



## India Mexico Relations

**For Prelims:** ITEC, Cold War, Colonial Era, Latin America, Covid-19, Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Green Revolution.

**For Mains:** Significance of India Mexico Relations.

### Why in News?

On the Occasion of Mexico National Day (16<sup>th</sup> September), India extended its greetings and felicitations to all Mexico Nationals and commemorated the **72 years of the establishment of [diplomatic Relations](#)**.



### How is India-Mexico Relations?

#### ▪ Historical Ties:

- Being colonies in the past, India and Mexico have **European connections of the [colonial era](#)**.
- Mexico was the **first Latin American country** to recognise India after Independence and establish **diplomatic relations with India in 1950**.
- Mexican wheat varieties **used in Indo-Mexican hybrids were** the backbone of India's **[Green Revolution](#) in the 1960s**.
- In the **[Cold War](#) years**, Mexico and India had worked together closely as **members of the [United Nations \(UN\)](#)**, both actively championing the interests of developing countries such

as in the Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations (**under the [World Trade Organisation](#)**).

- Both countries are members of [G-20](#).

▪ **Political and Bilateral Cooperation:**

- Both countries established a **'Privileged Partnership' in 2007**.
- In 2015, both countries agreed to work towards achieving a **'Strategic Partnership'**.
- The two countries have several bilateral agreements and MoUs, including for Investment Promotion and Protection, [Extradition](#), Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, Space Cooperation, etc.
- India gives 20 scholarships to Mexico under the [Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation \(ITEC\) programme](#) and Mexican diplomats are also given training at [Forest Survey of India \(FSI\)](#).

▪ **Economic and Commercial Relations:**

- India is the **10<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner of Mexico**, and the trade balance has remained in favor of India for eight years.
- Mexico is currently **India's largest trading partner in [Latin America](#)**.
- In 2021, exports to Mexico from India reached USD 5.931 billion and imports from Mexico were at USD 4.17 billion, taking the total trade to USD 10.11 billion.
  - **India's Exports:** Vehicles and auto parts, organic chemicals, electrical machinery and electronic equipment, aluminium products, readymade garments, iron and steel products and gems and jewellery.
  - **India's Imports:** Crude oil, mineral fuel, fertilizers, etc. Crude oil occupies 75% of the export basket from Mexico.
- India's **exports of pharmaceutical products remained steady in 2020** and increased by more than 80%.

▪ **Security:**

- Both countries share a **common concern** over growing traditional and non-traditional security challenges, particularly the rise of [global terrorism](#).

▪ **Cultural Ties:**

- The **Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre** has been functioning in Mexico since October 2010, teaching Yoga, classical dances, music, etc.
- An agreement on cultural cooperation has been in existence since 1975 and cooperation activities are carried out through four-yearly **'Programmes of Cultural Cooperation'**.

▪ **Indian Community:**

- The Indian community in Mexico is estimated to be more than 7,000, comprising mostly software engineers of Indian IT companies, academics/professors, and private businessmen.
- Tourism between the two countries is steadily increasing and Mexicans have been extended the [online e-Tourist Visa facility](#).
- Indian nationals holding ordinary passports but having a valid visa for the USA, the UK, Canada, Schengen area or Japan, and holders of permanent residence in the same countries or Member States of [Pacific Alliance viz. Colombia, Chile and Peru](#) **do not need a visa for short tourism or business visits to Mexico**.

▪ **Differences:**

- Mexico and India have had different viewpoints on the issue of [nuclear non-proliferation](#). However, during the Indian Prime Minister's 2016 visit, Mexico pledged support for India's bid to be part of the [Nuclear Suppliers Group \(NSG\)](#).
- Both countries have differences on the issue of [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\) reforms](#).
  - Mexico has been a member of the [United for Consensus \(UfC\) group/Coffee Club](#) that, unlike India and the other [Group of Four \(G-4\)](#) members (Japan, Germany and Brazil), opposes the expansion of permanent membership in the UNSC.

## What are Recent Developments?

- In June 2022, India and Mexico signed an agreement for **cooperation in space**, focusing on areas **ranging from trade and investment to health and pharmaceuticals**.
- The specific cooperation agreement on crop monitoring, drought assessment and capacity building were signed on behalf of the [Indian Space Research Organisation \(ISRO\)](#).

- ISRO and AEM (Mexican Space Agency) last signed a memorandum of understanding on **space cooperation for peaceful purposes in October 2014.**

## Way Forward

- India and Mexico have striking similarities in geo-climatic conditions, biodiversity, physiognomy and people, cultural and family values. Both are heirs to a great civilizational heritage and contacts between them indicatively go back centuries.

### UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20? (2020)**

- (a)** Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- (b)** Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (c)** Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- (d)** Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

**Ans: (a)**

**Source: IE**

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