



भारत का उच्चायोग
जार्जटाउन, गयाना
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
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PRESS RELEASE

First Meeting of the India-CARICOM Joint Commission, Georgetown

The First Meeting of the India-CARICOM Joint Commission was held in Georgetown, Guyana on 2nd June 2015. The Indian delegation was led by Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) and the CARICOM side was led by Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, Secretary General of CARICOM, H.E. Dr. June Soomer, the Ambassador of St. Lucia to CARICOM and Ambassador Manorma Soeknandan, Deputy Secretary General of CARICOM. Besides the CARICOM Secretariat, all member countries of the CARICOM participated in the meeting including some via video conferencing. From the Indian side Smt. Riva Ganguly Das, Joint Secretary (LAC) and High Commissioner of India H.E. Mr. V. Mahalingam participated along with other officials from MEA, Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Pharmaceuticals.

The entire gamut of bilateral relations between India and CARICOM, including cooperation in agriculture and food security, health and pharmaceuticals, small and medium enterprises, marine development and oceanography and disaster management were discussed during the Joint Commission Meeting. Discussions were also held on important regional and multilateral issues.

The CARICOM member countries expressed appreciation of India's continued contribution to capacity building in the region through the ITEC programme, proposed training of Young Diplomats and training in Project Management. Upgradation of the Information and Communication Technology system in the CARICOM Secretariat under development assistance was also discussed. Both sides agreed to have the India-CARICOM Ministerial meeting at the earliest.

During his visit to Guyana, Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS&CPV) also made courtesy calls on H.E. Brig. (Retd) David Arthur Granger, President and H.E. Moses V. Nagamootoo, Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. He also met H.E Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, Foreign Minister and Ambassador Audrey Jardine Waddell, Acting Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

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