



# भारत की बात Bharat ki Baat

Newsletter of the Embassy of India in Suriname

Concurrently accredited to Barbados, Saint Lucia & St. Vincent & The Grenadines



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## 77th Republic day observed in Paramaribo



The Embassy of India in Paramaribo celebrated the 77th Republic Day with enthusiastic participation from members of the Indian diaspora and friends of India. Ambassador Subhash Gupta unfurled the National Flag, followed by the reading of excerpts from the Hon'ble President of India's address to the nation. The occasion was further enriched by vibrant cultural performances and a soulful recitation of Vande Mataram, which brought the spirit of patriotism alive. An exhibition on Vande Mataram was also mounted, offering a glimpse into the timeless legacy of India's national song. Heartfelt thanks to all who joined us in honoring India's democratic journey and celebrating the shared bonds of culture and friendship.



## विश्व हिंदी दिवस आयोजन

सुरीनाम हिंदी परिषद के सहयोग से स्वामी विवेकानंद सांस्कृतिक केंद्र (SVCC) में 'विश्व हिंदी दिवस' अत्यंत हर्षोल्लास के साथ मनाया गया।

इस विशेष अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में माननीय डी० शरमम (प्रवासी भारतीय हिंदी सम्मान पुरस्कार विजेता) की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति ने कार्यक्रम की शोभा बढ़ाई।

### कार्यक्रम की मुख्य झलकियाँ

- **प्रधानमंत्री जी का संदेश:**  
माननीय राजदुत महोदय ने प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेंद्र मोदी जी का विशेष संदेश पढ़कर सुनाया, जिसमें हिंदी की वैश्विक बढ़ती भूमिका और इसके महत्व पर जोर दिया गया।
- **हिंदी के प्रचार-प्रसार का संकल्प:**  
राजदुत महोदय ने विश्वास दिलाया कि भारतीय दुतावास और SVCC सूरीनाम में हिंदी के संवर्धन और विकास के लिए हर संभव सहायता प्रदान करना जारी रखेंगे।
- **साहित्यिक संगम:**  
हिंदी प्रेमियों और उत्साही प्रतिभागियों ने विभिन्न प्रतियोगिताओं में बढ़-चढ़कर हिस्सा लिया एवं विजेताओं को पुरस्कृत किया गया:
  - ◆ काव्य पाठ: हिंदी कविताओं के मधुर स्वर से हॉल गुंज उठा।
  - ◆ कविता लेखन: प्रतिभागियों ने अपनी लेखनी से हिंदी के प्रति अपने प्रेम को दर्शाया।
  - ◆ प्रश्नोत्तरी: भाषा और संस्कृति के ज्ञान का शानदार प्रदर्शन।



## India Reviews Community Development Projects in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

On 14 January 2026, High Commissioner of India to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Subhash Gupta, visited and interacted with relevant stakeholders to review the progress of ongoing Quick Impact Projects, including:

- Rehabilitation of the Dauphine Community Center
- Netball hard court at Edinboro
- Gym at the Central Leeward Secondary School

The visit also included inspections of projects successfully completed last year, reaffirming India's commitment to community development and partnership with SVG.





The Embassy of India hosted a National Reception marking the 77th Republic Day of India, coinciding with the Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations between India and Suriname.

Honored by the presence of H.E. Dr. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, President of Suriname, as Chief Guest, along with Cabinet Ministers including H.E. Melvin Bouva, parliamentarians, senior officials, diplomats, media, and distinguished members of the Indian diaspora.

In her address, the Chief Guest conveyed heartfelt congratulations to India and highlighted the enduring bond between our two nations built on mutual respect, solidarity, and shared development goals.

Ambassador Subhash Gupta emphasized India's ongoing socio-economic transformation towards *Viksit Bharat 2047*, expanding bilateral cooperation, successful development partnership projects, and the strong people-to-people connections nurtured through diaspora links

The evening showcased vibrant cultural performances including mass recitation of *#vandematram* and authentic Indian cuisine, symbolizing the rich traditions and friendship between India and Suriname.



“

As we approach 2047, marking 100 years of India's Independence, this journey is crucial for the nation, and it is equally significant in your own life...

**Your capability will become India's capability**



नरेन्द्र मोदी

PM Modi at the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue  
2026, New Delhi, 12 January 2026




logo signifying the commencement of a year-long celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations, reflecting the enduring friendship and shared aspirations since 23 January 1976. Golden 50 evokes prestige, celebration, and optimism, befitting the grandeur of a golden jubilee and honoring five decades of diplomatic friendship. The "5" and "0" subtly form a link, symbolizing bonding and civilizational links, and flags represent the soul and spirit of each nation.

# Strengthening Partnerships, Empowering Entrepreneurs

## SME Development Project Advances at Melkcentrale



### INDIA-SURINAME SME DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA GRANT**  
**USD 1 MILLION**

**FOCUS**  
**SME DEVELOPMENT**

**SECTOR**  
**FRUIT PROCESSING**

**LOCATION**  
**MELKCENTRALE**

**OBJECTIVE**  
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP &  
ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**NEXT MILESTONE**  
**ARRIVAL OF INDIAN  
TECHNICAL TEAM**  
(Last week of January 2026)

**50** PARTNERSHIP THEME  
**#IndiaSurinameat50**



- On 7 January 2026, Ambassador Subhash Gupta met with Director Mr. Atompai and the dedicated team at Melkcentrale to review the progress of this SME Development Project, proudly funded by the Government of India with an investment of **USD 1 million**. The project was announced by the External Affairs Minister during his India-COFCOR meeting in Guyana.
- This initiative is designed to boost local entrepreneurship and strengthen small and medium enterprises, paving the way for sustainable economic growth.
- Melkcentrale eagerly anticipates the arrival of the technical team from India in the last week of January, when installation work of fruit processing plant will commence marking a significant milestone in this collaboration at the juncture of **#IndiaSurinameat50**.
- Together for innovation and shared prosperity!

## Celebrating 150 Years of *Vande Mataram*



- An exhibition commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Vande Mataram* was unveiled at SVCC Paramaribo, celebrating the enduring legacy of this iconic national song. Members of the Indian Diaspora and Friends of India joined together with the Embassy of India in a recitation of *Vande Mataram*, honouring its timeless spirit and patriotic resonance.
- The exhibition highlighted the historical significance of *Vande Mataram*, tracing its role in India's freedom movement and its continued place in the nation's collective consciousness. Participants reflected on its powerful message of unity, devotion and cultural pride.



*Exhibition panels highlighting the history and legacy of Vande Mataram.*



“ *Vande Mataram continues to inspire generations with its message of patriotism, unity, and devotion to the motherland.* ”





**KEY FOCUS AREAS**

- Expanding trade and investment
- Boosting innovation and technology
- Empowering MSMEs and start-ups
- Strengthening supply chains
- Building a sustainable and resilient future
- Creating opportunities for growth and jobs

The India-EU Business Forum was a great platform to discuss the wide-ranging economic linkages between India and Europe.

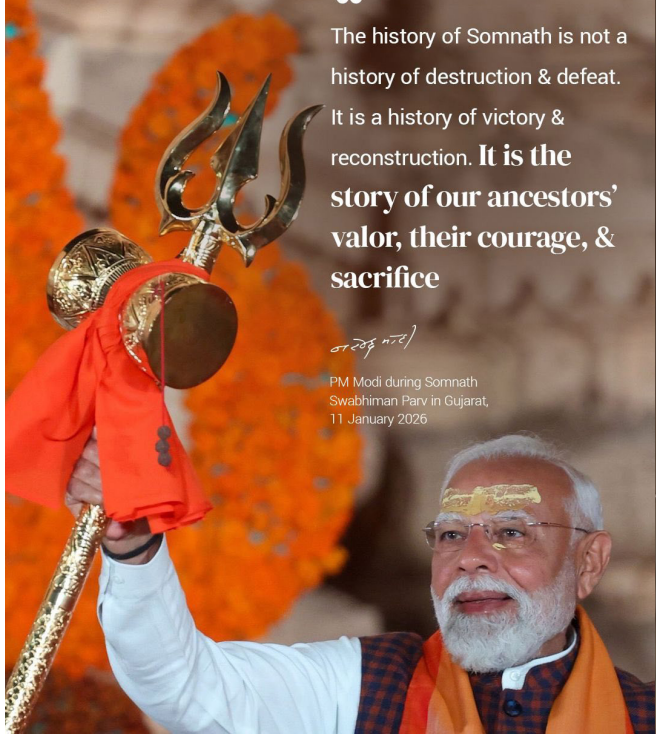
The Free Trade Agreement signed today brings innumerable benefits for businesses, MSMEs and innovators. It is a new blueprint for shared prosperity.



my GOV  
मेरी सरकार

“The history of Somnath is not a history of destruction & defeat. It is a history of victory & reconstruction. It is the story of our ancestors' valor, their courage, & sacrifice

PM Modi during Somnath Swabhiman Parv in Gujarat, 11 January 2026



**SOMNATH: SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected on the enduring legacy of Somnath, highlighting how generations preserved India's cultural heritage through courage, sacrifice and determination. The story of Somnath stands as a powerful symbol of national pride, resilience and civilizational continuity.



**1 AMB. SUBHASH GUPTA MEETS FOREIGN MINISTER MELVIN BOUVA**

On 8 January 2026, Amb. Subhash Gupta paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Business Cooperation of Suriname, H.E. Mr. Melvin Bouva. The meeting was marked by warm discussions on a wide range of topics of mutual interest, including:



**50** The upcoming 50th Anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Suriname

- Robust people-to-people and cultural exchanges
- Cooperation in health and agriculture field
- Advancing collaboration in the field of digital innovation and fintech
- Strengthen cooperation at multilateral fora
- Capacity-building cooperation, including ITEC training programs
- Implementation of outcomes from the India-CARICOM Summit 2024
- Review of the ongoing bilateral cooperation projects, notably in SME development and Quick Impact Projects (QIP)



“ This engagement reflects the shared commitment of India and Suriname to deepen friendship, expand cooperation, and celebrate five decades of enduring diplomatic relations. ”





Embassy celebrated the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre with the gracious presence of H.E. Dr. Ashwin Adhin, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname as the Chief Guest. Around 200 members of Indian Diaspora, including PBSA awardee former Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly, H.E. Dr. Dewanchandrebhose Sharman, Senior officers of the Government of Suriname and members of Indian & Surinamese community attended the event. The Chief Guest Hon'ble Speaker and the Ambassador Subhash Gupta recounted that the event is celebrated to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's return to India in 1915 and honoring the Indian diaspora's contributions. Ambassador highlighted about the core elements of India's diaspora engagement. Cultural performances of SVCC students led by Dance TIC, Chautaal by Surya Chautaal Group and Baithak Gaana musical presentation by Kries Ramkhelawan and his team livened up the evening. Also celebrated 150th anniversary/of/#VandeMataram reciting by the Chief Guest along with Ambassador and participants in tune with TIC.



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**Bharat ki Baat**

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