

India-Guatemala Bilateral Brief

Brief Political:

India and Guatemala share cordial and friendly relations, with diplomatic ties established on 16 May 1972. The 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relationship was celebrated in 2022. While the Indian Mission in Guatemala City was opened in 2010, the political relations between the two countries have seen a significant upward trajectory in recent years. High level visits , including the visit to Guatemala by Hon'ble Vice President of India in May 2018 further strengthened our bilateral relations. These high-level exchanges have contributed positively to ties and cooperation, enhancing political, economic, commercial, and cultural connections. Guatemala opened its Embassy in New Delhi in April 2013.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary, the Indian Mission organized over fifty cultural and commercial events across Guatemala. The celebrations culminated on 18 November with a commemorative event, jointly organized by the Mission and the Guatemalan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Foreign Ministry's premises, attended by Foreign Minister Mr. Mario Bucaro and Vice Foreign Ministers.

The 3rd round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Guatemala was held in New Delhi on 4 November 2023, co-chaired by Secretary (East) Saurabh Kumar and Guatemala's Vice Foreign Minister, Ms. Karla Gabriela Samayoa Recari.

Guatemala has consistently supported India at multilateral forums over the years.

High-Level visits from India:

August 2024: Hon'ble MoS for External Affairs and Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, visited Guatemala. During the visit, he called on the Hon'ble President of Guatemala and met Foreign Minister and discussed the bilateral relations.

May 2024: Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Ms. Leena Nandan's visited Guatemala to sign the MoU on conservation of the Tiger and Jaguar.

January 2023: Hon'ble MoS for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi visited Guatemala in January 2023.

July 2021: Hon'ble MoS for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan visited Guatemala in July 2021.

May 2018: Hon'ble Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Guatemala from 6-8 May 2018.

May 2015: Hon'ble MoS(VKS), Gen. V.K. Singh, visited Guatemala in May 2015 for 3rd India-SICA Foreign Ministerial Meeting.

High-Level recent visits from Guatemala:

November 2023: Vice Foreign Minister Ms. Karla Gabriela Samayoa Recari visited New Delhi for the 3rd Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Guatemala, co-chaired by Secy (East) Saurabh Kumar.

August 2023: In the 9th CII India - LAC Conclave, Vice Minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Mr. Fernando Antonio Escalante Arevalo, participated from Guatemala.

Sept 2022: H.E. Ms. Leslie Samayoa, Vice Minister of Health and Board Members of Guatemalan Social Security System visited India for participation in "iPHEX 2022 & Global Regulators Conclave" in September 2022 at Noida, UP, India.

Bilateral agreements:

- Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, signed in 1981.
- Cooperation Agreement for Cardamom Export, signed in 1983.
- Memorandum of Understanding on Consultation, signed in May 2005
- Agreement for visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders, signed in May 2015.
- MoU between the Foreign Service Institute, MEA, India, and the Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guatemala, signed in May 2018.
- Memorandum of Understanding on conservation of the Tiger and Jaguar signed on 3rd May 2024

Commercial Relations:

Trade relations between India and Guatemala are growing steadily. From April to November 2024, Indian exports to Guatemala amounted to US\$ 421.59 million, with total bilateral trade reaching US\$ 440.18 million. Key Indian exports include pharmaceuticals, textiles (especially cotton yarn and fibers), engineering products, automobiles (two- and three-wheelers), motor vehicles, auto components, iron and steel, industrial machinery, and electrical equipment. India primarily imports wood, wood charcoal, coffee, and aluminum scrap from Guatemala.

To further promote bilateral trade, the Embassy, in collaboration with Export Promotion Councils, has organized over 20 Hybrid Buyer-Seller Meets this year. Around 15 Indian companies are active in Guatemala across pharmaceuticals, textiles, automobiles, and IT sectors. Popular brands like Hero motorcycles, Mahindra vehicles, TVS, and Bajaj two- and three-wheelers are widely recognized. Leading pharmaceutical companies such as Caplin Point, CIPLA, Himalaya Drugs, Seven Pharma, Aurobindo, and MSN Labs market their products in Guatemala through local agents or representative offices.

India-Guatemala Trade (in million US \$)

Year (April - March)	Imports from Guatemala	Exports to Guatemala	Total Trade
2020-2021	20.75	331.35	352.12
2021-2022	21.08	552.13	573.21
2022-2023	20.70	465.35	486.05
2023-2024	30.27	559	589.27
April-November 2024	18.59	421.59	440.18

Grand "MADE IN INDIA" Trade Show: To keep the momentum in our trade and to respond to the call of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to look for new export opportunities, the Embassy, in collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles and Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts organized immaculate 3-day "MADE IN INDIA" grand trade exhibition in Cayala, Guatemala City from 22-24 September 2022 and on 21 September 2022, organized a unique Weaves of India Thematic Fashion Show at the Guatemalan National Palace showcasing India's rich textile tradition. A similar fashion show was also organised to promote Khadi on October 2nd, 2023.

Development Cooperation: India's development cooperation has been robust with Guatemala. India has always extended a helping hand to Guatemala in its trying times. On 14 March 2024, in a ceremony held at the Ministry of Health of Guatemala, the Embassy donated over 1 million doses of Made-in-India medicines to the Government of Guatemala to assist Guatemala in treating Tuberculosis, epilepsy, and type-II Diabetes. This significant contribution strengthened the bond between the two nations and also provided timely access to life-saving medicines for the people of Guatemala, further affirming India's role as the "pharmacy of the world".

India donated 10 Mahindra pickup trucks to the Government of Guatemala in 2023 at total cost of US\$ 215,000/-, 8 trucks to the Ministry of Culture

& Sports to be used for conservation of Mayan ruins in Tikal and 2 trucks to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

India has previously been active in supplying medicines to the Government of Guatemala, particularly when Guatemala was facing the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India donated 200,000 doses of Made in India anti-COVID vaccine to Guatemala in March 2021 and provided essential medicines and PPEs to Guatemala. Similarly, India has been a partner of Guatemala during challenging times and whenever required had supported Guatemala with monetary and material support like during Hurricane Stan in October 2005, in November 2009 for draught related recovery, for Disaster Relief in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Guatemala in November 2012, for Drought relief in December 2014, in July 2018 towards disaster relief assistance for damages caused due to eruption of volcano Fuego.

The Government of India, in an effort to contribute to capacity building in Guatemala, set up an IT Training Centre at San Carlos University in August 2006. Tata Communications Services (TCS) ran this IT Centre till July 2008, training about 1,500 Guatemalans, before it was handed over to the Guatemalans.

ITEC:

Guatemala is an ITEC partner country since 1997-98. The Government of India has offered 40 ITEC slots to Guatemala for 2024-25. As of now around 210 Guatemalans have visited India under ITEC scholarships. Under the ITEC, in February 2025, a specialised Course on Transparency and Prevention of Corruption was conducted for different institutions of the justice sector of Guatemala, in which 29 Guatemala officials participated.

Cultural Relations: ICCR-sponsored Odissi Dance Group “Sankalp” led by Ms. Kasturi Pattnaik toured Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala from 26 June to 04 July 2023. During their tour in Guatemala, they performed in Patzun, Xela and Guatemala City. To commemorate the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence, the Embassy had organized over 80 major events across Guatemala in 2022. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Guatemala, on 16 May 2022, the Embassy in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture organized a grand cultural ceremony at the Miguel Ángel Asturias National Theatre. The cultural event saw a mesmerizing performance by the ICCR-sponsored Kathak troupe led by Ms Soniya Parchure. The event was attended by over 1500 Guatemalans. Similarly, to mark the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas), the Mission organized Unity Concerts by ICCR-sponsored Indian Music band Purple

Fusion in the Guatemalan cities of Quetzaltenango, Antigua and Patzún in the first week of November 2022.

The Largest Ever Yoga Festival in Central America: On 22 June 2024, the Embassy in association with Ministry of Education and different municipalities of Guatemala, organized the main International Day of Yoga 2024 event in Mariscal Zavala, Guatemala with the participation of over 5,000 yoga lovers. This largest-ever Yoga Festival was organized to promote Indian culture and Yoga among Guatemalan people, especially women and children. This event marked the third consecutive year of significant turnout and highlights yoga's growing impact in the region. Senior government officials, diplomats, media person, local Indian community, students, soldiers from Guatemalan army and people from all walks of life actively participated in the event with full enthusiasm. As part of a series of yoga events to celebrate IDY2024, the Embassy also organized yoga event at office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Municipality of Antigua, and Polytechnic School, Municipality of Sololá, University of Rafael Landívar, Central American Institute of Nutrition, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, San Carlos University, Del Valle de Guatemala University, Ministry of Culture and Sports, INEB High School, QUO Commercial Center, and San Juan de Dios National Hospital.

Indian Film Festival: The Embassy has organized several Indian Film Festivals across length and breadth of Guatemala. On 5-6 February 2022, in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Mission organized the film festival in the Miguel Angel Asturias National theatre in Guatemala City. Embassy in collaboration with [vivelo.com](https://www.vivelo.com) organized Indian Film Festival showcasing seven Indian movies on the online platform.

Indian community: The Indian community in Guatemala is small and consists of about 100 individuals in all, working in the Indian Call Centres, in export trade, in the auto parts business, or in the pharmaceutical industries. Most of them came to Guatemala during the last two decades. With the Indian Community, Mission is celebrating Indian festivals like Holi and Diwali, and on 30 October 2022, Mission organized a grand Diwali Festival with over 150 people. In March 2023, the Embassy organized the Holi Festival which saw the enthusiastic participation of over 300 Indian community members and Friends of India.

Besides, there are around 350 people of Indian origin who came to this region as indentured labourers during the 19th and early 20th century and settled in coastal Guatemala on the Atlantic in the small township of Livingstone. They live in villages, own land, and are involved in fishing, agriculture, and tourism sectors. They are mostly 4th-5th generation Indians, and by now, well integrated into the local community. The Embassy of India constantly engages the Indian community in Livingstone and invites

them to National Day events and cultural programmes. The Embassy organized the Flag Hoisting Ceremony in Livingston on the occasion of Republic Day in January 2023. The Embassy organized a Holi Celebration in Puerto Barrios with the Livingston based Indian community in 2023.

February 2025