



c/o Fiji Institute of Applied Studies  
PO Box 7580  
Lautoka  
Fiji Islands  
e-mail [info@fijigirmit.org](mailto:info@fijigirmit.org)  
Phone (+679) 3315191

## **Post launch press release**

Release date : 19/04/2004

**Attention: News Editors**

### **Fiji Girit website launched**

Indian indentured labourers arrived on Fiji 125 years ago, yet while their contribution to Fiji's economic, social and cultural scenes is evident, the life of the giritiyas, as they were known, remains less evident.

This comment was made by USP's Associate Professor in Economics and associate editor of the Fiji Institute of Applied Studies, Dr Biman Prasad during the launch of the Fiji Girit website – [www.fijigirmit.org](http://www.fijigirmit.org) today.

“Through this website the details of the life of the giritiyas can be accessed easily by anyone, anywhere in the world,” Dr Prasad said.

“It is important as we commemorate the 125th year of the presence of descendants of the giritiyas in Fiji that people become aware of the whole girit story. The simplest and most economical way to do so is through this website.”

The website contains information about the struggles of the giritiyas, their personal experiences, and texts written by noted historians like Professor Brij Lal, Dr Ahmed Ali and other researchers. It also contains various links, a discussion forum and poetry written by descendants of the giritiyas.

Conceived as a comprehensive tool for recounting the whole girit story, the website also has some pictures of the Fiji girit era – 1879 to 1920.

During the girit era some 60,553 labourers arrived in Fiji. Their boat trips from India lasted some two to three months and during this period 87 shiploads of labourers landed in Fiji.

Today, the descendants of the indentured labourers constitute approximately 41 percent of the total population of Fiji.

[end of press release]