San Isidro Movement (MSI): Cuba

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Why in News

The **Movimiento San Isidro** started two years ago and has now become a **platform for Cuban dissidents both within and outside the nation.**

Key Points

- **Background:**
    - The Movimiento San Isidro, or the San Isidro Movement (MSI), started **two years ago (2018)** to protest **state censorship of artistic work through Decree 349.**
        - Decree 349 is a law that would have given powers to the Cuba's Government to restrict **cultural activity** it did not approve of.
    - To protest against the decree, artists, poets, journalists and activists gathered in San Isidro, **a Black-majority locality** that is among **Havana's poorest yet most culturally active regions.**
- **Current Spark:**
    - A member of the MSI, **Afro-Cuban rapper Denis Solís, was arrested by the police.** This led to widespread protests and strikes.
- **Global View:**
    - Various **National government and International human rights organisations** such as **Amnesty International** have raised concern for human rights in Cuba.
    - Cuban diaspora in many countries continue to hold rallies **in support of the movement.**
- **The Cuban Government Stand:**
    - The Cuban government alleges that the movement is **funded by USA** and are being used to **subvert the state.**

India Cuba Relations

- India shares **close, warm and historical relations with Cuba** and both countries are **founding members of the <u>Non-Aligned Movement.</u>**
- In 1959, the Cuban-Argentinean guerrilla commander Ernesto Che Guevara paid a diplomatic visit to India and was welcomed by the then Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.
- In 2019, **India supported the resolutions** in the <u>**UN General Assembly**</u> calling for lifting of **US sanctions against Cuba.**
- India and Cuba agreed to collaborate in the areas of **Biotechnology, Homeopathy and the <u>traditional system of medicine</u>** during the visit of the President of India to Cuba in 2019.

<u>Source:IE</u>