

Handing over of Defence Uniforms to Suriname

20 May 2025

Hon'ble Minister for BIBIS, Amb. Albert Ramdhin

Hon'ble Minister for Defence, Mrs. Krishnakoemarie Mathoera

Sr. Government Officials, Members of the Media, Ladies & Gentleman,

Namaskar, Good Morning,

I'm deeply honored to be part of this handing over ceremony of today, this marks another significant milestone in the strong and enduring partnership between India and Suriname.

Our relations are cordial and are built on mutual understanding, trust, and strong people-to-people ties. We share the common experiences of De-colonization- and a commitment to multi-party democracy as the foundation of nation-building. With rich cultural diversity and ongoing economic development, the deep bonds of Diaspora, continue to strengthen our ties underpinning further cooperation and mutual growth.

Since diplomatic ties were established, the bilateral relations have been cemented by several high-level exchanges of visits and meetings at various levels. Last summit level meeting on the sidelines of India-CARICOM in November 2024 further boosted our collaboration and cooperation in new areas besides bolstering the ongoing partnership.

Despite own resource constraints, we keep sharing our developmental experiences and technical expertise with the Global South in the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" the world is one family. Our Development Partnership assistance is human-centric, focused on sustainability, and guided by respect and diversity, without any conditions or strings attached. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India stated in Uganda in July 2018, "Our development partnership will be guided by your priorities. It will be on terms that will be comfortable for you, that will liberate your potential and not constrain your future..."

This philosophy could be well observed during the pandemic times when India donated Vaccines and health gears to the needy countries including Suriname. India also provided flood related assistance and donation of medicines to mitigate health challenges.

The essential food supplies, reinforcing our support to Suriname food security. To help the Suriname's farmers and bolster their incomes, India have also extended a grant of 1 million US dollars under which Machinery for Passion fruit processing plant at the Melk centrale have been shipped from India and expected to reach soon.

India has also extended grants for Quick Impact Projects that support local communities by rehabilitating recreational centers, creating community engagement spaces, developing skill-building sites, and enhancing educational institutions with essential tools for effective learning. Four such projects have already been implemented.

Today, on behalf of the Government of India, I hand over 4,500 military uniforms to the Government of the Republic of Suriname. This gesture is more than just a donation—it's a symbol of our shared trust and commitment to standing by each other. These uniforms will support Suriname's brave defense forces. This gesture will help in protecting our shared vision of peace and security.

India and Suriname have to continue working to conclude other, already agreed upon initiatives by reaffirming our commitment to deepening this partnership through transformative initiatives. We want to conclude establishment of a Centre for Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) Suriname to foster innovation and skill development, alongside setting up of an old-age home. Additionally, A new cycle of Quick Impact Projects should also be explored. I expect new project submissions from Suriname side so that the societies shall be transformed and empowered. I am confident that implement of Quick Impact Project regarding installation of traffic light systems which will enhance mobility and safety near schools, will also be carried out soon.

Our collaboration within CARICOM has yielded promising outcomes, promoting regional integration and sustainable development. Together, we will continue to build a future rooted in mutual respect, progress, and prosperity. We also share India's developmental experience through training under ITEC programmes that covers a wide range of fields. This year 64 slots of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) have been allotted to Suriname, I urge through this platform to explore the courses and optimally utilize.

At the last but not least, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Minister Albert Ramdin for his guidance and support that was instrumental in the in my settling down here as well as in the implementation process of our collaborative projects.

In India, we celebrate election process as the festival of democracy I feel the same vibe here in the ongoing election process and election campaign that is true reflection of democracy. Let's cherish the spirit and enjoy the election process.

Jai Bharat Jai Suriname!

Thanks for kind attention!