Embassy of India
Guatemala

India-Guatemala Bilateral Brief

Political:
India and Guatemala enjoy cordial and friendly relations. The diplomatic relations were established on 16 May 1972. Although, the Mission at Guatemala City was opened in 2010, in recent years the political relations between Guatemala and India have been on the path of an upward trajectory. The visit of the Hon'ble Vice President in May 2018; MoS for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan in July 2021; and MoS for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi in January 2023; Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Ms. Leena Nandan's visit to Guatemala in May 2024; and visit of Shri Pabitra Margherita, MoS for External Affairs and Textiles from 17-19 August 2024 have given a boost to our bilateral relations. In April 2023, the Hon`ble EAM had a meeting in Panama with the Foreign Ministers of SICA member countries (including Guatemala), in which SICA and India welcomed the good friendly relations developed over time in different bilateral and multilateral spaces and reaffirmed the need to deepen and diversify political dialogue and cooperation in different fields.

These high-level exchanges from India to Guatemala have positively contributed to bilateral ties and cooperation, which has strengthened ties across a range of political, economic, commercial, and cultural areas. Guatemala opened its Embassy in New Delhi in April 2013.

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles to Guatemala: Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, paid an official visit to Guatemala from 17–19 August 2024, marking the first high-level visit from India following the elections and formation of the new Government in both countries. During the visit, he met President H.E. Mr. César Bernardo Arévalo de León and Foreign Minister Mr. Carlos Ramiro Martínez, and discussed strengthening bilateral relations, including trade and investment, development partnership, infrastructure, healthcare, and people-to-people ties, along with regional and global issues of mutual interest. He also held productive engagements with members of Congress, mayors, and leading business associations such as CACIF and AGEXPORT, focusing on enhancing parliamentary exchanges and expanding commercial cooperation, investment flows, and economic partnership between the two countries.

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi to Guatemala: To mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Guatemala, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, visited Guatemala from 15–17 January 2023. During the visit, she met the Acting President, Foreign Minister, and other senior ministers, including those responsible for culture, health, and energy, to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors. She symbolically handed over the keys for the donation of ten Mahindra pickup trucks from the Government of India, later delivered in May 2023, and jointly inaugurated the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Foreign Ministry premises.

She also inaugurated a warehouse facility at Technopark, Escuintla to support Indian exports to Central America and participated in a business dinner with leading Guatemalan industry representatives, underscoring growing economic and commercial engagement between the two countries.

Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan to Guatemala: During the visit of MOS Shri V. Muraleedharan in July 2021 to Guatemala, he called on President H.E. Dr. Alejandro Giammattei and met then Foreign Minister Amb. Pedro Brolo Vila, discussing bilateral, regional, and international issues. He also participated in a business event with the Minister of Economy and addressed business leaders and representatives of the Guatemalan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, alongside Vice Foreign Minister Amb. Shirley Aguilar.

The bilateral dialogue mechanism through Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) has remained active, with the 2nd FOC held virtually in May 2021 and the 3rd FOC in November 2023 in New Delhi, co-chaired by senior officials of both sides, reviewing cooperation in trade, agriculture, health, pharmaceuticals, development partnership, and multilateral engagement. The next round of FOC is expected to be held in Guatemala in 2026. On 8 September 2025, Ambassador Raj Kumar Singh presented his credentials to President H.E. Mr. César Bernardo Arévalo de León, formally assuming charge, with discussions focusing on ongoing cooperation in capacity building, SMEs, tourism, and agriculture.

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

Trade and Economy:

The trade relations between India and Guatemala are on the upswing and during 2025-2026 the bilateral trade stood at US$ 652.77 million. Pharmaceuticals, textiles (especially cotton yarn and fibres), engineering products, automobiles- two and three wheelers, motor vehicles/cars, auto components and parts, iron and steel, industrial machinery and parts, electrical machinery and equipment are the top products exported to Guatemala while India mainly imports Wood, wood charcoal, Coffee, aluminium scrap from Guatemala. To promote bilateral trade, Embassy in collaboration with Export Promotion Councils have organized regular Hybrid Buyer Seller Meets in 2025.

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	559.00	589.27
2024-2025	29.00	634.00	663.00
2025-2026	49.04	603.73	652.77

Commercial Engagements: The presence of Indian companies in Guatemala has grown significantly, with active participation across automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and IT/BPO sectors. Leading Indian automotive companies such as Hero MotoCorp, Mahindra & Mahindra, TVS, Bajaj, and Force Motors have established a strong presence, while pharmaceutical firms including Cipla, Himalaya Drugs, Caplin Point, Aurobindo, MSN Labs, and others operate in the local market. Indian IT and BPO companies such as HCL, TCS, and 24x7 collectively employ over 10,000 Guatemalans, making Guatemala an emerging hub for nearshoring in IT and IT-enabled services. Notable investments such as Yash Pakka (US$ 340 million) and Pearl Global (US$ 300 million) further highlight India's expanding economic footprint in Guatemala and its strategic use as a gateway to the Western Hemisphere.

In addition, the Embassy has actively promoted commercial engagement through trade and cultural initiatives, including the "Made in India" exhibition in September 2022 and the "Weaves of India" fashion show at the National Palace. During 2025, several business promotion activities were organized, including sector-specific business seminars on electronics, ceramics, plastics, tourism, and innovation, along with participation in major trade fairs such as FerretExpo. These initiatives have contributed to deepening India–Guatemala commercial ties and expanding opportunities for bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation.

Agriculture: India and Guatemala, both tropical countries facing similar agricultural challenges including water scarcity, share cooperation in promoting climate-resilient farming. In May 2023, as part of the International Year of Millets, the Indian Mission formally handed over four varieties of millet seeds to Guatemala's Agriculture Minister to support food security and crop diversification. The seeds, cleared through quality and pest-control checks, are expected to be cultivated in Guatemala's highlands, and an MoU on agricultural cooperation shared by Guatemala is under consideration by India's Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Energy: Located within the tropics and with varied elevation ranging from sea level to over 4,000 metres, Guatemala has significant renewable energy potential, including an estimated solar potential of about 200 TWh and wind energy generation capacity of around 20,000 GWh annually. Despite abundant natural resources, these remain underutilized, with scope for greater development in clean energy. Indian companies have shown interest in renewable energy investments, and Guatemala has been encouraged to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to benefit from enhanced financing, technology, and knowledge-sharing for expanding solar energy access.

Development Cooperation:
India's development cooperation with Guatemala has been strong and sustained, with India consistently extending assistance during times of need. On 14 March 2024, India donated over 1 million doses of Made-in-India medicines to Guatemala for the treatment of tuberculosis, epilepsy, and type-II diabetes, reinforcing India's role as the "pharmacy of the world" and ensuring timely access to essential medicines.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, India also supplied 200,000 doses of vaccines along with essential medicines and PPEs in March 2021.

India has similarly supported Guatemala during natural disasters, including assistance for Hurricane Stan (2005), drought relief (2009 and 2014), earthquake response (2012), and volcanic eruption relief following Volcán de Fuego in 2018. In addition, India's capacity-building efforts include the establishment of an IT Training Centre at San Carlos University in 2006, operated initially by Tata Communications Services, which trained around 1,500 Guatemalans before being handed over to local authorities.

ITEC: Guatemala has been an ITEC partner country since 1997–98, with India actively supporting capacity building through training programs across diverse sectors. So far, over 300 Guatemalan professionals have been trained in India in areas such as agriculture, IT, machine learning, banking, and finance, with around 40–45 slots allocated annually. Following the India–SICA Foreign Ministers' meeting in April 2023, India also proposed customized training programs for SICA member states, including Guatemala. In February 2025, a special ITEC course was conducted at NILERD, New Delhi, for 29 judges and officials from key Guatemalan institutions on transparency and corruption prevention.

Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) & donation of SME machineries: During the India–SICA Foreign Ministers' Meeting in April 2023, India announced its intention to implement Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Guatemala and provide US$ 1 million worth of India-made machinery under grant assistance. India has proposed 5 QIPs per year at US$ 250,000 annually for a period of five years, with the MoU for implementation currently pending with the Guatemalan legal authorities, and the Mission has urged early conclusion of the agreement.

Separately, India has also offered a US$ 1 million grant for SME machinery to support the development of Guatemala's small and medium enterprise sector. Due to procedural and tax exemption requirements, Guatemala has been asked to identify a suitable organization through which the SME machinery can be offered.

Proposal to organise Artificial Limb Fitment Camp in Guatemala: A Prosthetic Artificial Limb Fitment Camp was successfully organized in Guatemala from Jan 6 to Feb 21, 2026 as part of India's humanitarian and development partnership, aimed at restoring mobility, dignity, and independence to persons with limb loss. The camp provided high-quality prosthetic limbs and rehabilitation support to 619 beneficiaries with providing 652 artificial limbs, enabling their improved mobility and social and economic reintegration. The initiative was widely appreciated for its direct human impact and contribution to enhancing the quality of life of recipients, while further strengthening India–Guatemala goodwill and people-to-people ties.

Cultural Relations:
The Embassy of India in Guatemala has actively promoted cultural diplomacy through a series of events showcasing Indian art, music, and yoga. In June–July 2023, the ICCR-sponsored Odissi dance group "Sankalp," led by Ms. Kasturi Pattnaik, toured Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, performing in Patzún, Quetzaltenango, and Guatemala City. Earlier, to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations, major cultural programmes were

organized, including a grand event at the Miguel Ángel Asturias National Theatre in May 2022 featuring a Kathak performance by Ms. Soniya Parchure, attended by over 1,500 people, along with Unity Concerts by the band Purple Fusion across multiple cities. Over 80 events were also organized in 2022 to celebrate India's 75th Independence anniversary.

In January 2026, the ICCR-sponsored Senu-Sapera dance group from Rajasthan also performed in Guatemala, adding a vibrant dimension to India's cultural outreach and drawing significant appreciation from local audiences. In recent years, International Day of Yoga celebrations have seen large participation, reflecting growing interest in Indian culture, with over 10,000 participants in Cobán in 2025 and more than 5,000 participants in Guatemala City in 2024, including government officials, military personnel, students, and civil society. These initiatives have significantly enhanced India's cultural visibility and strengthened people-to-people ties in Guatemala.

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 organized Indian Film Festival showcasing seven Indian movies on the online platform. During the Financial Year 2024-2025, from October 2024 to March 2025, the Embassy organized 21 screenings of Indian films dubbed or subtitled in Spanish across various departments of Guatemala. During the current Financial Year 2025-2026, the Mission has organized many screenings of the Indian movies dubbed in Spanish languages in various parts of Guatemala.

Indian community: The Indian community in Guatemala, though small with around 100 professionals, is engaged in sectors such as call centers, trade, auto parts, and pharmaceuticals, with most having settled over the past two decades. The Embassy actively engages the community through celebrations of festivals like Diwali and Holi, which have grown in scale, including Diwali events in 2022 and 2024 and Holi celebrations in 2024 and 2025, drawing large participation from both Indian and Guatemalan friends.

In addition, around 350 persons of Indian origin in Livingston trace their roots to indentured labourers of the 19th and early 20th centuries and are now in their 4th–5th generation, actively engaged in fishing, agriculture, and tourism. The Embassy maintains close engagement with this community, including participation in National Day events and cultural programmes such as Republic Day celebrations in Livingston and Holi festivities in Puerto Barrios.

May 2026