



Ambassador's Remarks
ITEC Day celebration
[SVCC, 13 September 2025]

Good evening! Subh Sandhya, Namaskar.

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Science and Culture of Suriname, Mr. Dirk Currie

Senior government official, ITEC Alumni, Friends of India and Members of the Diaspora

Friends from the Media, Ladies & Gentleman,

It is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you all to the 61st ITEC Day celebration that commemorates not just a program, but a philosophy. A philosophy rooted in the ancient Indian ideal of “वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्” The entire world is one family.

Our Development Partnership approach evolved during the journey of six decades of India's commitment to global capacity building through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. Even though we have limited resources, we share our developmental journey and technical know-how with our partners in the Global South. ITEC provides an important instrument of India's development diplomacy with the development partners which resonates that know-how and experience expand and multiply through sharing and partnership enhance through mutual respect and empowerment.

Our Development Partnership approach is human-centric, based on sustainability, and guided by respect, care and diversity, without any condition. In July 2018, Hon' ble Prime Minister of India stated while addressing the Ugandan parliament that “ 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. We will build as much local capacity and create as many local opportunities as possible” .

Since its inception in 1964, the ITEC programme become a flagship initiative of India's development partnership by providing training and scholarships over 225000 professionals and officials from 161 partner countries, particularly from the Global south. These training programmes are imparted in some of the best institutes in India and range from one week to 51-week programmes ranging from agriculture to food security, economy to finance, engineering and technology to industry, public administration to policy making, history and culture etc. numbering nearly 300 courses covering 12000 slots annually. ITEC serves as an instrument of capacity building and a platform for professional networking. I take this opportunity to thank all ITEC alumni for their feedback and sharing experiences that enriched our development partnership model that considers the priorities and needs of our partners.

Suriname has been a valued partner in this journey and currently has access to about 64 slots. In previous years, Over 500 Surinamese across various professions such as civil servants, engineers, educators, entrepreneurs have participated in ITEC

training programs across India. The participants return with new skills, innovative ideas, and a richer understanding of India's culture and values and our deep-rooted connections and people-to-people ties. In fact, after return, you represent India in Suriname.

Our connections go back to the day when first Hindustani landed on the Suriname's shore in 1873. After establishment of diplomatic relations in 1976 and thereafter, bilateral relations have grown from strength to strength over this period and gained further positive momentum with high-level exchanges in the last decades. We have convergence on various global and multilateral issues based on the shared vision of peace and sustainable development. Our ties are not only limited to dialogue and diplomacy but also present in households in form of rituals, tradition, dance, rhythms of Fagwa, chotal music, attire, fragrance of Indian spices and numerous elements of my native place that gives me a feel akin to living at home.

Our development partnership is not limited to ITEC training but also includes other developmental projects funded bilaterally as well as under India-UNDP funding mechanism. During last one year period, we have implemented several projects. I would like to share notably implemented projects.

- Supply of 425 metric tons of food grains and other edible items under fully funded food assistance of about USD 10 million by India
- Donation of 4500 military uniforms for Suriname Defence forces
- Laboratory Strengthening at Anton de Kom University
- Rehabilitation of Roblesplein in Nickerie
- ICT Upgrade at Natuurtechnisch Instituut (NATIN)
- Synthetic Jogging Track in Wanica
- Weather stations in **Kwamalasamutu and Pusgurnu** and other meteorological infrastructure to enhance early warning capabilities

We are also working with the Suriname government to implement and finalize some more projects, such as:

- Setting up a passion fruit processing facility at Melk centrale.
- Offers made at India-CARICOM- such as cancer therapy machines, Mobile hospital cubes, Sea ambulance, Hemodialysis machines, artificial limbs and others
- Construction of a Center of Excellence in Information Technology and a renovation of an indoor sports facility in Nickerie
- New quick impact projects under recently signed agreement

We are always looking forward to sharing our experience in the field of critical and cutting-edge technology that gradually evolving in India as we grow with our Surinamese friends

I urge you to encourage more Surinamese participants to explore availing the new emerging opportunities in the field of IT, AI, fintech, sustainable agriculture, and disaster management. Let's build a partnership and shape a new future for peace and prosperity of our common people.

Dhanyavaad. Dank u wel. Thank you.!
