

**Statement to be Delivered by the Honourable Sean Sobers,
Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, at the Flag-Raising
Ceremony to Mark the Commencement of the Official Visit of the
Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India to
The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs,
Friday 8th May, 2026**

Good afternoon,

It is my privilege to welcome Dr. the Honourable Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, to our shores. This Flag Raising Ceremony serves as the official commencement of your visit to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Republic of India.

Honourable Minister, seeing our flags hoisted today, I am confident that this is a representation of the strong partnership we share, which is rooted in history that spans more than sixty years. Our ancestral history predates our countries attaining independence and since then, our two nations have continued to build on that fraternal relationship which is defined by deep cultural ties and vibrant people-to-people connections.

Your Official Visit, which is taking place today and tomorrow, is an eloquent representation of those deep ties and marks a significant milestone that further to the success of the July 2025 visit by the Honourable Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India. That engagement accelerated our bilateral cooperation,

leading to several vital agreements that continue to benefit the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago today.

Our collaboration has already yielded fruit in diverse sectors, including trade, finance, healthcare, agriculture, education, and sports. We remain committed to our joint work regarding pharmacopoeial standards and diplomatic training, as well as the implementation of Quick Impact Projects and technical capacity building. These initiatives are a testament to what can be achieved when two nations share a vision of progress and mutual support.

Over the course of your visit, we look forward to engaging in high-level discussions that will further advance our cooperation in trade, investment, and technology. We seek not only to progress existing initiatives but also to identify new avenues for cultural and economic exchange that will strengthen our partnership for generations to come.

Honourable Minister Jaishankar, your presence here underscores the value Trinidad and Tobago places on its friendship with India. May this ceremony be the start of a highly productive and successful visit.

I thank you.