

## India-Haiti Bilateral Relations

### **Political relations:**

India's relations with Haiti have been friendly, though interaction between the two countries has been limited. India established diplomatic relations with Haiti on 27 September 1996. Our High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica was concurrently accredited to Haiti. Since late 2003, the accreditation has been transferred to Embassy of India, Havana. India has an Honorary Consul in Port-Au-Prince. Haiti appointed a Consul General in New Delhi in October, 2014.

2. An MOU for Foreign Office Consultations was signed on May 31, 2001. Even before the establishment of diplomatic relations, India had sent a 140 member CRPF troops to Haiti on a peace mission under the auspices of United Nations in August 1995. The role of the Indian contingent in providing police protection and maintaining law and order was highly appreciated.

3. In October 2008, a 140-member Formed Police Unit (FPU) from India joined the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to help with international efforts to ensure a safe environment in Haiti. Now, there are three units drawn from BSF, CISF and Assam Rifles (approx. 500 personnel) as part of MINUSTAH. The UN Security Council passed a Resolution in April 2017 to replace MINUSTAH in Haiti by a small Peacekeeping Mission, the UN Mission for Justice Support (MINUJUSTH) and gradually draw down the FPUs in Haiti. There are two Indian FPUs (FPU 1 and 2) under MINUJUSTH and the FPU 3, based in Hinche, left in October 2017 which are likely to complete their tenure in December 2018.

4. The former Haitian Minister of Economy and Finance, Mme. Carmelle Jean Marie visited India from 14th-17th October, 2014 to attend FICCI-LAC Conclave and called on Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, then Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Secretary (ER). The former Haitian Health Minister, Dr. Marie L. Florence Duperwal visited Delhi to attend the "Third Global Call to Action Summit", from 25-29 August, 2015. She also called on Minister of Health & Family Welfare where, inter alia, she sought India's cooperation in Haitian health sector. Under IBSA Trilateral Initiative, a Solid Waste Management Project was inaugurated in Haiti in December 2007. The project endeavored to generate employment to the masses in line with IBSA guidelines in general and with India's objectives for South-South Co-operation in particular. Recognising the need to provide basic amenities – shelter, drinking water and sanitation to the Haitian people, India joined Brazil and South Africa in expanding IBSA, the India-Brazil-South Africa, Trust Fund's waste management project in Haiti, both in its area of coverage and scope of handling different types of waste. IBSA spent over US\$ 2 million on the project and for reconstruction of a community health centre in Haiti. Dr. Shashi Tharoor, MOS External Affairs visited Haiti on 23 January 2010, in the midst of his official visit to Dominican Republic (DR) for an on the spot assessment of the situation following the devastating earthquake. Shri Vijay Sampla, MOS for Social Justice and Empowerment visited Haiti in April 2018.

5. At the multilateral level, Government of Haiti has supported Indian candidatures in the elections for various international organizations, including elections for ICJ, UNESCO and IMO last year

## Commercial relations:

6. India's trade with Haiti is small but Indian exports to the country have been growing in recent years. The latest trade figures between India-Haiti are as follows:

*(The latest trade figures as available on 6.8.2018)*

Values in US \$ Millions

S.No.		2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1.	<b>EXPORT</b>	59.21	85.45	62.27	71.44	94.01
2.	<b>IMPORT</b>	0.95	1.57	3.28	3.61	8.26
3.	<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	60.17	87.02	65.55	75.05	102.27
4.	<b>TRADE BALANCE</b>	58.26	83.88	58.99	67.73	85.75

*Source: Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce*

7. The main items of exports to Haiti are pharmaceuticals goods, textiles, rubber products, cosmetics, plastic and linoleum products. There is potential for further growth, particularly in the areas of drugs and pharmaceuticals. India has granted duty free access to Haitian products as a special gesture to a Least Development Country

8. **ITEC:** India has been offering assistance to Haiti under ITEC programme. It started with one slot in 2006-2007, which has been increased to 10 in 2015-16 and 25 in 2017-18. Haitian diplomats have also been taking advantage of Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) courses at regular intervals. Four Haitian illiterate women received training at the Barefoot College in Rajasthan in harvesting solar power.

9. **Disaster Relief:** As a symbol of friendship, in October 2008, India granted an ₹ Ten Million in cash as disaster relief assistance to Haiti in the wake of devastation caused by the four Hurricanes Fay, Hanna, Gustav and Ike. India donated medicines worth US \$ 50,000/- as humanitarian assistance to Haiti for the damage caused by Hurricane Noel in November 2007. Another US \$ 5 million relief assistance was given in January 2010. A relief of US \$ 500,000 annually for three years till 2011 has also been provided. India also offered to re-construct a main office building which was damaged in January 2010 earthquake. The then President requested that dwelling units may be developed by India instead of reconstruction of a government building. Accordingly cash assistance of US \$ 5 million was given to construct a Gandhi Housing village. The work on the housing units has been discontinued without completing. MOS (ST), Dr. Shashi Tharoor, who visited Port-Au-Prince on 23 January, 2010, following the 12 January 2010 earthquake, announced the assistance. India also provided emergency financial aid of USD 2,50,000 to Haiti in the aftermath of Hurricane Mathew in October 2016.

## Indian Community:

10. Indian community in Haiti is small. It comprises approximately 70-80 members. Almost all of them are Indian passport holders. Several of them are professionals, – doctors, engineers,

technicians. Some are into private business- scrap metal trade. There are a few priests and some 15-20 Sisters working for Sisters of Charity. There are two Police Units comprising of 250 Indian personnel under the UN Peacekeeping Force (MINUJUSTAH).

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December 2018