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The Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda join in commending the great Commonwealth country of the Republic of India, now celebrating its 74th year as a sovereign and independent state.

India's independence in 1947 heralded a volcanic shift in the relations between the colonized and the colonizers, all over the world. India has played a leadership role in the dismantling of the subjection of colonized peoples, and securing the sovereignty and independence of states both large and small. India's role is deeply etched in the history of the struggle for freedom and equality.

Since 1981, India and Antigua and Barbuda have enjoyed very friendly relations, and have entered into technical cooperation projects to the benefit of both sovereign states. Most recently, following a devastating natural disaster in Antigua and Barbuda, India stepped forward with the resources to place the Hanna Thomas Hospital on Barbuda back into operation. It was severely damaged and its equipment destroyed by the vicious winds and water of Hurricane Irma, in September 2017. Even now, in wake of the global war against the dreadful Coronavirus pandemic, India has come forward and donated \$1 Million USD worth of life saving equipment and PPE's to our twin island state.

The Government and people of the great Republic of India have continued to cooperate with the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda in this era of this destructive Coronavirus pandemic. The continued leadership of India in the race to find a vaccine, that can reverse the harm unleashed against populations and economies, continues. India's outstanding expertise in producing the best technology engineers will ensure that India's undiminished expertise will again prevail.

The Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda reaffirm their faith in the greatness of the Government and people of the Republic of India, and take this opportunity to renew the assurances of their highest esteem and friendship.