

ISSN 0976-6634

JOURNAL OF

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Special Volume

## India's Voice in the *Satyagraha* Campaigns in South Africa

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**KEYWORDS** *Satyagraha*. Resistance. Diaspora. Indo-African Relations

**ABSTRACT** In 1913 Indians living in the Union of South Africa engaged in one of the biggest mass demonstrations against unjust and racist laws. Over 20 000 Indian men, women and children participated in the *Satyagraha* campaign seeking redress from discriminatory legislation which aimed at curbing their economic, social and political mobility. The incarceration of hundreds of Indians, their brutal treatment of Indian workers on the coal mines and plantations and deaths of several workers created an international outcry, particularly in India. This paper traces India's support and involvement in the affairs of Indian South Africans, particularly during the *Satyagraha* campaigns between 1906 and 1913. India's tireless and ceaseless campaigning in support of Indian South Africans played a crucial role in stirring mass consciousness of the South African Indian question in India and abroad. India's involvement was motivated not only for the 'honour of the motherland' but also for the 'honour and well-being of Indians in other parts of the world'. This paper will make an important contribution in understanding Indo-South African bilateral relations at the turn of the century.

**Africa and India in the 21st Century: Contexts Comparisons and Cooperation**  
Anand Singh and Nandini Sen (Guest Editors)

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JSSA, Special Volume 4: 19-30 (2014)