sangam Convention opening at the Lawaqa Park, Nadroga last month. Photos: Waisea Nasokia

Engaging For a Clean and Healthy Community

Being a clean and healthy community has environmental spiritual social cultural economic political and Psychological dimensions.

WAISEA NASOKIA

Engaging for a clean and healthy community, denotes that we seriously think about our lifestyle and the ways in which we think and act and how you relate to try that as members of the community. So says Professor Vijay Naidu.

"In its earlier usage the term community stood for face to face rural settlement where the people knew each other and had a sense of belonging based on living in close proximity, sharing a common language or religion and ethnicity," Mr Naidu said.

"However, the idea of community can be extended to all the people of the country and beyond depending on what the criteria for the community is being used and where the people who are identified as members of the community feel a sense of belonging and to have some relationships now, thanks to the Internet, we have all sorts of virtual communities that are global," he said.

Mr Naidu was chief guest at the annual 91st Then India Sanimarga Ikyia (TISI) Sangam Fiji convention at Lawaqa Park, Sigatoka on March 30 to April 2 this year.

Like the previous years those that gathered and were part of this year's convention came from all walks of life from all over Fiji including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

Communication and dissemination of information of the convention was reinforced by regular communication via Facebook, FaceTime, Skype, email and phone.

"They and the rest of us are here because of a sense of belonging and identification with Sangam," he said.

"The organization represents our ancestors who came from South

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Vijay Naidu,
Professor



Women members of the Sigatoka Sangam display their food arrangement during the recent Sangam Convention.

India and our common and ethnic heritage. This is our community just as we have multiple identities we also can belong to multiple communities."

Being a clean and healthy community has environmental spiritual social cultural economic political and Psychological dimensions.

"Our natural environment provides us with fresh air, water to drink and food for our sustenance. Thanks to Massive in-

crease in human population and the use of fossil fuels our carbon footprint is increased to the point that major environmental disasters are in the making," he said.

"A healthy community will seek to use renewable energy sources and follow the three "R"s in waste management, reuse, recycle and reduce. Hygienic and sanitary conditions would be of paramount importance to its members."

Sangam Convention Took Off From Humble Beginnings

Their national place of worship, the Sri Siva Subramaniya Swami temple built 24 years ago is an icon at Nadi for locals and foreign visitors.

WASEA NASOKIA

The Sangam draws its membership from people of South India origin who first came to Fiji in 1903 from South India under the indentured system.

Sangam was founded in January 10, 1926 by the Sevak Ratnam Sadhu Kuppuswamy and many others including Gopal Mudaliar, Dorswamy Mudaliar, Jambulinga, Pillai, MN Naidu, Alaparty Tataiya and a Nagaiya during a meeting in Taupo, Vaileka in the province of Ra.

Series of meeting continued in the western division in a bid to unite the people of south Indian culture also they belonged to three different religious faiths namely Islam, Christianity and Hinduism.

TRIBUTE TO FOUNDERS

Professor Vijay Naidu in his opening speech, acknowledged their ancestors who came as humble indentured labourers working and living in extremely difficult circumstances.

"Our ancestors created and promoted, and the 91st Sangam Convention further enhanced that spirit of cooperation and working together for common community needs," Mr Naidu said.

"They generally persevere to build communities that in two to three generations produce professional men and women and artisans that we can all

"No one from the pioneering group would have ever dreamt that the organisation they had founded in the most difficult of time and circumstances would take the form and shape over the period time."

Sadasivan Naicker,
TISI Sangam president

be proud of among this ancestors. The founders of the TISI Sangam deserve special mention as they provided the leadership that mobilised largely illiterate peasants and workers to pull their limited resources to build schools and temples which have contributed immensely to the uplift of the Fiji born."

TISI Sangam president Sadasivan Naicker said, "At the outset commend the founding fathers for their vision, wisdom, and enthusiasm for sowing the initial seed 91 years ago in the formation of Sangam."

"No one from the pioneering group would have ever dreamt that the organisation they had founded in the



Vatiyaka Maathar Sangam representatives Monika Kumari and Asha Kumari at the craft expo, TISI Sangam Convention at Lawaqa Park in Sigatoka. Photo: Waisea Nasokia

most difficult of time and circumstances would take the form and shape over the period time."

Therefore, Sangam today is on a very firm foundation with potential for further development by reaching out to communities to educate, culture, lan-

guage, art and inculcate faith, beliefs and values through their temples.

Their national place of worship, the Sri Siva Subramaniya Swami temple built 24 years ago is an icon at Nadi for locals and foreign visitors.

From a very humble beginning, they

have assets in Early Childhood Education, 21 primary and five secondary schools some in Category A according to their big school roll.

Sangam took a leap forward in 2005 with the establishment of a Nursing College in Labasa.



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All Welcome




Sigatoka Hosts Sangam Convention for the Third Time

WASEA NASOKIA

This year marked the 91st Then India Sanmarga Ikya Sangam Convention, held at the Lawaqa Park in Sigatoka.

It also marked the third time Sigatoka hosted the event at the Coral Coast since the founding of Sangam in 1926.

The Sangam convention is a milestone in the Sangam calendar of activities and tens of thousands of Sangam members, friends and well wishes and their families converge annually at the convention venue over the four days from around Fiji and abroad.

It is usually held during the Easter weekend and indeed the Sangam convention provides the ideal environment and opportunity for their members and their families to interact, renew old friendships, make new friends, witness and participate in competitive sports, cultural programmes and have lots of fun and

joy.

Those gathered this year included those all over Fiji and those from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

The Sangam convention is one of the biggest gatherings in Fiji.

"Preparing for conventions of this magnitude is not an easy task. I must commend the work of my committee, the various subcommittees as well as the school staff and the sponsors for lending their support to make this convention a successful one," convention chairman Vijay Narayan said

Sigatoka Town Council Chief Executive Officer Tulsi Ram said, "As the host, the Coral Coast town of Sigatoka promised to give everyone a memorable four days of stay and while they enjoy the joy and have fun at the convention, I also did urge each one of them to develop mutual esteem, cooperation and lasting friendship so that we can continue to positively contribute to the Sangam and Fiji as a whole."



Mahendra Chaudhry (left), at the the 91st TISI Sangam Convention at Lawaqa Park, Nadroga. Photo: Waisea Nasokia



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Vatiyaka Maathar Sangam reps Monika Kumari and Asha Kumari at the craft expo, TISI Sangam Convention at Lawaqa Park in Sigatoka. Photo: Waisea Nasokia



Ba soccer team with their trophy.

Ba Retains Sangam IDC Title

WASEA NASOKIA

The Narendra Rao-captained Ba team retained the TISI Sangam interdistrict Super Premier division title for another year.

Despite the weather impasse during the Easter weekend the ground conditions saw additional grounds used.

Matches were spanned over nine grounds.

The side defeated Lautoka TIV 4-3 on penalty kicks after the teams were scoreless at fulltime in the final of the 91st Sangam IDC at Nadroga Sangam Primary School.

"The Men in Black" had the services of prominent reps Shamil Rao, Roneel Kumar, Kishan Sami, Vilitati Kautoga and former Fijian U20 goalie Shaneel Naidu.

Lautoka had the services of Zibraaz Shahib, and James Chetty.

"Hats off to the boys, it was a great tournament. Despite the weather we were focused and managed to return to Ba with the title once again," Ba coach Sailesh Mani said.

TIV Sangam sports chairman Mun Chetty said the event was a success despite the wet weather.

"I thank all the teams and their managers for coping with the directive from the committee as we played on nine grounds," Chetty said.

"We managed to complete the competition on time and I applaud the support and commitment of the players and officials."

The 2019 Sangam IDC will be held in Lautoka.

In the semifinals, Ba beat Nadi 5-4 in a penalty shootout while Lautoka edged Suva 1-0.

In the Masters category, Lautoka beat Papatoetoe 2-0.

Firm Foundation to promote all aspects of life: Naicker

ARIETA VAKASUKAWAQA

Thousands of people had gathered at Lawaqa Park in Sigatoka to be part of the 91st TISI Sangam Convention opening on Easter Friday this year.

Then India Sanmarga Ikyia (TISI) Sangam national president, Sadasivan Naicker said they have a firm foundation with potential for further development by reaching out to the community to promote all aspects of life. They operate early childhood education centres, 21 primary schools and five secondary schools.

They also run the Sangam College of Nursing and Health Care Education in Labasa which was established in 2005.

TISI Sangam Nadroga president Vijay Narayan said this was the third convention to be hosted by them.

"I am delighted to see the huge turnout of members and friends of Sangam this morning to witness the opening of yet another Sangam convention as many of us looked forward to this day," he said. "As host, the Coral Coast town of Sigatoka promises to give everyone a memorable four days of interaction, sharing and sports."

"Coral Coast is renowned for its hospitality and we hope everyone enjoy their short stay with us."

"While they stay here and enjoy the convention, I urge everyone to develop mutual esteem, co-operation and lasting friendship so we can contribute positively towards Sangam."

"This has been a valuable gift of our forefathers to us."

The four-day event had included sports tournaments of soccer, netball and golf with overseas teams also taking part.

The event ended on Easter Monday.

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