

India - Trinidad and Tobago Relations

Historical Perspective: Relationship between India and Trinidad & Tobago goes back to 30 May 1845 when the first ship 'Fatel Razack' carrying 225 Indian indentured workers reached the shores of Trinidad, then a British colony. Their numbers increased with subsequent arrival of more ships from India. The descendents of those indentured workers, now in their fifth generation, form nearly 42% of the total population constituting an integral part of the economic, political and social fabric of the country. The presence of a substantial population of Indian origin (the largest ethnic group) has contributed immensely to close bilateral relations between the two countries.

Visit of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar to India in January 2012 : Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar (KPB) paid a State visit to India from 5-14 January 2012. PMKPB was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising 7 Cabinet Ministers and a 160-member strong delegation from the private and public sectors besides representatives from tertiary institutions and PSUs. During the visit a number of agreements and MOUs were signed. She was also Chief Guest at PBD 2012 in Jaipur and was conferred with the PBSA.

Visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Trinidad & Tobago : Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh led a high level delegation for CHOGM Summit in November 2009.

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of T&T Dr. Keith C. Rowley met in London on April 19, 2018 on the sidelines of the CHOGM Summit and discussed various areas in which cooperation between the two friendly countries could be enhanced further.

Recent visits: During the last two years there have been several bilateral Ministerial/official level visits from India. Important among them are visit of Hon'ble General (Dr.) V.K. Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs (April 2017); Hon'ble Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Smt. Rama Devi and Shri Harish Dwivedi and Shri D.M. Mulay, Secretary (CPV & OIA) to participate in the Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017 held to commemorate 100 years of abolition of indentured labourers from India (March, 2017), Hon'ble Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for bilateral talks (October 2016); a 3-member delegation led by Shri R. Swaminathan, Special Secretary (AMS & CPV) for bilateral talks (June 2015); a 2-member delegation from delegation from AYUSH in the context of bilateral cooperation in the field of medicinal plants (April 2014); a 3-member senior official delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Smt. Chandresh Kumari Katoch (October- November 2013); a high level 5-member senior official delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State for Women and Child Development (Independent Charge), Mrs. Krishna Tirath visited Trinidad & Tobago (May-June 2013); Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Planning (AYUSH), Shri S. Gandhiselvan (October 2012) in the context of bilateral cooperation in the area of traditional medicine.

From the T&T side important visits include visit of a 4-member delegation led by Minister of the People and social Development Dr. Glenn Ramadharsingh (June 2013 as well as February 2014); a 3-member delegation participated at the 6th World Ayurveda Congress (Nov 2014); a 3-member delegation participated at the Global Research and Development Summit (Nov 2014); a 4-member delegation led by Mr. Winston Peter "Gypsy", Minister for Community Development (January – February 2013) to attend the Surajkund Crafts Mela.

Parliamentary Exchanges : The Parliamentarians of India and Trinidad & Tobago have traditionally enjoyed close relations. A 6-member delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker of Lok

Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar visited T&T in January 2012 to attend the Commonwealth Speakers & Presiding Officers Conference (CSPOC). The T&T Parliamentarians returned the visit in March 2012 when a 7-Member Parliamentary delegation jointly led by President of the Senate, Timothy Hamel-Smith and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon'ble Wade Mark visited India. During the visit an Indo-T&T Parliamentary Friendship Association was formed whose Indian co-chair is Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, MP.

Important Bilateral Agreements and MoUs: Over the years the two countries have signed several agreements and MoUs laying down the foundation for bilateral cooperation in diverse areas. These include Cooperation in Science and Technology (1985); Cultural Cooperation Agreement (1987); Technical Cooperation (1997); Trade Agreement (1997); Agriculture, Research and Education (1997); Development of Small Scale Industries in T&T (1997); Foreign Office Consultations (1997); Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (February 1999); MOU for Cooperation in Low Cost Housing (1999); Inter-Governmental Commission Agreement on Political, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (2003); Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement [BIPPA] (2007); MoU and a Work-Plan in Agriculture Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs (2011); the Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) (2012); Technical Cooperation Agreement (on Education) (2012); Programme of Cultural Exchanges (for the years 2012-2014) (2012); MoU on co-operation in the field of Traditional Medicine (2012); MoU between ICCR and the University of West Indies (UWI) for establishment of Chairs of Hindi & Indian Studies (2012); MoU between Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences and UWI on setting up a Chair of Ayurveda in the University of West Indies (2012); MoU between National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) of India and the University of the West Indies (National Herbarium and Department of Life Sciences, T&T) on cooperation in the field of Medicinal Plants (April 2014); and MoU between the Foreign Service Institute, MEA and the Institute of International Relations, University of the West Indies on mutual cooperation (June 2015).

Joint Commission Meeting (JCM): The first meeting of the India-T&T Joint Commission Meeting was held in New Delhi in November 2011. The T&T delegation was led by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan and the Indian side was led by EAM Shri S.M. Krishna. Areas of discussion included Science & Technology, air transport, agriculture, SMEs, education, healthcare, tech. co-operation, energy and trade. The next JCM is due to be held in Port of Spain.

Participation in PBD and PBSAs: Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Winsten Dookeran attended PBD 2017 in Bengaluru and was conferred with the PBSA. PM Kamla Persad Bissessar attended PBD 2012 in Jaipur as Chief Guest and was conferred with the PBSA. Senior Minister in the PM's office Dr. Lenny Saith attended PBD 2010 in Delhi and received Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award [PBSA]. In 2008 PBD, National Council of Indian Culture (NCIC) was awarded PBSA. Prime Minister Basdeo Panday also attended the PBD as official delegate in 2005 (Mumbai) and 2008(Delhi). In 2005, he received the PBSA. In January 2006, Minister of Petroleum Dr. Lenny Saith attended official delegate the PBD celebrations in 2007 in Hyderabad as official delegate.

Promotion of Ayurveda and traditional Indian medicines: In order to promote and disseminate information on Ayurveda and traditional Indian medicines, an AYUSH Information Centre, sponsored by Department of AYUSH, was opened in the High Commission by Hon. Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Local Government. The Centre was dedicated to the people of Trinidad & Tobago by Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Planning, Shri S. Gandhiselvan in October 2012.

Establishment of Forums under auspices of the Mission: The 'Forum of Indian Nationals in T&T' (FINTT) was launched on 17 September 2011. FINTT is intended to bring together all Indian professionals living in T&T in an effort to carry out humanitarian work. The 'Know India Youth-Trinidad & Tobago' (KIYTT) was formed in October 2011 in order to have better interaction among the participants in the Know India Programme (KIP) in T&T as an Overseas Indian Youth Club (OIYC) Chapter of MOIA. KIYTT carries out activities such as organizing cultural programmes, talk shows on TV channels, highlighting developments in different sectors in India and community activities. **Indian Alumni Association of Trinidad & Tobago (IAATT)** which constitutes scholars and other professions who have either studied or trained in India.

Economic & Commercial Relations: The Trade Agreement signed between India and T&T in January 1997 accords Most Favored Nation (MFN) status to each other. Though it has been static around \$100 million for years, bilateral trade increased to US\$258.15 million (India's exports to T&T were US\$84.61 million and T&T's exports were US\$173.54 million) during 2016-17 from US\$184.8 million in 2015-16 (India's exports to T&T were US\$92.88 million and T&T's exports were US\$91.94 million). Based on its economically influential role in the region and supported by regional and bilateral preferential trade agreements, T&T provides good opportunities to exporters from India to access the Caribbean region and beyond. There is potential for growth of bilateral trades in textiles, garments, pharmaceuticals, energy, machinery and petro-chemicals, agriculture, IT and Film & Music Industry.

Indian Assistance to T&T: GOI assistance to T&T includes training under ITEC Programme, deputation of experts, Know India Programme for Diaspora youth and cultural & other scholarships for T&T nationals by ICCR. Facilities under ITEC programme were extended to T&T in late 60s. Following the visit of PM KPB to India in January 2012, the GOI increased the number of annual training slots for T&T nationals. Presently we are providing 40 slots. In 2013-14, 25; in 2014-15, 17; in 2015-16, 7; in 2016-17, 9; in 2017-18, 32; and in 2018-19, 37 scholars availed the facilities. We have also deputed experts in the fields of coconut and rice farming. Dr. G.J.N. Rao, Rice Production Expert, who joined the T&T Ministry of Food Production on 25 August 2014 on deputation for a period of one year, has since left after completing his term. In 2014-15, one student and three in 2012-13 were awarded ICCR scholarships. In 2015, 14 participants visited India under **Know India Programme** (KIP), 14 in 2016, 16 in 2017, and 31 in 2018. 159 members of Diaspora have visited India under this Programme so far.

Culture: The Mission has been engaged in active cultural diplomacy through its Cultural Wing, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Cultural Cooperation (MGICC), which was set up in January 1997 under a Bilateral Cultural Exchange Programme. MGICC is administered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under the overall control of the High Commission. The primary objective of MGICC is to promote and sustain Indian culture and to develop goodwill among the people of T&T and India. Regular classes are conducted by India-based and local teachers in Indian classical music and dance in several centres in Trinidad as well as Tobago. Presently the Institute has one India-based teacher in vocal music & Tabla, two local classical dance teachers in Kathak and Bharatnatyam and a local Yoga teacher to give Yoga classes over the weekend. High Commission is also running Hindi classes in 7 different venues. The Institute has also been organizing a variety of cultural events like exhibitions, music and dance programmes, the monthly 'Kala Sandhya', lectures and workshops etc. MGICC also offers annual scholarships under ICCR's General Cultural Scholarship Scheme.

Chairs: The Mission in collaborative relationship with the University of the West Indies set up three Chairs viz. (i) Hindi; (ii) Contemporary Indian Studies; and (iii) Ayurveda.

Promotion of Ayurveda and traditional Indian medicines: In order to promote and disseminate information on Ayurveda and traditional Indian medicines, an AYUSH Information Centre, sponsored by the Department of AYUSH, was opened in the High Commission by Hon. Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Local Government. The Centre was dedicated to the people of Trinidad & Tobago by Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Planning, Shri S. Gandhiselvan in October 2012.

Promotion of Hindi: Hindi teaching activities have assumed important proportions as interest in Hindi has grown in the local population. The prominent presence of Hindi in the local media, both radio and television, has added to the interest and there is a marked growth in the desire among the local population cutting across gender, age and ethnicity to acquire proficiency in Hindi. The Mission, in keeping up with this, organizes Hindi classes in various parts of the country. These have been going on over the last 20 years and have been systematized recently. The Mission has also been cooperating with various cultural bodies through grants and dissemination of Hindi reading materials and software. Hindi Samman (award) is given every year on Hindi Day/World Hindi Day. Besides, proficiency certificates are awarded to meritorious students who excel in various departments of Hindi learning. Besides, regular workshops are conducted by local Hindi teachers on the methodology and technique of language learning in consonance with Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra. Books and teaching materials are also distributed to teachers. Various local Hindi teaching institutions have collaborated with the Mission in promoting Hindi.

Indian Community: The Non-Resident Indian Community in Trinidad and Tobago constitute about 600 families (1800 persons) who are engaged in business, teaching, medicine and other professions. The Mission is in close contact with the Indian Diaspora (about 42% of the total population of T&T) and has been actively promoting various schemes of the Government of India meant for them such as OCI scheme, Know India Programme (KIP), Tracing the Roots Programme, Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) and Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. The Mission provides regular and prompt consular service to the Non-resident Indian community residing in T&T and other concurrently accredited countries.

Visa waiver for Indian nationals: The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has waived visa requirements for Indian nationals visiting T&T for tourism and business purposes for a period of three months. The Government of India has approved e-Tourist Visa for T&T citizens.

December 2018

India - Grenada Relations

Historical Perspective:

India enjoys traditionally cordial relations with Grenada. Grenada, which comprises the islands of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, is popularly referred to as the 'Spice Island'. It has a land area of 133 sq. miles and a population of approximately 109,500. Relationship between India and Grenada goes back to 01 May 1857 when the first ship 'Maidstone' carrying 287 Indian indentured workers reached the shores of Grenada, then a British colony. More than 3000 Indo-Grenadians reside in Grenada. Grenada is concurrently accredited to our Mission in Port of Spain and it does not have a diplomatic Mission in India. When Grenada was affected by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, India provided relief assistance in terms of emergency medical supplies and roofing material etc.

Visits:

No high-level official bilateral visits have taken place between the two countries so far. However, Prime Minister of Grenada Dr. Keith Mitchell visited India from 26-30 July, 2006 in connection with preparations for the Cricket World Cup 2007 held in West Indies. During the visit, PM Mitchell paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 29 July, 2006.

MOS (Health & Family Welfare) Smt. Anupriya S. Patel visited Grenada on May 13-14, 2018. During the visit, she called on the Governor General, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Health Minister of Grenada and discussed mutual areas of interest to enhance overall cooperation between the two countries

Agreements / MoUs between India and Grenada:

A MoU between GOI and Government of Grenada for setting up an ICT Centre for Excellence and Innovations at Grenada was signed in October, 2008.

Bilateral Cooperation:

Capacity Building: India has been contributing to the capacity building of Grenada by providing training to its personnel at various training institutions in India under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme. The Government of India has recently increased the number of annual training slots from 5 to 10 for Grenadian nationals. These slots are mostly utilized in the fields of improving ICT skills, management and training in SMEs.

Infrastructure Development Projects: On the request of the Government of Grenada, the Government of India has agreed to fund the following two infrastructure development projects – i) Construction of Union Community Centre in the Parish of St. Marks costing of US\$610,074/-; and ii) Belle Vue Road costing of US\$291,723/-. The contracts have recently been awarded to local contractors by the Government of Grenada. Twenty per cent of the approved cost in respect of each of these projects has been paid to Grenada as advance for construction of the project and the matter is being pursued for early implementation of these.

ICT Centre for Excellence & Innovation in Grenada: Following the signing of a MoU in October 2008 between GOI and the Government of Grenada for setting up of an ICT Centre for Excellence & Innovation in St. George's at Industrial Development Corporation, an autonomous government body, at an estimated cost of US\$ 0.8 million, the Centre was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Grenada on 15 April 2011 under ITEC programme. At the request of the High

Commissioner, the Centre has been shifted to T.A. Marryshow Community College in February 2016. The Centre was more or less non-functional for two years at the previous location.

Economic Relations:

India exports mainly pharmaceutical products, readymade garments, textiles and home furnishings, machinery, Iron & Steel products etc. to Grenada, while Grenada's exports mainly comprise of scrap metals and plastic articles. Bilateral trade between India and Grenada during 2017-18 amounted to US\$2.90 million. Given the distance and small size of Grenada market, volume of our bilateral trade is comparatively small. India's exports to Grenada were US\$2.64 million and Grenada's exports were US\$ 0.27 million.

Culture:

Indian cultural troupes have been visiting Grenada for several years, particularly during the celebration of Indian Arrival Day and Phagwa/Holi. High Commission in cooperation with the Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre, Indian Cultural Organization (Grenada) and Indo-Grenada Heritage Foundation will be organizing an International Conference on the "Indian Diaspora in Grenada and the Wider Caribbean" from 29th April to 1st May, 2016 coinciding with the Indian Arrival month. The Conference will be inaugurated by Prime Minister of Grenada Dr. Keith Mitchell. The event will be followed by an Indian Food Festival. Last year also High Commission in cooperation with the Indo-Grenada Heritage Foundation organized a 3-day food and cultural festival in Grenada from 30th May to 1st June 2015 coinciding with the Indian Arrival month. The main event was highly acclaimed and was attended by the Prime Minister and three of his Cabinet Ministers in addition to several high-ranking officials and former PM. A 9-member Mewasi Folk dance troupe from Gujarat visited Grenada in March 2013 and gave a number of dance performances.

Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to peace and non-violence has been one of the greatest landmarks of contemporary history. A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was installed in January 2013 in the Mac Donald College in the northern part of the island (St. Patrick's Parish). The Mission has been actively engaged in disseminating awareness about Gandhiji's life and philosophy primarily among educational institutions in Grenada through distribution of books and films.

Visa waiver for Indian nationals:

As per the May 2011 revised Visa Exemption list, the Government of Grenada has waived visa requirement for Indian nationals visiting Grenada for tourism and business purposes for a period of three months. The Government of India has approved e-Tourist Visa for citizens of Grenada.

Indian Community:

There is a small Indian community in Grenada comprising of businessmen who deal in general merchandise and small-scale trading activities. There are nearly 3000 Indo-Grenadians in Grenada who are represented in the Indo-Grenada Heritage Foundation (IGHF). There are also a few professionals and academics who teach at the St. George's University of Grenada, besides a fairly large Indo-American Student Community who constitute the PIO community. The IGHF was instrumental in observing 1st May as Indian Arrival Day (IAD). Since the last 5 years IAD is being celebrated by the Foundation who have named the road leading to the site of the first Indians' arrival as 'Maidstone Road' after the first ship 'Maidstone' which brought Indian indentured workers to Grenada and raised a commemorative plaque.

December, 2018

India - Dominica Relations

Historical Perspective:

The Commonwealth of Dominica is known as the "Nature's Island of the Caribbean" for its lush green mountains and serene beauty. It has a land area of 750 square kilometres and a population of approximately 72,340. In the recent past, Dominica was hit by two Hurricanes, Dean in August 2007 and Ophelia in December 2011 and tropical storm Erica in August 2015 which caused extensive damage to its crops and infrastructure. Dominica is a member of both CARICOM and OECS and permanently hosts the Small Business Development Office of OECS. Nearly 50 persons of Indian Origin and a few Indian business families reside in Dominica.

India enjoys traditionally cordial bilateral relations with Commonwealth of Dominica since the diplomatic relations established in 1981. Commonwealth of Dominica is concurrently accredited to our Mission in Port of Spain and it does not have a diplomatic Mission in India. GOI provided financial support of US\$ 1 lakh as immediate relief and granted US\$ 1 million for infrastructure re-construction in Dominica under the India-UNDP Fund in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017. Dominica utilized the aid provided by UNDP and South-South Cooperation Schemes for reconstruction of housing sector, which was badly damaged due to the hit of Hurricane Maria. In August 2015, GOI has provided humanitarian relief/assistance of US\$200,000 to the Dominican Government in the wake of damage caused by tropical storm Erica. India also donated US\$100,000 in December 2011 to help alleviate problems caused by Hurricane Ophelia and humanitarian assistance of US\$300,000 in December 2013 in the wake of damage caused by flash floods.

Visits:

No high-level bilateral visits have taken place so far. Mrs. Anupriya Patel, Minister of Health & FW visited Dominica on a bilateral visit from May 11-12, 2018. During the visit she called on the President, Prime Minister, and various Ministers and discussed the issues of importance between the two countries.

Agreements/MoUs between India and Commonwealth of Dominica:

A MoU was signed between the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Division of Agriculture (DOA), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Commonwealth of Dominica for cooperation in the field of education and research in agriculture and allied areas in October 2011.

A MoU was signed between the Governments of India and the Commonwealth of Dominica for setting up an IT Centre for Excellence in Dominica in October 2011.

Bilateral Cooperation:

Capacity Building: India has been contributing to capacity building of the Commonwealth of Dominica (CD) by providing training to its personnel under the ITEC programme at various training institutions in India. The Government of India has recently increased the number of annual training slots from 5 to 10 for Dominican nationals. Courses mostly sought after by Dominica are in the areas of IT, Accounts and Financial Management, HRD, SMEs, etc. On request of the Dominican Government, an agriculture and horticulture expert Dr. V. Kumar, Sr. Scientist (Horticulture) from National Research Centre for Banana, Thiruchirapalli, India visited Dominica for a month in January 2011 to advise the Dominican Government on horticulture.

Centre for Excellence in IT: Following the signing of MoU on setting up of a Centre of Excellence in IT in Dominica in October 2011 under bilateral cooperation programme between Dominica and India, the Centre has recently been set up. A 3-member team of IT trainers from Aptech has also reached Dominica in the third week of April, 2016. The Centre was officially inaugurated in May 2016. It organised its first anniversary and awarded Graduation certificates to successful students in a ceremony organised in June 2017. As of now around 600 Dominican students have received various IT trainings at the Centre. The Centre was temporarily closed down due to the devastation caused down in Dominica in the aftermath of Hurricane Dominica in September 2017.

Donation of medicines: On a request from the Dominican Government for donation of medicines for their public hospitals, GOI has provided medicines, under GOI Grant-in-aid scheme in 2016.

Bilateral Trade:

India exports mainly pharmaceutical products, readymade garments, textiles and home furnishings, food products, etc. to Dominica, while Dominica exports mainly scrap metals. Bilateral trade between India and Dominica during 2017-18 amounted to US\$2.38 million. Given the distance and small size of Dominica market, volume of our bilateral trade is comparatively small. India's exports to Dominica were US\$2.10 million and Dominica's exports were US\$0.28 million. There are areas of potential cooperation include agro-industries, food processing and small-scale manufacturing, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, eco-tourism/Ayurvedic system of holistic health care, education and sports. Gujarat Apollo Industries Company Ltd. has installed an Asphalt Separation plant in Dominica recently.

Culture:

A 9-member Percussion Group "Drums of India" led by Shri Jaya Bhaskar Peravali sponsored by ICCR visited the Commonwealth of Dominica for participation in the Dominica Festival of Arts "DOMFESTA" from 18 to 20 May 2012. The group gave performances throughout the country and they were honorary guests at the "Night of the Classics" on 18 May 2012. The performances of the troupe were warmly welcomed.

Visa waiver for Indian nationals:

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has waived visa requirement for Indian nationals visiting Dominica for tourism and business purposes for a period of six months. The Government of India has approved e-Tourist Visa for Dominican citizens.

Indian Community:

The Indian community consists of a few business families, professionals and faculty members of the Ross Medical University.

December, 2018

India - Montserrat Relations

Historical Perspective:

India enjoys cordial relations with Montserrat, a self-governing UK overseas territory in the Caribbean. It has a land area of 102 sq. km and a population of approximately 5000. Montserrat is concurrently accredited to our Mission in Port of Spain. Nearly 50 People of Indian Origin and 15 Indian families reside in Montserrat.

Montserrat has endured several volcanic activities following the first major eruption in 1995, which destroyed half of the Island, including its airport and capital Plymouth, with half of the population of 11,000 permanently leaving the Island. Brades is the new Capital city of Montserrat since then.

Visits:

No high-level bilateral visits have taken place so far.

Principal Agreements / MoUs between India and Montserrat:

MoU between the Government of India (GOI) and Government of Montserrat on Bilateral Relations was signed in September 2011, which covers the areas of culture, IT, SMEs, Agriculture and HRD.

Bilateral Cooperation:

Given the size of the country, our bilateral cooperation is limited. The Montserrat Government had 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 and Sports etc. was signed by the High Commissioner and the Premier of Montserrat in September 2011. However, no high-level exchanges have taken place between India and Montserrat.

Capacity Building: India has been contributing to capacity building of Montserrat by providing training to its personnel at various training institutions in India under the ITEC programme. Presently we offer five ITEC slots to Montserrat and that are mostly utilized in the fields of ICT, management and training in SMEs.

Trade and Economy:

India exports mainly electrical machinery, equipments & parts and organic chemicals to Montserrat. Bilateral trade between India and Montserrat during 2017-18 amounted to US\$0.02 million. India's exports to Montserrat were US\$0.02 million and Montserrat's exports were nil. M/s Angelique International Limited, an Indian company, bagged a contract for supply, installation and commissioning of 1.5MW Diesel Generating Set at US\$6.73 million. The contract has opened the doors for greater engagement of India in Montserrat.

Culture:

Indian cultural troupes visited Montserrat around St. Patrick's Day in 2010, 2011 and 2013. On each of these occasions they were warmly welcomed.

Visa waiver for Indian nationals:

The Government of Montserrat has waived visa requirement for Indian nationals visiting Montserrat for tourism and business purposes for a period of three months. The Government of India has approved e-Tourist Visa for citizens of Montserrat.

Indian Community:

The Indian community comprises of about 15 business families (40 persons approximately), mostly businessmen and professionals including a doctor couple.

December 2018