

3. Hurricane Melissa – Geography

India delivers humanitarian aid to Caribbean nations hit by Hurricane Melissa. India dispatched 20 tonnes of humanitarian aid each to Jamaica and Cuba after the nations were devastated by Hurricane Melissa, a powerful Category 5 Atlantic hurricane. The Saffir–Simpson scale classifies hurricane strength, with Category 5 (252 km/h) being "Catastrophic," while the geography of Jamaica (a bauxite producer) and Cuba (the largest Caribbean island) makes them vulnerable to such storms.

India Provides Humanitarian Assistance

Action – India has dispatched significant Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) materials.

Beneficiaries – The aid is being sent to Jamaica and Cuba.

Quantity – A total of 20 tonnes of relief materials have been sent to *each* nation.

Cause – This aid is in response to the massive devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa.

About Hurricane Melissa

Classification – Hurricane Melissa was a Category 5 Atlantic hurricane.

Historical Significance – It is recognized as one of the most powerful hurricanes ever recorded in the Atlantic region.

Formation & Path – It originated from a tropical wave located in the central Atlantic Ocean. Its path of destruction included making landfall in Jamaica, followed by striking Cuba and the Bahamas.

Recorded Intensity

Maximum Sustained Winds – Reached approximately 185 mph (≈ 295 km/h).

Minimum Central Pressure – Dropped to approximately 892 mbar.

Ranking – These metrics place it among the strongest hurricanes on record.

Classification of Hurricanes

Method – Hurricanes are classified based on their maximum sustained wind speed.

Scale Used – The classification system is the Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

Structure – This scale categorizes storms into five levels, from Category 1 to Category 5, based on their intensity and the potential damage they can cause.

Category	Wind Speed	Damage Potential
Category 1	119–153 km/h (74–95 mph)	Minimal damage – Some roof, tree, and power line damage.
Category 2	154–177 km/h (96–110 mph)	Moderate damage – Roof and structural damage; power outages likely.
Category 3 (Major)	178–208 km/h (111–129 mph)	Extensive damage – Major structural damage; electricity and water unavailable for days/weeks.
Category 4 (Major)	209–251 km/h (130–156 mph)	Extreme damage – Severe building failures; most trees uprooted.
Category 5 (Catastrophic)	≥ 252 km/h (≥ 157 mph)	Catastrophic damage – Complete roof failure, building collapse, massive evacuation needed.

About Jamaica

Location – Jamaica is an island nation situated in the Caribbean Sea.

Regional Group – It is part of the Greater Antilles archipelago.

Bordering Bodies

North – The Caribbean Sea, with Cuba located across the water.

East – The Jamaica Channel, which separates it from Hispaniola Island (Haiti & Dominican Republic).

South & West – The Caribbean Sea.

Terrain – The island's geography is characterized by a predominantly mountainous interior surrounded by narrow coastal plains.

Major Mountain Ranges

Blue Mountains – Located in eastern Jamaica, this range contains the country's highest peak.

Highest Peak – Blue Mountain Peak (2,256 m).

John Crow Mountains – Also located in the east.

Climate – Jamaica has a Tropical climate, which is hot and humid on the coast but becomes cooler inland at higher elevations.

Rivers – The country has numerous short rivers that originate in the central mountains and flow either north or south to the coast.

Black River – This is the longest river (~53 km) and is navigable for a portion of its length.

Economy – A significant part of Jamaica's economy is based on Bauxite and Alumina mining. Jamaica is one of the world's leading producers of bauxite.

About Cuba

Location – Cuba is located in the northern Caribbean.

Strategic Position – It sits at the junction of the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic Ocean.

Size – It is the largest island country in the Caribbean.

Bordering Bodies

North – The Straits of Florida, which separate it from the United States (Florida).

East – The Windward Passage, which separates it from Hispaniola (Haiti).

South – The Caribbean Sea.

West – The Yucatán Channel, which separates it from the Yucatán Peninsula (Mexico).

Terrain – The landscape consists predominantly of flat to rolling plains, which are highly suitable for agriculture.

Mountain Ranges

Sierra Maestra – Located in the southeast, this is the highest mountain range.

Sierra de los Órganos (in the west).

Escambray Mountains (in central Cuba).

Highest Peak – Pico Turquino (1,974 m), which is located in the Sierra Maestra range.

Climate – Cuba has a Tropical climate, which is moderated by trade winds. It is prone to Atlantic hurricanes due to its location.

Key Water Body

Ciénaga de Zapata (Zapata Swamp) – This is one of the largest wetlands in the Caribbean.

Designations – It is recognized as both a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and a Ramsar site.

Source – <https://ddindia.co.in/2025/11/india-delivers-humanitarian-aid-to-caribbean-nations-hit-by-hurricane-melissa/>