

Unveiling of plaque at NATIN

14 May 2025

Hon'ble President Shri Chandrika Persad Santokhi
Hon'ble Minister for Education and Culture
Senior Government Officials,
Director, Faculties and Students of NATIN
Members of the Media, Ladies & Gentleman,

Namaskar, Good afternoon,

I'm honored to be part of this plaque unveiling ceremony today marking renovation of IT facility of NATIN, this marks another milestone in the strong and enduring relationship between India and Suriname.

Our relations are cordial and are built on mutual understanding, trust, and strong people-to-people ties. Both countries share common experiences of colonization and a commitment to 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 that laying foundation for 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.

Despite its own resource constraints, India has been sharing its developmental experiences and technical expertise with the countries of 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 from India, is 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 shipped last week from India.

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

India also shares its developmental experience through training under ITEC programmes that covers a wide range of fields. Over **300 courses are available annually** in fields like **IT, Banking, Science, Governance, and Management** conducted at **100+ premier institutes** in India.

The **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** offers a variety of scholarships for international students seeking higher education in India. These scholarships cover **undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD programs** across multiple disciplines, including **Ayurveda, Yoga, Dance, Music, and Fine Arts**, which might align with your interests. About **3,000** scholarships are available annually under **21 different schemes**.

Taking advantage of this occasion, I also request each of the participants present here to encourage prospective candidates to avail the ICCR scholarships and ITEC courses fully funded by the Government of India. ICCR Scholarship is open to Surinamese students to apply in April-May 2025 for the upcoming Academic Session in India. More information about the ICCR scholarships is available at our webpage.

Thank You!