

**Bilateral Relations - GRENADA**

India enjoys traditionally cordial relations with Grenada. Grenada is concurrently accredited to our Mission in Port of Spain. Grenada does not have a diplomatic Mission in India. India has been contributing to the capacity building of Grenada by fully sponsored training of personnel from Grenada at various training institutions 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.

In August 2008, Opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) party led by Tillman Thomas came to power in Grenada capturing 11 of the 15 seats ousting the Government of Keith Mitchell which ruled the country for 13 years. A 17-member cabinet headed by Tillman Thomas was sworn in. The new Prime Minister has kept the portfolios of Legal Affairs, National Security and Information while Karl Hood has been appointed as the new Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**Proposals for signing Agreements:**

- i) One of the major outcomes of a MSME delegation's visit led by NSIC was to propose a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and Grenada Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC). A GIDC delegation is likely to visit India in this regard.
- ii) A techno feasibility study for setting up a Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant for fresh water supply and distribution in the sister island of Carriacou was carried out by ITCOT, a consultancy PSU on water management in Tamil Nadu in end September 2010 for transfer of Indian technology and manpower in setting up a RO Plant in Carriacou. Grenada is sensitizing the matter within AOSIS to get funding from international agencies.

**Bilateral Cooperation:** India has been contributing to the capacity building of Grenada nationals at various training institutions in India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). Eleven slots offered under ITEC are mostly utilized by Grenada in fields of improving Information Communication Technology skills, Management and training in SMEs.

The Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 21 October 2008 with the Government of Grenada for the setting up of an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training Centre in St. George's at an estimated cost of US\$ 8 million. The Centre, officially opened by PM Tillman Thomas on 15 April 2011 in an impressive ceremony, will provide facilities for training of over 800 students annually. The computer Laboratory, financed by GOI will be housed in two classrooms equipped with necessary computer hardware such as servers, desktops, projectors, printers, scanners, etc. and facilitate training of about 50 students at a time in two classrooms of 25 each. GOI will also provide requisite courseware material and software for different streams and depute three Indian IT trainers for a period of two years. At the opening ceremony, PM Thomas sincerely appreciated India's assistance and generosity in transferring its knowledge strength and recounted several areas of bilateral cooperation which have developed between the two countries. PM also stated the vision of his government to set up an ICT Park and encourage growth of business and the commendable role of the High Commission in bringing the Centre to

fruition. PM Thomas also announced special scholarships for OECS nationals to avail of the Centre’s facilities besides making such scholarships available to Grenadian citizens as well as facility for Government servants and members of business and industry to benefit from the courses of the ICT Centre.

Govt. of Grenada has sought assistance of an expert on spice breeding from India. The matter is under active consideration as bio-profiles of 4 Experts in the fields have been received and conveyed to the Govt. of Grenada.

Several Foreign Service Officers and/or Diplomats of the Government of Grenada have received training courses at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of MEA, New Delhi.

GOI donated two complete sets of Cricket equipment to the Parish of St. Marks during HC's recent visit there on the occasion of Grenada's National Day on 7 February. The donation was received by PM Tillman Thomas from High Commissioner.

**Bilateral Trade:** India exports mainly pharmaceutical products, jewellery, readymade garments, textiles and home furnishings etc. to Grenada, while Grenada exports mainly scrap metals and plastic articles. India-Grenada bilateral trade figures are as under:

	[Figures in US\$million]			
	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2009-10</u>	<u>2010-11</u>
India’s exports	1.24	0.45	0.64	0.56
India’s imports	0.02	0.07	0.07	0.00

**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. 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. Some of them have formed the Indo-Grenada Heritage Foundation (IGHF). The Foundation was instrumental in having Indian Arrival Day (IAD) on 1st May declared a National Holiday. Since the last 3 years IAD is being celebrated by the Foundation who have named the road leading to the site of first Indians' arrival as 'Maidstone Road' after the first ship 'Maidstone' which brought Indian indentured workers to Grenada and raised a commemorative plaque. The Foundation intends to raise a monument at a designated spot close to the landing area. The 15 member Bhangra and Giddah troupe visited Grenada after their visit to T&T and gave three well-acclaimed performances. For the first time ever, a 14-member music and dance troupe was invited to take part in the Grenada Carnival from 6-9 August,2011.

**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 is proposed to be installed at a suitable place in St.Georges while the Mission has been engaged in disseminating awareness about Gandhiji’s philosophy and vision in Grenada.

**Support for Indian Candidates at multilateral fora:**

Grenada has been supportive of India’s candidature for UN bodies.