

India-CARICOM Relations

India-CARICOM relations are a synergistic partnership anchored by deep historical ties, shared democratic values, mutual developmental goals and strong solidarity across the Global South, connecting India with the 15 member states and associate members of the Caribbean Community through political and commercial engagement, and cross-cultural exchanges.

2. First political visit from CARICOM to India was in November 2003 when a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Jamaica and the then Chairman of the Community Council K.D. Knight, visited India which resulted in signing of an agreement establishing a Standing Joint Commission on Consultation, Cooperation and Coordination.

India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers Meetings [Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR)]

- ▶ The first India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers meeting was held in Paramaribo on 15 February 2005, on the sidelines of CARICOM Summit;
- ▶ Second India-CARICOM Ministerial Meeting was held in New York on 30 September 2015, on the sidelines of UNGA;
- ▶ Third India-CARICOM Ministerial Meeting was held in New York on 19 September 2017, on the sidelines of UNGA;
- ▶ India formally participated for the first time in the 4th India-COFCOR meeting on 21 April 2023 during the visit of EAM to Georgetown, Guyana at CARICOM headquarters;
- ▶ Fifth India-COFCOR meeting, co-chaired by EAM took place in New York on 27 September 2024, on the sidelines of UNGA.

India-CARICOM Joint Commission Meetings:

- ▶ First Meeting of the India-CARICOM Joint Commission was held in Georgetown on 2 June 2015;
- ▶ 2nd India-CARICOM Joint Commission was held virtually on 6 November 2024.

India-CARICOM Summits:

- ▶ First India-CARICOM Summit led by PM took place in New York on 25 September 2019, on the sidelines of UNGA;
- ▶ Second India-CARICOM Summit, co-chaired by PM, along with PM of Grenada Dickon Mitchel was held on 20 November 2024 during PM's visit to Guyana.

Other engagements -

- ▶ Secretary (West) met the Secretary-General, CARICOM on the sidelines of the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS 4) held in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024.
- ▶ A round table discussion entitled 'India-CARICOM Cooperation in Resource Mapping, Climate Change and Agricultural Research & Development' was held on July 25, 2025 in Georgetown in collaboration with ISRO and CSIR. The event was organized as a further step towards implementation of various outcomes from the 2nd India-CARICOM Summit held in Georgetown in November 2024.
- ▶ A workshop-cum-exhibition on 'India-CARICOM Cooperation in Counter Terrorism & Law Enforcement' was organized by Indian High Commission in Georgetown on 17 October 2025 with participation of CARICOM Secretariat, among others.

3. Capacity Building:

- ▶ A training programme on capacity building in Strategic Planning, Project Management and Monitoring & Evaluation was conducted by two experts from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmadabad from 10-20 July 2017 at the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown.
- ▶ A special training programme for mid-level CARICOM diplomats was conducted from 13-24 November 2017 at Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi in which 25 diplomats from the CARICOM participated. 2nd Special Programme was held in August 2019 with the participation of 23 diplomats from 10 countries.
- ▶ Two CARICOM officers attended the G20 Conference titled "Crime and Security in the age of NFTs, AI and Metaverse" on 13-14 July 2023.
- ▶ Under ITEC Programme, an Indian fisheries expert/scientist Dr. Pranaya Kumar Parida, was deputed to the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from December 2022 to January 2025 for assisting with fisheries assessment/statistical analysis/development plan formulation activities for CARICOM.
- ▶ In November 2025, a group of 20 diplomats from CARICOM Secretariat and CARICOM members states participated in the 1st Special Course for Diplomats for Central & South America and Caribbean Islands, hosted by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi.

- ▶ A customized ITEC course on "Impact of AI on "Global Governance, Institutional Operations and Public Service Delivery" for CARICOM countries was attended by 3 CARICOM officials from 2-7 February 2026 in New Delhi.

4. **Development Cooperation:**

- ▶ During the third India-CARICOM Ministerial Meeting in September 2017, India offered emergency aid of US\$ 200,000/- to the worst affected CARICOM countries (US\$ 100,000 each to Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica) and additional US\$ 2 million from the India-UN Partnership Fund for South-South Cooperation for rehabilitation projects in CARICOM.
- ▶ In the first India-CARICOM Summit held in 2019, India offered US\$ 14 million Grant (US\$ 1million per CARICOM member state) for quick impact community development projects; US\$ 150 million Line of Credit (US\$ 10 million per CARICOM member state) for solar energy and climate change related projects; and special capacity building courses, training and deputation of experts based on CARICOM requirements.
- ▶ During COVID19 pandemic in 2021, India gifted around 5 lakh doses of vaccines to CARICOM member states.
- ▶ During the India-CARICOM Foreign Ministerial Meeting held in Georgetown in April 2023, India offered US\$ 1 million Grant and five Quick Impact Development Projects for US\$ 50,000 in a year to CARICOM Member States to support small and medium-scale enterprises and social infrastructure.
- ▶ Projects under US\$1 million grant are completed in Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). Eleven BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri) Cube have been handed over to Jamaica. Some QIP projects in Suriname, SVG are completed and some projects in CARICOM countries are ongoing.
- ▶ In the 2nd India-CARICOM Summit held on 20 November 2024, Hon. PM offered assistance to CARICOM countries in **seven key areas**, i.e. **C**-capacity building, **A**-agriculture and food security, **R**- renewable energy and climate change, **I** -innovation, technology and trade, **C**-cricket and culture, **O**- ocean economy and maritime security and **M**- medicine and healthcare.
- ▶ ICT Centres of Excellence in Grenada (2011) and the Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (CEIT) in Guyana (2019) are operational.

5. **Culture, Sports & people-to-people ties:** More than half a million Indians were brought to the Caribbean between 1838 and 1917 by the British to work as indentured labour in the sugar plantations. They have kept the Indian cultural traditions and heritage alive. Common love for cricket and Indian movies is another important area for cementing people-

to-people ties. The past and present cricketers from this region are household names in India. A number of renowned cricketers from West Indies participate in IPL too.

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