

## India-México Partnership: Challenges and Barriers in its Relationship in BRICS

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Diplomatic relations between Mexico and India were established on August 1, 1950. It was the first country in the Latin American region to initiate these ties and therefore promote bilateral activities in different trends and perspectives. Both nations faced the different dynamics of the Cold War, the dispute between the great powers to attract them to their respective areas of influence. It has also been important that the two nations participated or approached relevant international political groups such as the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of 77. At that time, Mexico and India acquired experience in the context of the international system, and their different dynamics, which allowed each one to acquire a prominent role in their respective geographic regions. Although Mexico opted for pacifism and the free self-determination of the people in multilateral forums, India did what corresponded within the framework of South Asia, as well as in the demands of the peoples who at the time required recognition and support from the world.

The two nations continued their own paths, faced challenges in their respective geographical regions. In the decade of 1980, they joined peace projects and continued to develop approaches that, although isolated, defined their profiles as leading countries. When the Cold War ended, new expectations arose. Mexico opted for the path of free trade but unfortunately experienced a severe economic crisis known as the "Tequila Crisis" in 1994. This crisis was triggered by the devaluation of the Mexican peso and was compounded by high inflation, a trade deficit, and political instability. The crisis motivated that the political leaders to take some drastic decisions and necessitated significant economic reforms and assistance from international financial institutions. On the other hand, India opted for economic modernization, but it faced difficulties in managing the transition from a protectionist economy to one that was more integrated into the global market. This involved addressing issues related to industrial policy, foreign investment, and regulatory changes.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the trends of both nations continued along the same path. It is important to mention that Mexico continued as a country aimed at strengthening its economic position, with a greater identity in North America, and at the same time with strong roots in the dynamics of Latin America. For its own way, India joined the BRICS route, along with China, Brazil, Russia and later South Africa. The situation at the current time is becoming promising. What awaits both countries within the framework of their current strategies and priorities? We will see this next.

### **Challenges for Mexico and India in their respective international roles.**

It is known that the last 24 years, the contemporary world is characterized by the emergence of several poles of power and among them, the one that corresponds to the great powers as the United States, is in the course of a multipolar dynamics (Western Europe, Japan, Russia, India and China) in which intermediate countries also stand out, with great capabilities and important signs of growth and economic development (Silva, 2013).

In these circumstances, New Delhi has established an *ad hoc* strategy to adapt to the international changes of this multipolar context. Indian diplomacy has created, through the BRICS an international interaction

and economic cooperation (Devonshire-Ellis, 2024), a place to have greater visibility among nations and show its capacity for political dialogue. And according to its strategy, India has reached new horizons in the international system.

Its participation has also defined the rising of a new group of international powers in the world stage and it is recognized its origins the contribution to democratization of the international system and the support for developing countries in global governance. Up today it is understood that its influence and collaboration with different countries in diverse regions is a decisive action that promotes pragmatism among global powers (Juncal, 2017).

In the case of Mexico, even the cordiality and coincidences in political and global agenda, the ties with India are distant and the activities at BRICS are a kind of competition. It is very complicated for different reasons. For example, the economic and geopolitical competence with Brazil in Latin America, the position of neutrality in the case of Russia-Ukraine war and its implications in the relation with the United States, and finally the way China is seen as an external power in the region of North America. All these factors make difficult to approach to the BRICS agenda and rise as a barrier for fruitful activities.

Despite these conditions, the possibility of competition in commerce and investments in regional stages and in international politics makes BRICS and Mexico distant and this could be the source of possible tensions. It is important to consider that the economic policies and priorities of BRICS members vary significantly. As Brazil, Russia, and China have their own economic strategies and trade policies that may not always align with those of Mexico and India (Vázquez, 2016).

The BRICS countries are projected in the international environment as a group that could more strongly outline the international dynamics of the future. Therefore, the barriers that are seen due to geopolitical issues and also issues associated with the international strategy of governments could be overcome if both parties, Mexico and India, build an environment of greater institutional solidity.

An important contribution would have to do, if the step is taken, with the formation of special commissions related to bilateral activities, strengthening diplomacy, the ties between public and private actors, as well as civil society that enrich this vision. In addition to representing a great challenge, the need for institutional rapprochement and other channels suggests evaluating the incorporation of such a diverse agenda in which all participants could agree but will have to evaluate the geopolitics and geoeconomics of our time.

These circumstances invite us to reflect on how Mexico should, in the present and the future, establish links with the BRICS countries to join, despite the competitive scenarios, to gain more presence in international politics and economy. The relationship between Mexico and India is very valuable and it will be necessary to analyze the conditions so that it is the door for greater rapprochement and better understanding with the BRICS countries.

## **Conclusions.**

What would the performance of Mexico and India be like if they were part of a group like the BRICS? Should Mexico join the BRICS to promote a more important multilateral agenda together with India and its allies? The possibilities of greater collaboration depend entirely on the national actors in each case, an issue that is perceived as very complicated for India and Mexico in the possibility of going together with the BRICS.

Both countries today have very different leadership profiles. On the one hand, Mexico has become associated with the geopolitical environment of North America and is subject to the trends that strongly prevail in the United States. Despite Mexico's leadership in different areas, it must be strengthened to project that it is a nation that leads different initiatives and that is seeking to deepen its participation on the international stage with a better face.

As far as India is concerned, regardless of its internal political challenges, the need to consolidate stability on the part of its national leaders will remain a priority. Only in this way will the Asian giant be able to not only move forward in the face of its national dynamics, but also maintain an active role on the international stage.

The future will define whether there is a meeting point that will allow bilateral ties to be united with greater strength. Possibly it will not be in the context of the BRICS, but surely, the role of Mexico and India in the context of world politics and economy will be decisive since both nations are destined to be great international leaders.

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