

## **India-St.Kitts and Nevis Bilateral 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 is accredited to St. Kitts & Nevis.

India and St Kitts & Nevis have maintained friendly and cordial relations. St Kitts & Nevis is generally supportive of India's position in international fora. Bilateral visits are rare, though leaders do interact during international conferences. Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris. 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. St Kitts & Nevis signed a MOU for enhancing the mechanism of Foreign Office Consultations in July 2007. 10 ITEC slots have been earmarked for St. Kitts & Nevis. 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. India provided US\$ 1 million Support to St. Kitts and Nevis on COVID-19 Response from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, as part of India-CARICOM Leaders Project announced by the Prime Minister in New York on 25 September 2019.

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

### **Bilateral visits**

Hon. Ian Patches Liburd, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Post, Urban Development and Transport of St. Kitts and Nevis visited India to attend the Second General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance held in New Delhi from 31 October to 2 November 2019. Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas had visited India in his personal capacity in 2012, when he met Indian business leaders.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Pubic Distribution and Commerce & Industry, Shri C.R. Chaudhary visited St. Kitts & Nevis from April 25 - 28, 2018 under Government of India's 'Outreach Initiative." The visit of our Minister to St. Kitts & Nevis is the first ever visit by a Minister from India to the country since its independence in 1983.

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 2019-20 was US\$ 2.56 million compared to previous year's US\$ 2.31 million.

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India-St Kitts & Nevis bilateral trade 2015-16 to 2019-20 (figures in US\$ Million).

<b>India &amp; St. Kitts</b>	<b>US\$ million</b>				
	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>
India's <b>Exports</b> to St. Kitts	2.20	3.09	2.87	2.37	2.56
India's <b>Imports</b> from St. Kitts	0.16	0.01	0	0	0
<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.87</b>	<b>2.37</b>	<b>2.56</b>

**India's Exports to St. Kitts & Nevis:** Pharmaceutical products, articles of clothing, vehicle parts and accessories, machinery and equipment parts and accessories, jewellery

**India's Imports from St. Kitts & Nevis:** Metal scraps

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