

India- Antigua and Barbuda Relations

Antigua and Barbuda are 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 as its constitutional head. She is represented by an appointed Governor General as the head of state.

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. During the first week of April 2012 Member of Parliament Michael Ascot accompanied 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.

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.

High Commissioner of India to Guyana, with residence at Georgetown, is also accredited to Antigua & Barbuda.

Trade with India, though increasing over the years, remains low in absolute terms. Presently it stands at US\$ 2.23 million for 2013-14 compared to US\$ 1.59 million for the previous year.

India-Antigua & Barbuda trade 2011-12 to 2015-16 (US\$ Million).

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
India's Export	0.87	1.36	2.19	2.07	2.56
India's Import	0.06	0.23	0.04	0.49	0.01
Total Trade	0.94	1.59	2.23	2.56	2.57

India has extended economic cooperation through ITEC. 11 ITEC slots have been allocated for Antigua & Barbuda in 2015-16. 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. Antigua & Barbuda always desired to further develop relations with India.

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 centre for specialized education in medical discipline.

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.

International Day of Yoga was observed on June 26, 2016 at Hodge's Bay, Antigua and Barbuda. The Yoga events were received with great enthusiasm and fervor by the local population.

Indian community is estimated to be around 150 engaged in garments, jewelry, pharmaceutical business and Indian students studying in medical institutions here.

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