

## India-Barbados Relations

India and Barbados enjoy close and cordial relations and interact actively in the UN, Commonwealth and NAM and other international fora. The first ever Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Barbados was held in Bridgetown, Barbados from April 28 – May 1, 2015. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV), Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and Ms. Simone Rudder, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Government of Barbados led the Barbadian side. During the visit Mr. R. Swaminathan also paid courtesy calls on the Minister of foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Hon. Ms. Maxine McClean; Minister of Industry, International Business, Commerce and Small Business Development, Hon. Mr. Donville Inniss and Minister of Health, Hon. Mr. John Boyce.

India and Barbados have signed Air Services Agreement on October 6, 2015, for facilitation of travel arrangements for the citizens and the possibility of direct air connectivity and chartered flight operations between the two countries. The agreement allows, inter alia, full fifth freedom rights including weekly operations of seven air services to each country. The electronic travel authorisation system (eTVA) for Barbadians have already been implemented with effect from May 01, 2015.

Barbados and India actively cooperate on various multilateral fora. Barbados has been supporting India's candidature on various multilateral platforms including elections of different bodies under UN, including the recently held ICJ elections.

Barbados has been allotted 04 ITEC scholarships in 2017-18. Mr Andre Padmore, FSO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Govt of Barbados attended 63<sup>rd</sup> PCFD course in India from March 29 to 28 April, 2017.

### Bilateral trade between India and Barbados

#### **Exports to Barbados**

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2011 - 2012 | US\$ 7.55 million                   |
| 2012 - 2013 | US\$ 5.87 million [% growth -22.21] |
| 2013 - 2014 | US\$ 6.44 million [% growth 9.74]   |
| 2014 - 2015 | US\$ 10.1 million [% growth 58.24]  |
| 2015-16     | US\$ 10.50 million[ % growth 3]     |
| 2016-17     | US\$ 12.39 million                  |

Indian exports include vehicles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, iron & steel, organic chemicals, etc.

#### **Imports from Barbados**

|           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 2011-2012 | US\$ 0.79 million                   |
| 2012-2013 | US\$ 0.10 million [% growth -87.94] |
| 2013-2014 | US\$ 0.11 million [% growth 19.98]  |
| 2014-2015 | US \$ 0.17 million                  |
| 2015-16   | US\$ 0.17 million                   |
| 2016-17   | US\$ 0.18 million                   |

Indian imports include electrical machinery, optical photography cinematographic equipment.

### **Sports and culture**

Cricket being a great connect in India, Barbadian cricketers of yore and modern times are household names among Indian sport lovers. Sir Vivian Richards, Garry Sobers, Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes and Wes Hall , invoke memories of great performances on West Indian Cricket teams tour to India. Many of Barbadian cricketers are members of IPL teams

### **Indian Community**

Approximately 3000 people of Indian origin have settled in Barbados and most of them have since acquired local nationality. Over 2000 of them are from Surat district of Gujrat known as “ Suratis”. There are also 130 Sindhi families mainly engaged in Business and 150 professionals engaged in the field of Education and Medicine, Financial Services & IT. Approximately, 30 students are pursuing Pre-medical courses at a private University.

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