

India - Guyana relations

India's relations with Guyana are warm and cordial with a high degree of understanding. The interaction is structured through periodic Joint Commissions, Foreign Office Consultations, Cultural Exchange Programme and ITEC. Though structured bilateral visits are not very frequent, there are meetings of leaders at international conferences, either in India or abroad. Prime Minister met with President Jagdeo during Trinidad CHOGM Summit in November 2009 and Speaker of Guyanese Parliament visited India in January 2009 to attend Commonwealth Speakers' Conference. President Jagdeo embarked on a private visit to India in January 2011 and after demitting office in February 2012 to attend Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2012. The 3rd round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in Georgetown on 15th July, 2011. Prime Minister of Guyana, Mr. Samuel Hinds visited India in October, 2012, to attend International Seminar on Energy Access and also had a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of India. President of Guyana Mr. Donald Ramotar, accompanied by former President Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo visited India to participate in DSDS 2013 Summit organized by The Environment Research Institute (TERI) from 31st January – 1st February, 2013. President Mr. Donald Ramotar also made a courtesy call on the Hon'ble President of India.

President Donald Ramotar also had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 16th July, 2014 on the sidelines 6th BRICS-UNASUR Meeting at Fortaleza in Brazil. Both the leaders reviewed bilateral relations including enhancing of economic and commercial ties.

President Donald Ramotar paid an official visit to India from 7-12 January 2015. He was invited to be the Chief Guest for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2015 held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat and was conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award during the event.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President David Granger met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on 24th September 2015. The two leaders had a broad based discussion on the state of bilateral relations and the way forward to further strengthen the relationship.

Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo paid two private visits to India on October 1-9 and on November 11-14, 2016 to participate in the World Tamils Economic Conference in Chennai and the International Conference of Chief Justices of the World, organized by City Montessori School, Lucknow respectively. During his visit, Prime Minister Nagamootoo met Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen (Retd.) V.K. Singh on October 6, 2016. Guyanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Carl Greenidge and MOS Mr. M.J. Akbar had met in September 2016 on the sidelines of UNGA to discuss about bilateral relations.

Of late, Indian companies have shown increased interest in mining and forestry. A number of Indian companies have acquired agricultural land for

cultivation of maize, pulses, vegetables and fruits etc. Some have invested in the field of education and health services.

Bilateral trade between India and Guyana was US\$ 34.71 m for 2014-15 (compared to US\$ 31.47m for 2013-14) .

India-Guyana bilateral trade 2011-12 to 2015-16 (US\$ Million).

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (Apr-Sep)
India's Export	21.53	21.94	24.19	24.41	21.87
India's Import	8.68	4.73	7.28	10.30	18.48
Total Trade	30.21	26.67	31.47	34.71	40.35

Indian Lines of Credit (LoC) for infrastructure projects to the tune of US\$59 million was announced during the visit of President Donald Ramotar to India in 2015. Agreement for LOC of US \$ 50 million for East Bank Demerara-East Coast Demerara bypass road was signed in 2016. Another LoC for US \$ 10 million for acquisition of an ocean going passenger ferry costing US\$ 18 million with a grant-in-aid of US \$ 8 million was also signed in 2016. An agreement for setting up of an IT Centre of Excellence in Guyana by Government of India was also signed in 2016. India has already helped Guyana in construction of a Cricket Stadium (National Stadium), a sugar packaging plant, heavy duty drainage pumps and traffic lights in Georgetown.

India offered 26 slots during 2015-16 for Guyanese scholars to be trained in India under the ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme). In February 2010, a team of experts under ITEC conducted a feasibility study for a deep water port in Guyana. Scholarships are also offered under Cultural and Commonwealth schemes as also scholarships for Diaspora Children and the Know India Programme for Diaspora Youth.

Indian Cultural Centre in Georgetown, the arm of ICCR in Guyana was established in 1972. The Cultural Centre has provisions to teach Indian classical dance, yoga and music. Besides organizing classes for dance, yoga and music, the Cultural Centre also organizes cultural events round the year and takes part in cultural events organized by local cultural and social organisations. The Centre organizes workshops from time to time and also participates in local cultural events as a part of its outreach programme. Hindi classes in Region 2 of Guyana are being held since 2010 under the aegis of ICCR.

The National Council of Science Museums of India hosted a mobile science exhibition called "India: A Culture of Science". The Exhibition was held in Georgetown from 20th August to 30th September, 2012. Approx. 33000 people, mainly students, visited the exhibition. The exhibition also held workshops in

which scientists from India trained Guyanese teachers in science and mathematics.

A 6-member Bhojpuri Music troupe visited Guyana from 23rd to 26th May, 2014 under the aegis of ICCR. The Troupe gave 3 performances including the one on the Independence Day of Guyana. A 5-member music troupe led by renowned Sufi singer Indira Naik visited Guyana from 27-29 October 2014 under ICCR's sponsorship and gave two performances. A nine member cultural troupe led by Shri Jitendra Parashar visited Guyana from June 3-8, 2015 under ICCR's sponsorship and gave performances in Georgetown and Berbice. A Bhojpuri Cultural troupe fully sponsored by the ICCR performed at Georgetown and Mahaica in celebration of 50th Anniversary of Independence of Guyana.

The High Commission of India in Guyana in collaboration with the Indian Commemoration Trust (ICT), Guyana organised Indian cultural evenings with performances by Kathak danseuse, Ms. Namrta Rai and table player Uday Mazumdar in Georgetown and Berbice on 22-23 August 2015. The artistes were specially flown in from Suriname for the event.

Indian High Commission actively participated in celebration of 175th Anniversary of Indian Arrival in Guyana. GOPIO International inaugurated Calcutta monument in Georgetown and at Highbury in Region 6 – the point of first Indian arrival in Guyana. ICCR is sponsoring an Indian Arrival Memorial to be installed in Guyana.

International Day of Yoga was observed on June 19, 2015 in Georgetown, Guyana. The Yoga events were received with great enthusiasm and fervor by the local population.

There is a small Indian community of Indians approximately 300 working as doctors, nurses, lab technicians, small business, skilled workers and laborers in big companies in Guyana. The number of Indians is likely to increase with the participation of Indian companies in the field of Agriculture and other business ventures.

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