

India's Humanitarian Assistance to Cuba

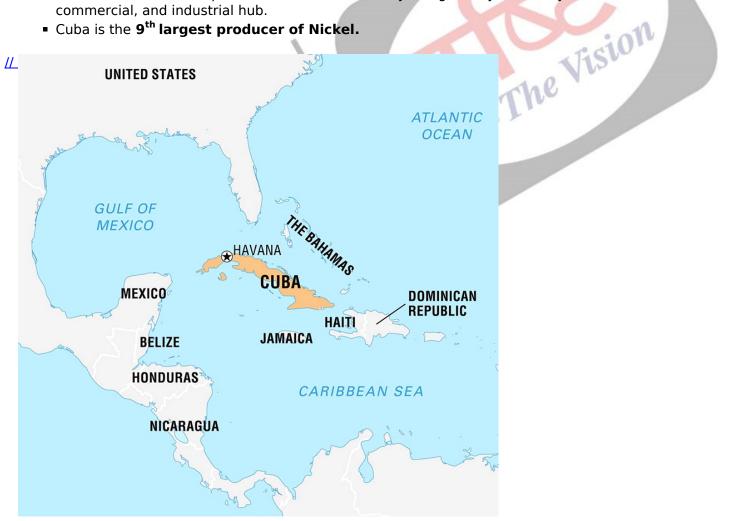
Source: AIR

India has sent humanitarian aid to Cuba following the devastating impact of Hurricane Rafael.

India's aid aligns with its philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) and its commitment to global solidarity and support for nations in crisis.

Cuba

- Cuba is located in the Northern Caribbean Sea at the confluence of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. Its capital, Havana, is the country's largest city and a key economic, commercial, and industrial hub.
- Cuba is the 9th largest producer of Nickel.



How Have India-Cuba Bilateral Relations Been?

- Historical Background: India was among the first countries to extend recognition to the new Cuban government following the Cuban revolution (overthrow of US backed Fulgencio Batista's dictatorship) in January 1959.
 - The country was a point of contention during the **Cold War** between the **Soviet Union** and the US, mainly during the <u>Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962</u>.
 - Both countries have supported each other in international forums, such as the <u>United</u> <u>Nations (UN)</u>, <u>NAM</u>, <u>WTO</u> etc.
 - Additionally, Cuba backs India's bid for a permanent seat on the <u>UN Security Council</u> and India has consistently advocated for the rights and development of Cuba on international platforms, including addressing economic challenges faced by the nation.
- Economic Relations: India's exports to Cuba In FY 2022-23 increased to USD 79.04 million, while imports stood at USD 4.87 million.
 - Exports from India include pharmaceuticals, chemicals, medical equipment, and textiles.
 Cuba exports tobacco and pharmaceutical products to India.
- India's Assistance to Cuba: India has provided disaster relief, including aid after hurricanes in 2008, 2016, and 2017. IT Centre (India-Cuba Knowledge Centre) established in 2010 and training over 1900 professionals in Cuba.
 - India provided life-saving medicines during the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Cuba is a member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), with Indian assistance for energy projects.
 - India has extended five LoCs to the tune of USD 243 million to the Government of Cuba in agriculture, agro-food, and renewable energy sectors.
- Cultural Relations: India's culture is highly appreciated in Cuba, with prominent figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and <u>Rabindranath Tagore</u> celebrated.
 - In May, 2007, a bust of Rabindranath Tagore donated by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was unveiled in Old Havana.
 - Yoga and Ayurveda are popular, with events held annually, including the <u>International</u> <u>Day of Yoga</u>.

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