

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 unicameral 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 is accredited to St. Kitts & Nevis.

India and St Kitts & Nevis have maintained 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 a few slots for St. Kitts.. 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. High Commissioner Mr Puran Mal Meena during his visit to St Kitts & Nevis to present credentials held extensive discussions on bilateral relations and cooperation.

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. Bilateral trade during 2013 was US\$0.63 million compared to previous year's US\$ 0.75 million.

India-St Kitts & Nevis bilateral trade 2008-09 to 2012-13.(figures in US\$ Million).

Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
India's Export	0.71	1.47	0.74	0.66	0.63
India's Import	Nil	0.03	Nil	0.09	0.00
Total Trade	0.71	1.50	0.74	0.75	0.63

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.

Government of India appointed Mr Kishu D. Chandiramani as Honorary Consul of India in St Kitts and Nevis in August 2008.

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