

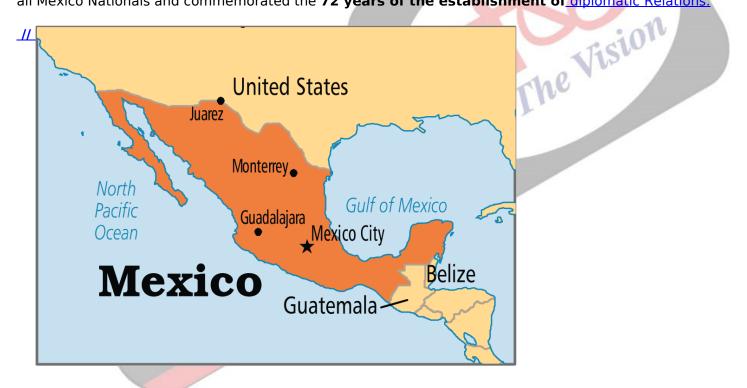
# India Mexico Relations

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** <u>diplomatic Relations</u>.



## How is India-Mexico Relations?

- Historical Ties:
  - Being colonies in the past, India and Mexico have European connections of the <u>colonial</u> 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 <u>Cold War years</u>, Mexico and India had worked together closely as members of the <u>United Nations</u> (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 <u>G-20.</u>

- Political and Bilateral Cooperation:
  - Both countries established a **'Privileged Partnership' in 2007.**
  - $\circ~$  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, <u>Extradition</u>, Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters, Space Cooperation, etc.
  - India gives 20 scholarships to Mexico under the <u>Indian Technical and Economic</u> <u>Cooperation (ITEC) programme</u> and Mexican diplomats are also given training at <u>Forest</u> <u>Survey of India</u> (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 <u>online e-Tourist Visa facility</u>.
  - 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 <u>Pacific Alliance</u> 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 <u>nuclear non-</u> proliferation. However, during the Indian Prime Minister's 2016 visit, Mexico pledged support for India's bid to be part of the <u>Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)</u>.
  - Both countries have differences on the issue of <u>United Nations Security Council</u> (UNSC) reforms.
    - Mexico has been a member of the <u>United for Consensus (UfC) group/Coffee</u> <u>Club</u> that, unlike India and the other<u>Group of Four (G-4)</u> 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 <u>Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)</u>.

• 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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