



**Speech at the reception for Indian Business Delegation hosted by
President of Suriname**

11 March 2025

Namaskar and Good Evening
Honourable President,
Honourable Ministers, Members of the Indian Business Delegation
Distinguished members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Our relations are cordial that are built upon mutual understanding, trust, and strong people-to-people ties that are further enhancing and expanding in new areas through frequent high-level exchanges. With rich cultural diversity and ongoing economic development, the deep bonds of Diaspora, continue to strengthen our social, cultural, and economic ties, laying the groundwork for further cooperation and mutual growth.

Having said that our relationship does not reflect in trade and business relations. Our bilateral trade is very modest, not even touching the 50Mn mark. India's investment in Suriname is also insubstantial.

Lack of exchange of visits among the business community and lack of trade enablers as well as absence of any structured and institutionalized regulatory framework for trade and Investment, have proven to be the major obstacles.

Suriname offers a range of business opportunities for Indian companies. Some of key areas which are very promising.

1. Agriculture: Suriname's fertile land is ideal for agricultural ventures. Indian companies can explore opportunities in farming of rice, bananas, timber, vegetables etc., and shrimp production.
2. Agro-machinery and food processing machineries: India exports a wide range of agro and food processing machineries, including tractors, harvesters, irrigation systems, and other agricultural equipment, food processing machineries such as milling machines, packaging equipment, and refrigeration units. These machineries are known for their durability and efficiency, making them suitable for Suriname's agricultural sector. Suriname's focus on improving its agricultural and food processing sectors presents a significant market potential for Indian exporters. Indian companies can leverage their expertise and competitive pricing to tap into this market.

3. Seeds and pesticides: India exports a wide range of seeds, including vegetable seeds, fruit seeds, and grain seeds. These seeds are known for their high quality and adaptability to different climatic conditions. India produces a variety of pesticides that are effective in controlling pests and diseases in crops. These pesticides are essential for maintaining healthy and productive agricultural practices.
4. Digital Transformation: As the significance of content production and digital marketing increases, so does the need for digital transformation services. This market is open to Indian businesses who specialize in digital and IT solutions.
5. Renewable Energy: Projects pertaining to renewable energy are the main emphasis of Suriname. Indian businesses with expertise in wind, solar, and other can support the sustainable growth of the nation.
6. Ecotourism and Hospitality: Suriname's rich biodiversity and natural beauty make it an attractive destination for ecotourism. Indian companies in the hospitality and tourism sector can explore opportunities to develop eco-friendly resorts and tourism services.
7. Infrastructure and Logistics: There are opportunities in developing infrastructure and improving logistics in Suriname. Indian companies with expertise in construction, transportation, and logistics can find potential projects.
8. Mining: The country is rich in natural resources like gold, oil, and bauxite. Indian companies with expertise in mining and resource extraction can find lucrative opportunities here.
9. Indian companies can collaborate with Suriname in exploring and developing its oil and gas resources. India can provide advanced technology and expertise in oil extraction, refining, and environmental management. This can help Suriname optimize its oil production and ensure sustainable practices. Suriname can be used as a hub for Caribbean market, being a member of the Caribbean Single Market & Economy.

In my perspective, these are the areas which can be explored and viable business ventures can be built around. But you are the domain experts who can explore various opportunities and harness the prospects.

We are celebrating Fagwa on 14 March this year and I invite everyone to visit Bharat Bhawan and enjoy the festivity of colour, dance and music. May your life be filled with vibrant colors and joyous moments. Please come and enjoy the festivities, the delicious sweets, and the playful spirit of this wonderful celebration!

Thanks for your kind attention.