

## India - St Kitts (Christopher) and Nevis Relations

St. Kitts & Nevis, named after Christopher Columbus became a British colony in 1623, got internal autonomy in 1967 and independence in 1983. St. Kitts & Nevis is officially headed by the Queen of U.K. represented by a Governor General. It has a 14-member uni-cameral legislative, 11 of which are directly elected, 2 nominated by the PM and one by the leader of the opposition.

Indian High Commissioner to Guyana, with residence at Georgetown, is accredited to St. Kitts & Nevis.

India and St Kitts & Nevis are maintaining friendly and cordial relations. St Kitts & Nevis is generally supportive of Indian's position in international fora. Bilateral visits are rare, though leaders do interact during international conferences. Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas made a private visit to India from 5-10 April 2012 during which he met business houses and explored possibility for developing business partnership. Foreign Office Consultations has been structured since 2007 and ITEC has 10 slots for St. Kitts & Nevis in 2015-16. The Government of India provided Rs 5,00,000.- as hurricane relief assistance to the country in the wake of hurricane Luis in 1995. India and St Kitts & Nevis signed a MOU for enhancing the mechanism of Foreign Office Consultations in July 2007.

India being a part of the Commonwealth, its nationals do not require a visa to enter St Kitts and Nevis.

Trade with India is marginal as its imports are mostly tourism related and its exports are not geared to Indian market. Some Indian businessmen import pharmaceuticals, garments, jewelry etc from India.

### India-St Kitts & Nevis bilateral trade 2010-11 to 2015-16 (US\$ Million).

Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
India's Export	0.66	0.63	1.22	1.25	2.20
India's Import	0.09	0.00	0.02	0.37	0.16
Total Trade	0.75	0.63	1.23	1.52	2.36

There are potential business opportunities such as establishing Medical College, Ayurvedic Resort and IT Call Centres, installation of solar plants / renewable energy and controlled environment agriculture.

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated on June 26, 2016 at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park at *Basseterre*, the capital city of St. Kitts and Nevis.

There is approximately 200-250 members of Indian Community engaged in small business. The population of Indians in the country is increasing gradually as some of the businessmen have shifted their operations from St Martin to St Kitts recently. Some Indian origin students are also studying in the Windsor University School of Medicine, St Kitts.

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