

India-Grenada Relations

Historical Perspective:

India enjoys traditionally cordial relations with Grenada. Grenada, which comprises the islands of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, is popularly referred to as the 'Spice Island'. It has a land area of 133 sq. miles and a population of approximately 109,500. Relationship between India and Grenada goes back to 01 May 1845 when the first ship 'Maidstone' carrying 300 Indian indentured workers reached the shores of Grenada, then a British colony. Nearly 3000 Indo-Grenadians reside in Grenada. Grenada is concurrently accredited to our Mission in Port of Spain and it does not have a diplomatic Mission in India. When Grenada was affected by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, India provided relief assistance in terms of emergency medical supplies and roofing material etc.

Bilateral Cooperation:

Capacity Building: India has been contributing to the capacity building of Grenada by providing training to its personnel at various training institutions in India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. At present 5 slots are offered annually which are mostly utilized in the fields of improving ICT skills, management and training in SMEs.

Infrastructure Development Projects: On the request of the former Minister of Works of Grenada, Senator Denneth Modeste, two projects were taken up with DPA Division, MEA under the small project scheme of DPA. MEA has recently approved the projects viz. i) River Sallee Community Complex project (estimated cost of US\$610,074.00); and ii) Belle Vue Road project (estimated cost of US\$2,91,723.00) under its grant-in-aid scheme. The Mission is following up with the Government of Grenada for its early implementation.

Proposal for deputation of two experts: Minister of Agriculture of Grenada, Roland Bholah had requested for providing two experts under ITEC on (i) a Spice Expert to assist in the development of the spice industry for a period of two years; and (ii) a Technical Expert for Red Palm Mite which affects the coconut crop. The Minister had stressed the point that the spice sector was a key element in Grenada's agriculture, Grenada being an island of spice and has been a big exporter of Nutmeg until Hurricane Ivan hit them very badly in 2004. MEA has agreed, in principle, to provide the experts. The Mission is awaiting the completed ITEC forms from the Government of Grenada.

ICT Centre for Excellence & Innovation in Grenada: Following the signing of a MoU in October 2008 between GOI and the Government of Grenada for setting up of an ICT Centre for Excellence & Innovation in St. George's at an estimated cost of US\$ 0.8 million, the Centre was officially opened by PM Tillman Thomas on 15 April 2011 under

ITEC programme. The Centre provides facilities for training of over 800 students annually. The computer laboratory financed by GOI is equipped with necessary computer hardware such as servers, desktops, projectors, printers, scanners, etc. and facilitates training of about 50 students at a time in two classrooms of 25 each. GOI provided requisite courseware material and software for different streams and deputed three Indian IT trainers from C-DAC for a period of two years for training and coordination. However, as per requirement they have trained local personnel who would now take up the training aspect. The government had informed the Mission that the project would soon be re-located to the old Library Building in the centre of St. Georges, the capital. Following the departure of the three trainers, the Centre has gone into some kind of a downslide. The matter was taken up with the Prime Minister of Grenada, who assured that they would immediately look into the matter with due attention. Since the project require constant supervision, the Mission had made a request to Ministry that a senior C-DAC technical delegation may visit the Centre at GOI's cost and prescribe mechanisms to go forward.

Proposal for signing a MoU on Small & Micro Enterprises: During the visit of a delegation from Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, New Delhi led by National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) in early 2010, the proposal for signing of a MoU between NSIC and Grenada Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) was discussed. The draft MoU is under consideration for finalization from the Grenada side. The Mission has been following up on the finalization of MOU between GIDC and NSIC.

Proposal for Cultural Exchange Agreement (CEA) and Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP): The proposals for CEA and CEP were discussed between the Prime Minister of Grenada and High Commissioner. The Mission had subsequently sent a letter along with copies of the CEA and CEP signed with the Government of T&T to Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture of Grenada, Alexandra Otway-Noel, requesting to draw areas for exchanges suitable for Grenada-India cultural cooperation. The Mission is awaiting draft CEA & CEP from the Government of Grenada.

The Indo-Grenada Heritage Foundation (IGHF): IGHF, which is a local group consisting of Indo-Grenadian people, has been active since 2007 in various cultural and heritage related activities. Mission has given total support to the Foundation and is pursuing such activities on a regular basis such as hosting of Indian Arrival Day, installation of Heritage plaque and monument, moving a project on a Heritage Museum and instituting links with GOPIO International. IGHF made proposals for refurbishment of the Heritage Museum at Belmont Estate, acquisition and development of the Indian Arrival site at Irwin's Bay and construction of a Diaspora Memorial monument on the site. Proposals have been forwarded to MOIA. Foreign Minister of Grenada Nickolas Steele has been informed that these proposals are supported by the GOI. Once the Cultural Exchange Programme is signed, GOI could depute a short time expert to address the issues.

Donation of sets of cricket equipment: GOI donated two complete sets of cricket equipment to the Parish of St. Marks during HC's visit there on the occasion of

Grenada's National Day on 7 February 2011. The donation was received by PM Tillman Thomas from High Commissioner.

Principal Agreements / MoUs between India and Grenada:

- A MoU between GOI and Government of Grenada for setting up an ICT Centre for Excellence and Innovations at Grenada was signed in October, 2008.
- A proposal of draft Agreement for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect of Taxes (AEIACT) has been forwarded to the Government of Grenada for consideration. The Mission is awaiting a response from the Government of Grenada.
- A proposal of Visa Waiver Agreement for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports has been forwarded to the Government of Grenada along with a standard draft prepared by the GOI. The Mission is awaiting a response from the Government of Grenada.

Trade and Economy:

India exports mainly pharmaceutical products, jewellery, readymade garments, textiles and home furnishings etc. to Grenada, while Grenada's exports mainly comprise of scrap metals and plastic articles. Bilateral trade between India and Grenada during 2012-13 amounted to US\$1.06 million. Given the distance and small size of Grenada market, volume of our bilateral trade is comparatively small. India's exports to Grenada were US\$1.03 million and Grenada's exports were US\$0.03 million.

Culture:

Indian cultural troupes have been visiting Grenada for several years, particularly during the celebration of Indian Arrival Day and Phagwa/Holi. A 9-member Mewasi Folk dance troupe from Gujarat visited Grenada in March 2013 and gave dance performance. In August 2011, a 14-member Goenchin Noketram Dancers, Folk and Music Group from Goa took part in the Grenada Carnival. On each of these occasions the troupes were warmly welcomed. The High Commission also organized the first ever Festival of Indian Cinema in 2011, which was well appreciated. Given financial constraints, ICCR may not be able to send cultural troupe this year.

Indian Community:

There is a small Indian community in Grenada comprising of businessmen who deal in general merchandise and small scale trading activities. There are nearly 3000 Indo-Grenadians in Grenada who are represented in the Indo-Grenada Heritage Foundation (IGHF). There are also a few professionals and academics who teach at the St. George's University of Grenada, besides a fairly large Indo-American Student Community who constitute the PIO community. The Foundation was instrumental in observing 1st May as Indian Arrival Day (IAD). Since the last 5 years IAD is being

celebrated by the Foundation who have named the road leading to the site of the first Indians' arrival as 'Maidstone Road' after the first ship 'Maidstone' which brought Indian indentured workers to Grenada and raised a commemorative plaque.

Gandhi Awareness Programme: Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to peace and non-violence has been one of the greatest landmarks of contemporary history. A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was installed in January 2013 in the Mac Donald College in the northern part of the island (St. Patrick's Parish). The Mission has been actively engaged in disseminating awareness about Gandhiji's life and philosophy primarily among educational institutions in Grenada through distribution of books and films.

Visa waiver for Indian nationals:

As per the May 2011 revised Visa Exemption list, the Government of Grenada has waived visa requirement for Indian nationals visiting Grenada for tourism and business purposes.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates please visit High Commission of India, Port of Spain website:
<http://www.hcipo.in/>

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