

## **India-Antigua and Barbuda Bilateral Relations**

Antigua and Barbuda was a British colony till 1981 when it became independent as a constitutional monarchy with queen of UK being the Head of State, represented by a Governor General. It is a Westminster-type parliamentary system with an elected legislature. The Senate has 17 members appointed by Governor General including 10 government Senators, 4 opposition Senators, 1 Senator (Outstanding person category), 1 Barbuda Senator (Barbuda Council) and 1 Barbuda Senator (inhabitant of Barbuda). The last election was held on March 21, 2018 and the ruling Antigua Labour Party led by Gaston Browne retained power by winning 15 of the 17 seats. The opposition United Progressive Party could win only 1 seat and one seat was won by Barbuda People's Movement.

India and Antigua & Barbuda enjoy warm and friendly relations with similarity of views on most issues of common concern. In a foreign policy statement, Antigua & Barbuda (A&B) has expressed its desire to further develop relations with India. There is thus no structured or institutional dialogue mechanisms between the two countries.

Indian High Commissioner to Guyana is accredited to Antigua & Barbuda.

### **Bilateral Visits:**

(a) Hon. Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment visited India on 11-13 December 2018 to attend the Partners' Forum-2018 in New Delhi. Hon. Michael Ascot, Member of Parliament had visited India in April 2012.

(b) The visit of Secretary (AMS, CPV & SA) from MEA, New Delhi took place in July 2015, during which he called on Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Health Minister.

(c) Hon'ble Mr. Chhota Ram Chaudhary, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Commerce & Industry, visited Antigua & Barbuda from April 22-25, 2018 under the special "Outreach Programme" which provided an opportunity to demonstrate our goodwill and convey that we value the relationship with A&B. The visit was the first ever visit by a Minister from India to the country since its independence in 1981. It provided an excellent opportunity to discuss wide ranging issues relating to bilateral as well as multilateral relations. The visit afforded the opportunity for our Minister to meet and discuss issues of mutual interests with Prime Minister and four other dignitaries viz. Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade & Immigration, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries & Barbuda Affairs, Minister of Investment & Trade and Minister of Health, Wellness & Environment.

(d) Hon'ble EAM met A&B's Foreign Minister, Chet Greene, on September 26, 2018 on the sidelines of UNGA in New York.

India provided a direct cash assistance of US\$100,000/- and another US\$1 million through UNDP from India-UN Development Partnership Fund for rehabilitation of Barbuda after the devastating hurricane Irma in 2017 under which Hannah Thomas Hospital in Barbuda was refurbished/renovated and inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Antigua & Barbuda in August, 2020. India has also recently assisted with medicine (10,000 Hydroxychloroquine tablets) through DPA Division and US\$ 1 million Grant through India-UNDP Fund to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for combating COVID-19 pandemic by improving health infrastructure and capacities in Antigua and Barbuda.

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

India-Antigua bilateral trade 2015-16 to 2019-20 (figures in US\$ Million)

India & Antigua	US\$ Million				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-2020
India's <b>Exports</b> to Antigua	2.56	1.97	2.17	2.71	2.19
India's <b>Imports</b> from Antigua	0.01	0	0.02	0.15	0.20
<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>2.19</b>	<b>2.86</b>	<b>2.39</b>

**India's Exports to Antigua & Barbuda:** Pharmaceutical products, articles of clothing, vehicle parts and accessories, iron and steel and articles

**India's Imports from Antigua & Barbuda:** Metal scraps

Indian community is estimated to be around 300 engaged in garments, jewelry, pharmaceutical business and Indian students studying in medical institutions here.

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