



**Ambassador's Speech on the occasion of Arrival Day at Indian Bay
[Kingstown, 1 June 2026]**

Good evening, Namaskar

Most Honorable H.E. Sir Stanley Kendrick John, Hon'ble Minister Cupid and other Senior Ministers and the Government officials, President of SVG Indian Heritage Foundation, members of Indian diaspora and community, friends of India

It is indeed my privilege to be part of this blissful celebration of Indian Arrival Day in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. I would like to extend warmest congratulations on my behalf and on behalf of the people of India.

Dear Excellency and Friends,

Our ancestors carried the spirit of India when they put their first steps on the shores of Caribbean islands, including Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

They brought the value of coexistence, harmony and diversity which was always a guiding principle for Indian culture. We believe in the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbam' and 'ekam sat vipra bahudhvadante.' It means the entire globe is a family and there are many ways to understand the ultimate truth.

The long voyage of ships made them courageous and resilient, and after the arrival, they started nurturing the plantation economy in this part of the world by setting aside natural calamities and climatic challenges.

Our history is not just migration but also a journey of culture and tradition. They also carried with them the philosophy of Labor Omnia Vincit that means, "Hard work conquers all."

This is a unique story of perseverance, determination, and hope, a legacy that continues to show the path and shape the socio economic structure of SVG today.

His Excellency and distinguished participants,

We have close engagements with Caribbean nations including SVG. In my view, 5 Ds define our relationship with the Caribbean countries, named Decolonization, Diversity, Democratization, Diaspora and Development.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979, we have enjoyed cordial and friendly ties with SVG. Both countries interact actively in the U.N., Commonwealth and various other international fora.

Development partnership is an important pillar of our engagements and we are committed to progress well. Tomorrow a quick impact project, the renovation of netball hard court in Edinboro, is slated to be handed over tomorrow. Many other projects besides QIPs are being finalized as well as implemented.

Dear friends,

Indian Heritage Foundation has created a new bridge in our culture and people to people engagements since its inception in 2006. We appreciate the SVG government for recognizing 1 June as Indian Arrival Day whereas 7th October has been declared as Indian Heritage Day. I encourage IHF SVG to carry out their activities throughout the year instead of limiting it to Indian Arrival Day. Our High Commission will extend needful support for this endeavour. We also encourage the members of our diaspora to avail various programmes available in India for them, notably OCI, KIP, Scholarship etc. A diaspora game would be organised in the first week of January 2027. We need to work on selecting a few participants from SVG.

Excellency and Dear Friends,

I had visited couple of times to the National Archive of SVG and found the register of Indian immigrants which can be very useful for researcher if it can be digitally made available to public.

Excellency, your guidance is solicited in this respect. Furthermore, we should encourage our respective national archives to forge closer cooperation and collaborations. Similar activities will certainly make our relation more robust in the domain of culture and people to people exchange.

At the end, once again heartiest congratulations to all on the 165th Arrival Day.

Thanks for your kind attention!