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BILATERAL RELATIONS

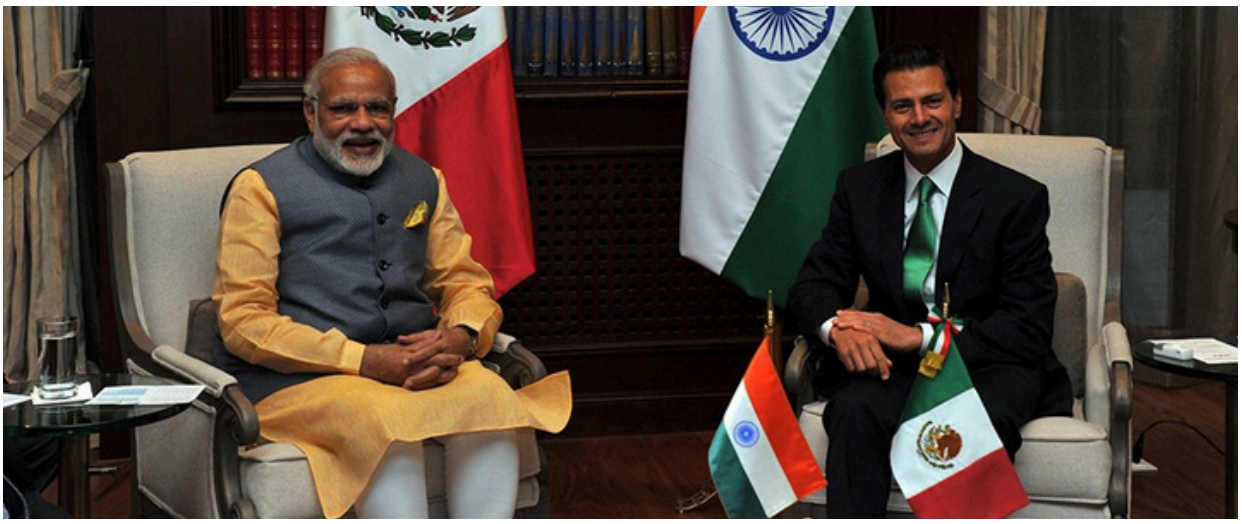
INDIA - MEXICO

INTRODUCTION

India–Mexico relations (Spanish: Relaciones India-México), commonly known as Indo-Mexican relations, encompass the historic, diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties between the Republic of India and the United Mexican States. Formal diplomatic relations were established on 1 August 1950, making Mexico the first country in Latin America to recognize independent India. Having commemorated the 75th anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of their diplomatic journey in 2025, the two nations share a bond characterized by warmth, mutual respect, and converging perspectives on global governance.

Historically anchored by agricultural cooperation—most notably the Mexican wheat varieties that propelled India's Green Revolution in the 1960s—the bilateral framework was elevated to a Privileged Partnership in 2007. On the global stage, India and Mexico are major emerging economies and active members of the G-20, the United Nations (UN), and broader Global South platforms, where they regularly coordinate on sustainable development, climate action, and multilateral reform.

Entering a new phase of economic integration following the October 2026 launch of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) negotiations, bilateral cooperation spans automobiles, pharmaceuticals, information technology, space exploration, and renewable energy. Supported by vibrant people-to-people exchanges and growing diplomatic footprints, the India–Mexico partnership remains a cornerstone of inter-regional cooperation between Asia and Latin America.



HISTORY

During colonialism in both India and Mexico, relations and trade were carried out by the Spanish who through the Manila-Acapulco Galleon traded with Indian traders and brought their products to New Spain (present day Mexico).

In 1947, Mexico became the first Latin American nation to recognize the independence of India from the United Kingdom. On first 1 August 1950, both nations established diplomatic relations and on the following year, Mexico opened an embassy in Delhi. To show the importance of the new relations between the two nations, the first Mexican ambassador to India was former Mexican President Emilio Portes Gil. In 1962, Nobel Prize laureate Octavio Paz was named ambassador to India.

In 1961, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Indian head-of-state to pay a visit to Mexico. In 1962, Mexican President Adolfo López Mateos paid an official visit to India. There would be many more high-level visits between leaders of both nations.

During the Goa liberation movement, when Indo-Portuguese tensions soared, Mexico offered the Indian government its influence in Latin America to bring pressure on the Portuguese to relieve tensions.

Both nations work closely in several multilateral organizations. The Sonora variety of Mexican wheat was fundamental in the Green Revolution in India. In 2010, India opened a cultural center in Mexico City in response to the broad interests manifested in Mexico by the different facets of Indian culture and lifestyle.

In June 2016, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Mexico. While in Mexico, Prime Minister Modi met with President Enrique Peña Nieto and the two leaders held bilateral, political and economic partnership discussions.

In March 2022, Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard paid a visit to India and met with his counterpart S. Jaishankar. While in India, Ebrard met with local business leaders in order to increase trade relations between India and Mexico. Ebrard also announced the upcoming opening of a Mexican consulate in Mumbai. The Consulate in Mumbai was opened in April of that same year.

HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

High-level visits from India to Mexico

- Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru (1961)
- Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (1981)
- President Zail Singh (1984)
- Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi (1986)
- President Pratibha Patil (2008)
- Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (2012)
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi (2016)
- High-level visits from Mexico to India

- President Adolfo López Mateos (1962)
- President Luis Echeverría (1975)
- President José López Portillo (1981)
- President Miguel de la Madrid (1985)
- President Felipe Calderón (2007)
- Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard (2022

BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Both nations have signed numerous bilateral agreements such as an:

- Agreement on Cultural Cooperation (1975);
- Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation (1975);
- Agreement on Economic and Financial Cooperation (1982);
- Agreement on Touristic Cooperation (1996);
- Memorandum of Understanding on Communication Cooperation (1996);
- Agreement on Cultural and Educational Exchanges (2005);
- Agreement on Visa Exemption for Official and Diplomatic Passports (2005);
- Extradition treaty (2006);
- Agreement on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments (2007);
- and an Air service agreement (2008).



MIGRATION

Bilateral migration between India and Mexico reflects modern economic integration, driven primarily by skilled professionals, corporate investments, and academic exchanges. According to official estimates from the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian community in Mexico numbers between 10,000 and 12,000 individuals, including approximately 8,000 Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and several thousand Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs). Although Mexico City hosts about a fifth of this population, the diaspora has expanded steadily into major commercial and manufacturing centers, including Guadalajara, Monterrey, Querétaro, Cuernavaca, and Cancún.

Unlike historical waves of labor migration elsewhere, the Indian presence in Mexico is largely composed of white-collar professionals. Engineers and specialists employed by major Indian Information Technology (IT) companies—such as TCS, Infosys, and Wipro—form the backbone of the community, complemented by executives in automotive and pharmaceutical firms, university faculty, and business owners in textiles and trade. Community life is anchored by organizations like the Indian Association of Mexico (IAM) alongside various cultural and religious centers across Mexico City and Querétaro.

Meanwhile, India hosts a compact community of Mexican diplomats, corporate expatriates, artists, and students. To support growing two-way travel, business mobility, and consular needs, both nations have strengthened their diplomatic footprints—most notably through the Consulate of Mexico in Mumbai (established in 2023) and India's honorary consulates in Guadalajara, Monterrey, and Cancún.



TRADE RELATION

Commercial engagement between India and Mexico has expanded substantially over the past decade, positioning India among Mexico's top ten global trading partners. After first reaching US$10 billion in 2018, bilateral merchandise trade hit US$11.09 billion in 2025 according to Mexican trade data (and stood at US$7.83 billion during India's 2025–26 fiscal year amid broader tariff shifts), consistently generating a significant trade surplus in India's favor.

The composition of bilateral trade reflects growing industrial complementarity. India's export basket to Mexico is anchored by passenger vehicles, auto components, pharmaceuticals, engineering machinery, organic chemicals, and textiles. Meanwhile, Mexico's key exports to India comprise crude petroleum, telecommunications and electronic hardware, industrial machinery, precious metals, and chemical fertilizers.

Corporate investments further reinforce economic ties. More than 250 Indian enterprises—spanning Information Technology (such as TCS, Infosys, and HCLTech), pharmaceuticals (Dr. Reddy's, Sun Pharma), and automotive manufacturing—have invested over US$4 billion in Mexico, leveraging its strategic proximity to North American supply chains. Simultaneously, prominent Mexican multinationals, including Cinépolis, Grupo Bimbo, Nemak, KidZania, and Gruma, have built thriving operations across India. Building on the October 2026 Terms of Reference for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and a dedicated Mexican business delegation to India in early 2027, both governments aim to lower tariff barriers and unlock new avenues for bilateral commerce.



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