



CHANDRIKAPERSAD SANTOKHI

President of the Republic of Suriname · 2020–2025

3 February 1959 · Lelydorp, District Wanica, Suriname

Police Commissioner · Minister of Justice · Member of Parliament · President of Suriname

Servant of the Nation · Guardian of Justice

Married to Mellisa Seenachery · Two Children

THE MAN & HIS MISSION

A Life of Distinguished Service

Mr. Santokhi enrolled in the Netherlands Police Academy in Apeldoorn, the Netherlands, in 1978 at the age of 19. After graduating in 1982, he joined the Surinamese Police Force, where he served in various positions, capacities, and ranks with loyalty, integrity, and dedication. During his 27 years of service, he participated in more than 100 regional and international conferences, meetings, training programs, and events.

In 2005, he was appointed Minister of Justice and Police of the Republic of Suriname. At the time of his departure from the Police Force, he held the rank of Police Commissioner and was charged with coordinating international police cooperation. His approach to policy was grounded in the concept of chain management — the belief that any chain is only as strong as its weakest link — ensuring all partners within the judicial system were equally equipped and empowered.

Mr. Santokhi served as the Principal Representative of Suriname to CICAD from 1995 to 2012. In November 2009, he was elected Vice Chair, and in December 2010, unanimously elected Chair for the period 2010–2011. He was further selected by the Organization of American States to design scenarios for future drug policies for political leaders across the Western Hemisphere.

In July 2010, the President of Suriname bestowed upon him the state decoration of "Great Officer of the Yellow Star." A committed community leader, he served as President of Rotary Club Paramaribo from 2005 to 2006, receiving the Paul Harris Award from Rotary International in July 2006. On 13 July 2020, he was elected President of the Republic of Suriname — the highest honour his nation could bestow.

A CAREER BUILT ON HONOUR

Career Timeline

- 1982–1984** **Acting Head, Criminal Investigation Division**
Geyersvlijt · Police Inspector
- 1984–1985** **Acting Police Commander, District of Suriname**
Superintendent
- 1985–1989** **Head, Criminal Investigation Division & District Police Commander**
Geyersvlijt & District of Suriname · Superintendent
- 1989–1991** **Chief, National Criminal Investigation**
- 1991–2005** **Head of the Judicial Department, Police Force**
First Assistant Police Commissioner · later Police Commissioner
- 2005–2010** **Minister of Justice and Police**
Republic of Suriname
- 2010–2020** **Member of Parliament**
Progressive Reform Party (VHP)
- 2020–2025** **President of the Republic of Suriname**
Elected 13 July 2020 following a historic electoral victory

2025–Present **Member of Parliament**

INTERNATIONAL ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Functions & Appointments

Member, Cooperation Council — Suriname & Guyana	International Police Coordinator
Coordinator, International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC) 1992 – 2005	Coordinator, Legal Mutual Agreement — Suriname & Netherlands 1996 – 2005
Police, Military Police & Customs Trainer 1997 – 1998	Principal Representative of Suriname to OAS/CICAD 1996 – 2012
Member, National Anti-Drugs Council 1997 – 2005	Member, Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism Commission (CICAD/MEM) 1998 – 2000
Member, Joint Working Group on Drug Cooperation — Suriname & Venezuela 2003 – 2005	Coordinator, Surinamese–Franco Institutional Strengthening Projects 1997 – 2005
Chair, IDEC Caribbean Section 2001 – 2002	Vice Chair, CICAD 2009 – 2010
Chair, CICAD 2010 – 2011	Chair, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) July – December 2022

FOUNDATION OF EXCELLENCE

Education & Formation

Algemene Middelbare School (AMS)

Suriname · 1976 – 1978

Netherlands Police Academy

Apeldoorn, The Netherlands · 1978 – 1982

Continuous Professional Development

Management, Leadership & International Law — throughout career

HONOURED BY NATIONS

Awards & International Engagements

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award — 2021

The highest honour bestowed upon overseas Indians, awarded to President Chandrikapersad Santokhi in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to diplomacy and governance.

Great Officer of the Yellow Star — 2010

State decoration bestowed by the President of the Republic of Suriname in recognition of his decades of distinguished service to the nation.

International Engagements

Jan 2018	Participated in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conference and PIO Conference for parliamentarians in India, representing the VHP as Chairman.
Dec 2018	Led a VHP delegation to China at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, fostering international cooperation for sustainable development.
Mar 2019	Delivered a keynote address in Georgetown, Guyana, on building open, resilient, and sustainable societies — invited by Transparency Institute Guyana Inc.
Aug 2021	Paid a four-day official state visit to Guyana at the invitation of President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, strengthening regional ties.
Sep 2021	Made a historic visit to the Netherlands to deepen bilateral relations between Suriname and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
Jun 2022	Delivered a keynote address on sustainable development at the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles (6–10 June).
Jul–Dec 2022	Served with distinction as Chairman of CARICOM during a period of compounding global crises, providing steady leadership for the Caribbean region.
Jul 2022	Presided over the Forty-Third CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting in Paramaribo, Suriname (3–5 July).
Sep 2022	Addressed the United Nations General Assembly, spotlighting climate change and the humanitarian crisis in Haiti. Attended the CELAC Summit in Mexico (16–18 September).
Jan 2023	Visited India as Special Guest of Honor at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention (7–14 January). Attended the inauguration of Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.
Sep–Oct 2023	Addressed the UN General Assembly (20 September). Conducted an official visit to the Dominican Republic, signing four MOUs (4–6 October).
Nov 2023	Attended the CARICOM Summit in Saudi Arabia (16–17 November).
Feb–Mar 2024	Attended the Forty-Sixth CARICOM Meeting in Georgetown (25–28 February) and the CELAC Summit in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (1–2 March).
Mar 2024	Installed as member and Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of Suriname — a symbol of his commitment to the nation's youth and future generations.

Oct 2024

Paid an official working visit to Curaçao and Aruba (21–23 October), strengthening ties with the Dutch Caribbean islands.

"His legacy is written not only in the laws he upheld and the offices he held, but in the lives he touched and the nation he served with honour."

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