

Bilateral Relations – GRENADA

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. More than 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.

Visits:

No high-level official bilateral visits have taken place between the two countries so far. However, Prime Minister of Grenada Dr. Keith Mitchell visited India from 26-30 July, 2006 in connection with preparations for the Cricket World Cup 2007 held in West Indies. During the visit, PM Mitchell paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 29 July, 2006.

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.

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. The Government of India has recently increased the number of annual training slots from 5 to 12 for Grenadian nationals. These slots are mostly utilized in the fields of improving ICT skills, management and training in SMEs.

Infrastructure Development Projects: On the request of the Government of Grenada, the Government of India has agreed to fund the following two development projects – i) Union Community Complex in lieu of River Sallee Community Centre costing of US\$610,074/-; and ii) Belle Vue Road costing of US\$291,723/-. The work for the Belle Vue Road has already begun and the Union Community Complex is in the process of early implementation.

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 the Prime Minister of Grenada on 15 April 2011 under ITEC programme. At the request of the High Commissioner, the Centre has been shifted in February 2016 to T.A. Marryshow Community College, which is a prominent academic institution of the country. The Centre, which was more or less non-functional for two years at the previous location, is now fully functional. Two officials from the ICT Centre visited India in February 2015 to attend a special training programme "Manager Development Programme" at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), India under ITEC Programme.

Economic Relations:

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 2013-14 amounted to US\$1.46 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\$1.43 million and Grenada's exports were US\$0.03 million.

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, Grenada evinced interest in developing SME's particularly in the area of agro-industries, food processing and small scale manufacturing. A proposal for signing of a MoU between NSIC and Grenada Industrial Development Corporation was discussed. The draft MoU is under consideration for finalization from the Grenadian side.

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 performances. Coinciding with the Indian Arrival Day in Grenada, the High Commission in collaboration with the Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre Co. Ltd. and the Indo-Grenadian Heritage Foundation organized the first ever International Conference on Indian Diaspora in Grenada and Wider Caribbean from 29th April to 1st May. Inaugurating the Conference, PM Dr. Keith Mitchell made an announcement officially recognizing May 1st as Indian Arrival Day. He noted that May 1st holiday will now be shared between the Labour Day and Indian Arrival Day and a Gazette Notification in this respect will be issued. On the occasion, the High Commission also hosted an Indian Food Festival and cultural events in Grenada.

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 for a period of three months. GOI has approved e-Tourist Visa for citizens of Grenada.

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 IGHF 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.

Useful Resources:

Website: <http://www.hcipoos.in>

Facebook link: India in Trinidad and Tobago

Twitter link: @IndiainTandT

5th December, 2016

