



## 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 **9<sup>th</sup> 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 **Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962**.
  - Both countries have supported each other in international forums, such as the **United Nations (UN), NAM, WTO** etc.
  - Additionally, Cuba backs **India's bid for a permanent seat** on the **UN Security Council** 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 Rabindranath Tagore** 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 **International Day of Yoga**.