

**High commission of India
Georgetown**

Brief on Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda, which has a population of nearly 100,000, is an island country which is located in the middle of the Leeward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean, north of the equator. It became an independent state in 1981 and has a Parliamentary system of government with the British Queen Elizabeth II as its Constitutional head. She is represented by an appointed Governor General as the Head of the State. High Commissioner of India to Guyana, with residence at Georgetown, is also accredited to Antigua & Barbuda.

Bilateral relations :

India and Antigua & Barbuda enjoy warm and friendly relations with similarity of views on most issues of common concern. There have been no official structured bilateral visits or engagement for quite some time, though ad-hoc exchanges do take place from time to time.

a) From the Antigua and Barbuda side, during the first week of April 2012, Member of Parliament Michael Ascot accompanied the Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis to India. The Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Rodney Williams visited India from 4-21 October 2015 in his personal capacity to participate in the 16th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World, organized by City Montessori School, Lucknow.

b) From the Indian side, Mr. R. Swaminathan, Secretary (AMS, CPV& SA) paid an official visit to Antigua & Barbuda during July 24-25, 2015 and met Hon'ble Prime minister Gaston Browne and Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Trade and Minister of Health. Hon'ble Mr. C.R. Chaudhary, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Commerce & Industry, visited Antigua and Barbuda from April 22-25, 2018 under Government of India's "Special Outreach" Initiative. The visit was the first-ever visit by an Indian Minister to the country since its independence in 1981.

Bilateral trade and investment :

Trade with India, though increasing over the years, remains low in absolute terms. Presently it stands at US\$ 2.86 million for the year 2018-19, as compared to US\$ 2.19 million for the previous year.

**Trade between India and Antigua & Barbuda as per statistics by
Ministry of Commerce New Delhi**

(In US\$ Millions)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19

India's Exports to Antigua & Barbuda	2.07	2.56	1.97	2.17	2.71
India's Imports from Antigua & Barbuda	0.49	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.15
Total Trade	2.56	2.57	1.97	2.19	2.86
Trade Balance	(+) 1.58	(+) 2.55	(+) 1.97	(+) 2.15	(+) 2.56

There are potential business opportunities for establishing Medical college, Specialty Hospital (for catering to medical tourism), Ayurvedic Resorts/ Spas, Information Technology College and IT Call centres.

Indian community is very small in size which consists of doctors, paramedics, IT professionals, traders. There are a number of students of Indian origin and a few Indian students who are studying in medical institutions in Antigua and Barbuda.

Manipal Education Trust, a private sector organization has made substantial investment in taking over Antigua College of Medicine and later by adding substantially to that facility. It has made great strides to set up Antigua as a regional hub for specialized education in medical discipline.

Other issues:

India and Antigua and Barbuda have signed a Visa Exemption Agreement for Holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports, in September 2019.

India has been assisting Antigua and Barbuda in capacity building through its popular India Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. For the year 2019-20, two slots have been allocated to Antigua and Barbuda under the ITEC Programme. A feasibility study for an IT Park with Indian assistance was undertaken in 2008. A feasibility study for a sewage treatment centre was done in 2009.

International Day of Yoga are celebrated every year in Antigua and Barbuda. The Yoga events are received with great enthusiasm and fervor by the local population.

September 2019