

India-Saint Lucia Relations

India and Saint Lucia enjoy close and cordial relations. The Indian Prime Minister met the then St Lucian Prime Minister Dr Kenny D. Anthony on the sidelines of UNGA on September 25, 2015 and discussed bilateral, multilateral and regional issues of mutual interests.

Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship(IC), Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy visited St Lucia from October 03-06, 2016 as part of the outreach initiatives of the Government of India where Ministerial level visits have not taken place in recent years.

The visit of the Hon'ble Minister was historical from the bilateral relations perspective of the two nations. It generated huge interest among local business sectors, Indian diaspora, NRIs and various social organizations. Apart from his two official meetings with the St Lucian Ministers namely Hon'ble Ms Sarah Beaubrun Flood, Minister of External Affairs and Senator Hon'ble Hermanglid Francis, Minister for Home Affairs, Justice and National Security, the Hon'ble Minister interacted with other important Ministers including Mr Guy Joseph, the Acting Prime Minister of St Lucia, Minister of Commerce, Industrialists, Diaspora Associations, Academicians and senior St Lucian government officials.

The Government of St. Lucia has expressed interest in signing a bilateral agreement with India in the fields of Information Technology, Education, Culture, Sports and Technical Cooperation.

India handed over a cash donation of US\$500,000/- to St Lucia towards assistance in recovery and rehabilitation following flash floods in December, 2013. Earlier, in December, 2010, India had made a cash donation of US\$500,000/- towards recovery and rehabilitation following Hurricane Tomas.

Under ITEC Programme 15 scholarships have been allotted for 2016-17.

Bilateral trade between India and Saint Lucia

Exports to Saint Lucia

2011-12	US\$ 1.32 million
2012-13	US\$ 1.03 million
2013-14	US\$ 2.28 million [% growth 121.21]
2014-15	US\$ 2.13 million
2015-16	US\$ 2.67 million[% growth 25.63%]

Indian exports include vehicles, pharmaceuticals, Iron & Steel and textiles.

Imports from Saint Lucia

2011-12	US\$ 0.47 million
2012-13	US\$ 0.41 million
2013-14	US\$ 0.50 million
2014-15	US\$ 0.14 million
2015-16	US\$ 0.45 million

Indian imports include aluminum and iron scrap.

Indian Community

Around 250 Indians (including Families) reside in St Lucia and are working as doctors, professionals and a few businessmen dealing in imports, trading and duty free shops. There are about 5000 persons of Indian origin who came to Saint Lucia in the 19th century as indentured labourers. However most of them have assimilated with the local population.

Useful resources:

Embassy website: <http://indembassysuriname.com>

Embassy Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInSuriname?fref=ts>

Embassy Twitter: @IndEmbSur

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