

High Commission of India  
Port of Spain

**Bilateral Relations - MONTSERRAT**

India enjoys cordial relations with Montserrat, a self-governing UK overseas territory. Montserrat is concurrently accredited to our Mission in Port of Spain. India has been contributing to the capacity building of Montserrat by training of personnel at various training institutions in India.

Montserrat has endured volcanic activity following the last major eruption in 1995 which completely destroyed half of the island with half of the population of 11,000 permanently leaving the island. The volcano still spouts lava from time to time, the last such eruption being in February 2010.

**Bilateral Cooperation:**

The Montserrat Government has conveyed its interest in cooperation with India in the areas of agriculture, SME's, IT and Culture. A Letter of Intent between the two governments was signed on 7 December 2010. To augment bilateral cooperation, a MoU in the areas of Technical Cooperation, Culture, Agriculture, Small Business Development, IT, Healthcare, Seismology, Sports etc. has been proposed.

India has been contributing to the capacity building of Montserrat nationals at various training institutions in India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). Two slots offered under ITEC are mostly utilized in the fields of Information Communication Technology, management and training in SMEs.

A 10-member Mayurbhanj Chhau group led by Shri Kartikeswar Rana from Orissa visited Montserrat from 15 to 17 March 2011 for performances in the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. This was the second such troupe to visit the island after the visit of the 10-member Charukula troupe in March 2010.

**Indian Community:**

The Indian community comprises of a few business families, mostly Sindhis and professionals including a doctor couple. For the first time the Charukula troupe visited Montserrat in March 2010 on the occasion of St. Patrick's Day and thrilled local audiences. The troupe's visit coincided with the passing of the Commonwealth Games baton. It has now been decided to have an Indian cultural troupe's visit annually to the island on the occasion of St. Patrick's Day.

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