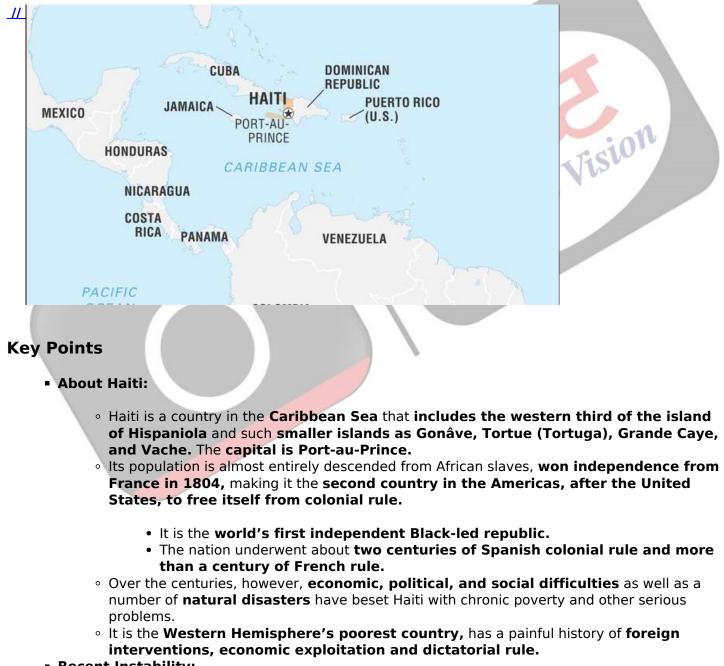
# **Assasination of Haiti's President**

## Why in News

Recently, Haiti's President Jovenel Moise was assassinated at his private residence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.



Recent Instability:

- Haiti's latest instability revolves around a **dispute over Jovenel Moise's presidency.** He was elected in 2016 to a five-year term, but **because of contention over election results, he did not take office until the next year.** 
  - Under Jovenel Moise's administration, the political and economic situation in Haiti further deteriorated.
- Jovenel Moise insisted that it entitled him to another year in power a claim that Haiti's opposition rejected.
- In February 2021, when Moïse's opponents said his term ended, they declared their Supreme Court Judge as interim president. Jovenel Moise called it a coup attempt, and 23 opponents were arrested.
- At the same time there has been a **surge in kidnappings, rapes and killings as rival gangs battle each other** and the police for control of Haiti's streets.
- The human rights activists have accused Jovenel Moise's government of having ties to the gangs.
  - So far this year, at least **278 Haitians have been killed** in gang-related violence.
- The unprecedented level of violence and subsequent displacements is creating a host of secondary issues.

## India- Haiti Relations

### Political:

- India's relations with Haiti have been friendly, though interaction between the two countries has been limited.
- India established **diplomatic relations with Haiti in September 1996.** Haiti appointed a Honorary Consul in New Delhi in October 2014.
- India had sent a 140 member <u>Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)</u> troop to Haiti on a peace mission under the auspices of the <u>United Nations</u> (UN) in August 1995.
- In October 2008, a 140-member Formed Police Unit (FPU) from India joined the UN's Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to help with international efforts to ensure a safe environment in Haiti.
  - The last units of **FPU stationed in Haiti left in July 2019** on completion of assignment.
- At the multilateral level, the Government of Haiti has supported Indian candidatures in the elections for various international organizations, including elections for <u>International</u> <u>Court of Justice (ICJ)</u>, <u>UNESCO</u>, <u>International Maritime Organization</u> and <u>World</u> <u>Customs Organization (WCO)</u> in the recent past.
- Commerce:
  - India's trade with Haiti is small but Indian exports to the country have been growing in recent years.
  - Two way trade between the two countries was at USD 93.10 million by the end of 2018-19.
  - The main items of exports to Haiti are pharmaceutical goods, textiles, rubber products, cosmetics, and plastic and linoleum products.
  - India has granted duty free access to Haitian products as a special gesture to a <u>Least</u> <u>Development Country.</u>
- Educational:
  - India has been offering assistance to Haiti under <u>Indian Technical and Economic</u> <u>Cooperation (ITEC) programme.</u>
    - The **ITEC programme** provides for organizing training courses in India, deputation of Indian experts abroad, aid for disaster relief, gifting of equipment, study tours and feasibility studies/consultancy services.
  - Haitian diplomats have also been taking advantage of Professional Course for Foreign

#### Diplomats (PCFD) courses at regular intervals.

- **PCFD** affirms the commitment of India to its friendly countries in sharing the knowledge and expertise acquired in the field of diplomats' training.
- Haitian illiterate women received training at the Barefoot College in Rajasthan in harvesting solar power.
- Disaster Relief:
  - India **donated medicines worth USD 50,000/-** as humanitarian assistance to Haiti for the damage caused by **Hurricane Noel in November 2007.**
  - Another USD 5 million relief assistance was given in January 2010. A relief of USD 5,00,000 annually for three years till 2011 was also provided.
  - India also provided **emergency financial aid of USD 2,50,000** to Haiti in the aftermath of **Hurricane Mathew in October 2016**.
- Indian Community:
  - Indian community in Haiti is small. It comprises approximately 70 members. Almost all of them are Indian passport holders.
  - Several of them are professionals, doctors, engineers, technicians. Some are into private businesses.

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Source: TH

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