

President Kovind's visit to Jamaica

May 19, 2022

In news- The President Ram Nath Kovind visited Jamaica for a state visit, the first by any Indian President to the Caribbean country.

Key updates-

- The visit was part of his two-nation tour that includes a visit to St. Vincent and Grenadines.
- The visit came at a significant milestone as 2022 is the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Jamaica.
- Furthermore, India and Jamaica are celebrating the 75th and 60th anniversaries of their independence respectively,
- The President began his visit by paying his obeisance to the memorial of Marcus Garvey, the national hero of Jamaica.
- He also addressed the Joint Sitting of the two Houses of the Jamaican Parliament.

About Jamaica-

- Jamaica, **a Caribbean island nation of** the West Indies.
- It is the **third largest island in the Caribbean Sea, after Cuba and Hispaniola.**
- **Christopher Columbus, who first sighted the island in 1494,** called it Santiago, but the original indigenous name of Jamaica, or Xaymaca, has persisted.
- The majority of its people are of African ancestry, the descendants of slaves brought by European colonists.
- It became independent from the United Kingdom in 1962 but remains a member of the Commonwealth.
- It is situated some 160 km west of Haiti, 150 km south

of Cuba, and 630 km northeast of the nearest point on the mainland, Cape Gracias a Dios, on the Caribbean coast of Central America.



- Many of its all-inclusive resorts are clustered in Montego Bay, with its British-colonial architecture, and Negril, known for its diving and snorkeling sites.
- It is famed as the **birthplace of reggae music**, and **its capital Kingston is home to the Bob Marley Museum, dedicated to the famous singer.**
- It is also one of the Girmitya countries with a 70,000 strong Indian diaspora, which acts as a living bridge with India ("**Girmityas**" or **Indentured Labourers**, is the name given to the Indians who left India in the middle and late 19th Century to serve as labourers in the British colonies, where the majority eventually settled).