



## India-Mexico

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **5<sup>th</sup>** meeting of the **India-Mexico Bilateral High-Level Group (BHLG) on Trade, Investment and Cooperation** has been held through video conference.

- The **4<sup>th</sup> meeting** of BHLG on Trade, Investment and Cooperation at the level of Commerce Secretary was held **in Mexico City in July 2016**.
- On **1<sup>st</sup> August 2020**, India and Mexico celebrated the **70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations** between them.

### Key Points

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- Both sides discussed a number of bilateral ongoing and outstanding issues, ranging from **Audio-visual Co-production, Bilateral Investment Treaty, market access for agricultural products, a cooperation framework on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures, cooperation in the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**, and exploring ways to **promote tourism and people-to-people contact**.
- They also **agreed to expand and diversify** the bilateral trade relationship through enhanced cooperation in pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, healthcare, agro-products, fisheries, food processing and aerospace industry, etc.
- **Two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** have been signed, to foster the cooperation in the domains of:
  - Electronics, Computer Software and Telecommunications and Information Technologies.
  - Foreign Trade, Investment and Technology.

### India-Mexico Relations

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- **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 the **members of G-20**.

- **Political and Bilateral Cooperation:**

- Both countries **established a 'Privileged Partnership' in 2007**.
- In 2015, both countries **agreed to work** for 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:**

- Mexico is **currently India's largest trading partner in Latin America.**

In 2018-19, it accounted for almost a quarter of India's trade with the region. **India is currently Mexico's ninth-most important** global trading partner.

- The **last decade has seen a spurt in trade** between the two countries, which has grown from around USD 5 billion in 2015-16 to **USD 9.4 billion in 2018-19.**
- **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, electrical goods and machinery, organic chemicals, vehicles and auto parts and iron and steel.

- **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 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.

## **Way Forward**

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- 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.
- Both India and Mexico are non-permanent members of the Security Council for the period 2021-2022, which is a good opportunity to set aside their differences on global governance issues and work closely on areas of mutual interest.

**Source: PIB**