

**Designated Minister and Minister for Fisheries and Blue Economy,
Mr Jean-Francois Ferrari,
Minister of Education, Dr Justin Valentin,**

Principal Secretaries to the Government of Seychelles,

**Officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism,
My dear friends, the ITEC alumni,**

I am delighted to welcome you to today's celebration of the India-Seychelles partnership—a relationship built on trust, cooperation, and meaningful engagement.

Today's ITEC Day celebration carries the theme "Capacity, Cooperation, Culture," reflecting India's fundamental belief that global progress comes through collective learning and growth.

Distinguished Guests,

India has consistently sought to be a constructive force on the world stage. Our approach to development assistance transcends mere transactional relationships; instead, it responds to our partner countries' unique developmental needs. Through capacity building and resource development, we foster collaborative partnerships that benefit all.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), established by the Indian Cabinet in September 1964, exemplifies this philosophy. As the Ministry of External Affairs' flagship capacity-building initiative, ITEC stands as one of the world's longest-running international development programs, having trained over 200,000

officials from more than 160 countries in both civilian and defense sectors.

We take particular pride in our partnership with Seychelles, which since 1985 has sent over 1,000 professionals to India to enhance their expertise and knowledge.

Distinguished Guests,

My interactions with Seychellois professionals heading to India have consistently impressed on me their dedication to national development of Seychelles. This year's participants have pursued training in diverse fields including audit, accounting, renewable energy, library science, language and education, healthcare, IT, and security. I'm pleased to report that our program continues to expand, now offering courses for senior government officials at the National Centre for Good Governance as QUAD scholarships covering wind and solar energy, power grids, and infrastructure development.

ITEC serves as more than just a training program—it's a bridge between our peoples and cultures. Participants return home carrying a piece of India in their hearts while leaving their own mark in India. The ITEC alumni family continues to flourish and grow.

Looking ahead, we hope to welcome even more candidates for training in India. Let me emphasize that ITEC covers all expenses: visa, airfare, and accommodation. Most courses run for 1-3 weeks, allowing for minimal disruption to professional commitments, while offering immersion in India's rich cultural tapestry.

We are especially honored today by the presence of Designated Minister and Minister of Fisheries and Blue Economy, Mr Jean-Francois Ferrari. Sir, your continued support of this vital bilateral initiative is invaluable. Your presence here today both affirms the strength of India-Seychelles ties and highlights the central role of capacity building in our partnership. It inspires us to further deepen our relationship.

Pou terminen, en dernyen parol pou bann etidyan ITEC.

Ser zanmi, mon felisit zot tou pou konplet zot course dan Lenn. zot ki bann vre lambasader lenn-Sesel, en lagazman ki benefisye tou le de Pei. Merci.
