

**High Commission of India  
Georgetown**

**Brief on St Kitts (Christopher) and Nevis**

St. Kitts & Nevis is a small island country, named after Christopher Columbus which became a British colony in 1623, got internal autonomy in 1967 and independence in 1983. The population of St. Kitts and Nevis is little more than 54,000 people.

Government:

St. Kitts & Nevis is officially headed by the Queen Elizabeth II of U.K. represented by a Governor General. It has a 14- member uni-cameral legislative, 11 of which are directly elected and three members are nominated to the House, out of which 2 are nominated on the advice of the Prime Minister and 1 on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition. Indian High Commissioner to Guyana, with residence at Georgetown, is concurrently accredited to St. Kitts & Nevis.

Bilateral relations:

India and St Kitts & Nevis maintain friendly and cordial relations. On account of extensive damages suffered by St. Kitts and Nevis due to hurricane Luis in 1995, the Government of India provided Rs. 5 lakhs as hurricane relief assistance, a gesture which was greatly appreciated by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. Shri Prakash Shah, the then Permanent Representative to the UN, New York visited St. Kitts & Nevis as Special Envoy of the Foreign Minister in May 1996 for exchange of views on matters of mutual interests. In July 2007, India and St. Kitts signed an MoU for enhancing the mechanism of Foreign Office Consultations at bureaucratic level.

St Kitts & Nevis is generally supportive of Indian's position in international fora. It also supported India's resolution at the UN General Assembly in May 2007 to observe Mahatma Gandhi's date of birth, October 2, as International Day of Non-violence.

The last known visit of a dignitary from St. Kitts and Nevis to India was by Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas in his personal capacity from April 5-10, 2012.

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

India has been assisting St. Kitts and Nevis in capacity building under India Trade and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. 2 slots under ITEC have been offered to St. Kitts and Nevis for the year 2019-20.

### Bilateral trade and investment:

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. Indian businessmen import pharmaceuticals, garments, jewelry etc from India. While India's export to St. Kitts and Nevis during the period 2018-19 was to the tune of US\$ 2.37 million, India did not import anything during the same period.

### **Trade between India and St. Kitts & Nevis as per statistics by Ministry of Commerce, New Delhi**

(In US\$ Millions)

	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
India's <b>Exports</b> to St. Kitts & Nevis	1.25	2.20	3.09	2.87	2.37
India's <b>Imports</b> from St. Kitts & Nevis	0.37	0.16	0.01	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>1.62</b>	<b>2.36</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.87</b>	<b>2.37</b>
Trade Balance	(+) 0.88	(+) 2.04	(+) 2.83	(+) 2.87	(+) 2.37

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.

### Other issues:

The International Day of Yoga is celebrated every year in St. Kitts and Nevis. A 10 member Asian Punjabi Folk troupe from ICCR toured St. Kitts and Nevis from 8-10 December 2016 and gave performances.

### Indian community:

There are approx. 200-250 members of Indian Community which is engaged in small business in St. Kitts and Nevis. 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. One of the largest off-shore medical institutes in the Caribbean, viz., Windsor University School of Medicine in St Kitts., run by PIOs, has many Indians working as faculty members. A few Indian students are also studying in this Medical University.

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