

PHYSICAL , POLITICAL, ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

What Areas Included in Latin America

The Term, " Latin America" , is generally understood to consist of the entire continent of South America in addition to Mexico, Central America, and the islands of the Caribbean.



South America:

- in size , fourth largest continent after Asia, Africa, and North America.
- in Population, fifth after Asia, Africa, Europe, North America
- is a long triangular shaped continent.
- It stretched from 12°N to 55°S latitude.
- The Equator passes through the northern part of the continent and the Tropic of Capricorn runs roughly through the middle.
- Religion: Decreasing : Christianity, No religion and rest others
- It is surrounded by the Caribbean Sea in the north, Atlantic Ocean in the east, Antarctic Ocean in the south and Pacific Ocean in the west. South America as well as Mexico, Central America and West Indies are collectively known as Latin America.=12 Countries (continent of Birds)

Decreasing Areawise: Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela, Chile, Paraguay, Ecuador, Guyana, Uruguay, Suriname

- Landlocked Countries – Paraguay and Bolivia

- Falkland Islands (United Kingdom) i.e. (British Overseas Territories)
- French Guiana (France)
- South Georgia and South Sandwich Island , UK

Largest Cities In South America By Population

Rank	Largest Cities In South America	Estimated Metro Population (Millions)
1	Sao Paulo, Brazil	21.2
2	Buenos Aires, Argentina	13.5
3	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	12.2
4	Lima, Peru	12.1
5	Bogota, Colombia	10.2
6	Santiago, Chile	7.2



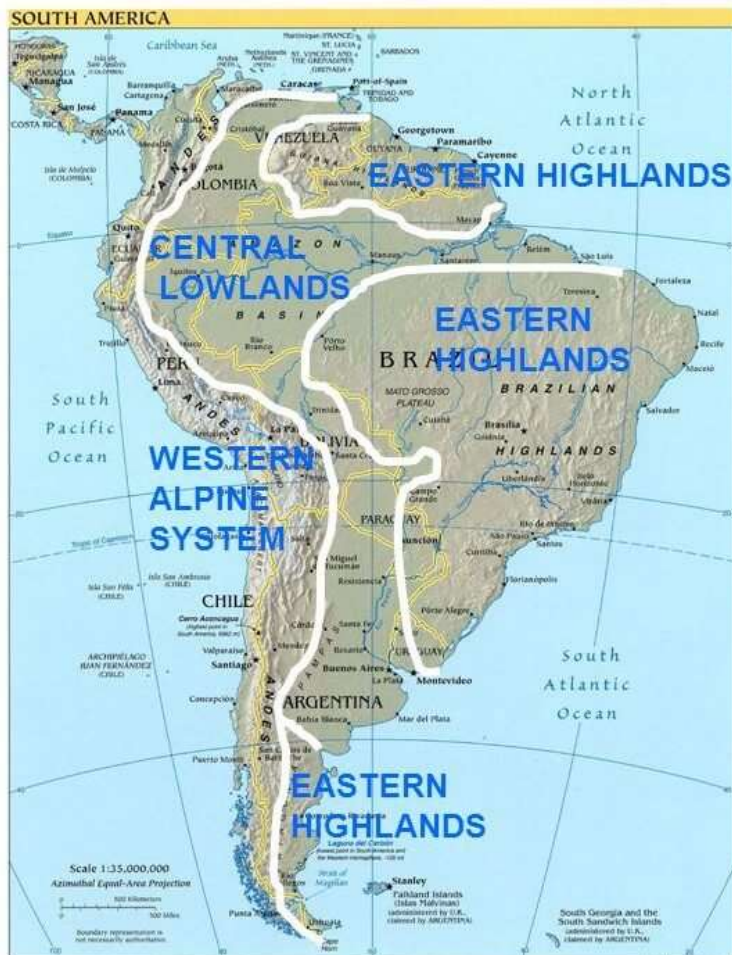
- The coastline of South America is smooth with very few inlets except in the extreme south-west where there are fiords and many small islands.

- Fiords are deep inlets of the sea into mountains land. There are a few large islands off the coast of South America.
- *Andes is the longest mountain range in the world*
- *Both Highest and lowest point of South America is located in Argentina*
- *Highest Point in South America: Aconagua 6960 m*
- *Lowest point in South America : The Valdés Peninsula, on the southeastern coast of Argentina, includes the lowest point, at 131 feet (40 metres) below sea level.*
- *Laguna del Carbón- Argentina, and its elevation is approximately 105 meters (344 feet) below sea level- a salt lake in Argentina's Santa Cruz province, is indeed the lowest point in South America,*
- *But Southern Most point in South America is located in Chile . called " Cape Horn ".*
- *Cape Horn is the southernmost headland of the Tierra del Fuego archipelago of southern Chile, and is located on the small Hornos Island.*
- *Cape Horn marks the northern boundary of the Drake Passage and marks where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet.*



Major Physical Divisions

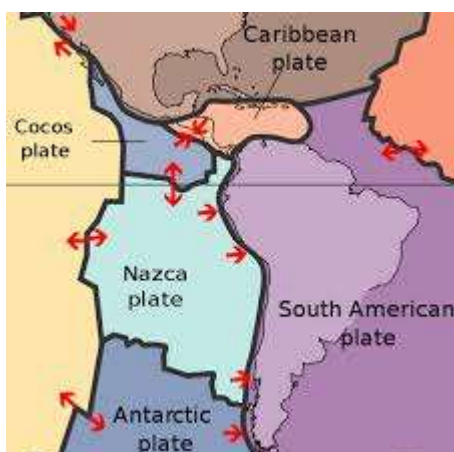
- I. The Pacific coastal strip
- II. Mountain Ranges
- III. The Central Lowlands
- IV. The Eastern Highlands



I. About Pacific Coastal Strip

- It lies in the west, between the ocean and the Andes. It is the longest coastal plain in the Atlantic world.
- The coastline of South America is smooth and regular. At the river mouths, there are inlets that are used as harbors.
- The south-western coast of the continent has fiords or deep inlets of the sea.

II. Mountain Ranges



Formation of Andes

Main Cause : of rise of Andes is compression of western rim of south america plate due to subduction of Nazca Plate and Antartica plate.

1. Andes Mountains

- is the longest mountain range in the world

- *After Himalayas , they are second highest mountain system in the World*
- A part of seven countries: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Argentina.
- running in the north-south direction from Isthmus of Panama to Strait of Magellan.
- Being part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, there are many volcanoes and frequent earthquakes in this region.
- Mount Cotopaxi and Mount Chimborazo are active volcanic peak, which is the highest peak in South America.
- Mount Aconcagua is the extinct volcano lies in Argentina(Argentina-Chile border.) Aconcagu (6960 m), an extinct volcano is the highest peak of Western Hemisphere lies in Argentina
- Mount Ojas del Salado is the highest active volcano in the world of Argentina
- *Bolivian Plateau is intermontane plateau*

Plateau of Mato Grosso: Ancient erosional plateau, savannah, cattle raising, gold, and diamond reserve. Farther south, the Pantanal, the world's largest wetland, is the habitat for nearly one thousand species of animals and many aquatic birds.

Pantanal: world's largest tropical wetland area, and the world's largest flooded grasslands. It is located mostly within the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso

Pantanal located in Countries : Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay



- It has the largest concentration of crocodiles in the world.
- Jaguars, the largest feline in the Americas
- The Pantanal is also home to the biggest parrot on the planet, the hyacinth macaw.

III . Central Low lands

- They are formed by two great river systems – the Amazon- the Orinoco and the Parana-Paraguay.
- The Orinoco Basin has dense tropical forests. The northern part is a plain covered with savanna grass called the Llanos.
- The equatorial jungle of the Amazon Basin is called the selvas, a typical tropical rain forest.
- The rich temperate grasslands around the mouth of the Parana-Paraguay is the pampas.
- scrub forest called the Gran Chaco

IV. Eastern Highlands :

- The Eastern highlands consists of Igneous and Metamorphic rocks.
- The River Amazon separates them into the Guiana Highland to the north and the Brazilian Highland to the south.

Highlands are split in to three regions:

1. Brazilian Highlands
2. Guiana Highlands
3. Patagonian Plateau

- *Brazilian Highland* :extensive geographical region covering most of the eastern, southern and central portions of Brazil
- Lava plateau, Minas Gerais region- iron and gold reserve.
- Ancient basaltic lava flows gave birth to much of the region.
- Erosion has also played a large part in shaping the Highlands, forming extensive sedimentary deposits and wearing down the mountains.
- The magnificent landscape includes varied mountain ranges, namely the Serra de Mantiqueira, Serra do Paranapiatoba, Serra Geral, and Serra do Mar.
- The savanna grasslands of Brazilian Highlands are the Campos.

Guiana Highlands

- an abundance of rain, tropical rainforest, gold, diamond, and iron ore reserve. World's highest fall – Angel's fall



- *Angel fall* is a waterfall in Venezuela. It is the world's tallest uninterrupted waterfall, with a height of 979 metres
- Churún River, a tributary of the Carrao River, itself a tributary of the Orinoco River.

Patagonian Plateau

- located between the Andes and the Atlantic Ocean, at southern end of continent
- It's mostly rugged, barren land, famed for its beauty and striking scenery.
- governed by Argentina and Chile
- The region comprises the southern section of the Andes Mountains with lakes, fjords, temperate rainforests, and glaciers in the west and deserts, tablelands and steppes to the east.
- Patagonia is bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and many bodies of water that connect them, such as the Strait of Magellan, the Beagle Channel, and the Drake Passage to the south.
- Patagonia's climate is mostly cool and dry year round. The east coast is warmer than the west, especially in summer, as a branch of the southern equatorial current reaches its shores, whereas the west coast is washed by a cold current.
- Piedmont plateau of the Southern Argentina, rain shadow region with little rain called Patagonia desert.
- Grazing land for sheep and cattle.
- Patagonian desert- Argentina, Chile, large cold winter desert



Deserts of South America

- Patagonian Desert – the largest desert by area located in Argentina
- Sechura Desert – a desert located along a portion of the northwestern coast of South America
- Monte Desert – in Argentina, a smaller desert above the Patagonian desert

ATACAMA DESERT:

- A coastal desert in Chile., the driest non-polar place on earth
- The world's driest desert.,
- it being situated between two mountain chain- Andes and Chilean coast range, two sided rainshadow region,
- it is death zone of vegetation, but largest source of sodium nitrate used for producing fertilizer, explosives- area good for mining - Chile-Salt peter.
- It contains a number of salt lakes.
 - Rich in gold, nitrate (caliche), copper and sulphur. also extra terrestrial soil similar to Mars, desert used for Astronomy purpose,

Amazon River

- Second longest river after Nile
- largest river by discharge volume of water in the world

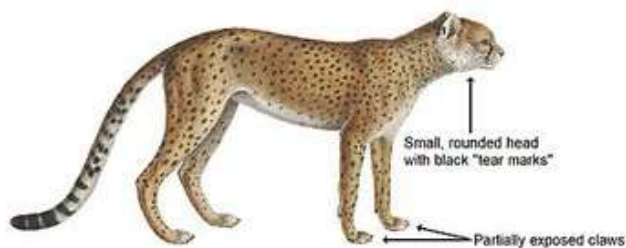
- The Amazon basin is the largest drainage basin in the world
- Source of River from Peru Country , Mismi Peak, a volcanic stratovolcano region on Andes
- Geological History :Recent geological studies suggest that for millions of years the Amazon River used to flow in the opposite direction - from east to west Eventually the Andes Mountains formed, blocking its flow to the Pacific Ocean, and causing it to switch directions to its current mouth in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Nine countries share the Amazon basin: Brazil, Peru ,Bolivia, Columbia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Ecuador

Animals of Amazon

- *Anaconda*, black caiman, jaguar, cougar,
- In the river, electric eels can produce an electric shock that can stun or kill, while piranha are known to bite and injure humans
- The black caiman is the second largest known predator in the Amazon ecosystem, after the Orinoco crocodile,
- Jaguar found in Amazon and Pantanal areas
- the jaguar's range extends from core Southwestern United States across Mexico and much of Central America, the Amazon rainforest and south to Paraguay and northern Argentina.
- Jaguar : the cheetah is the fastest, the leopard is the most widespread, and the jaguar is the largest among them

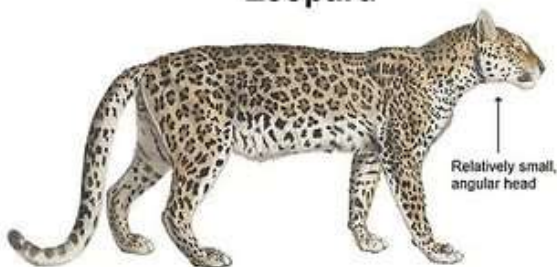


Cheetah



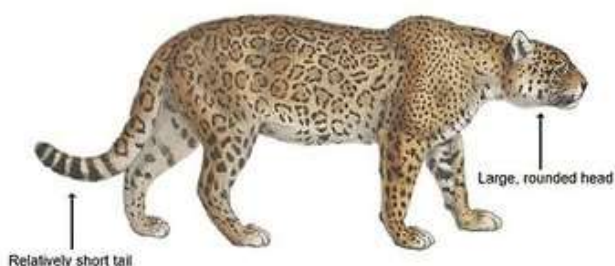
Solid black spots

Leopard



Small, densely packed rosettes

Jaguar



Large rosettes with central spot



Puma

- are large, secretive cats.
- called as cougars and mountain lions
- are primarily found in the mountains of North and
- about 50000 pumas left in the World

The Rio de Plata basin

- This basin is second in size to that of the Amazon.
- The main rivers which form the Basin of Rio de Plata are the river Paraguay, the Parana, and the river Uruguay.
- River Parana rises from western Brazilian Highlands
- Drain in Atlantic Ocean

Orinoco Basin

- third-largest drainage system of South America.
- world's highest waterfall Angel
- The Orinoco flows through the llanos (savanna grasslands) of Venezuela into the (North Atlantic Ocean)
- Drains in Atlantic Ocean

Sao Francisco basin

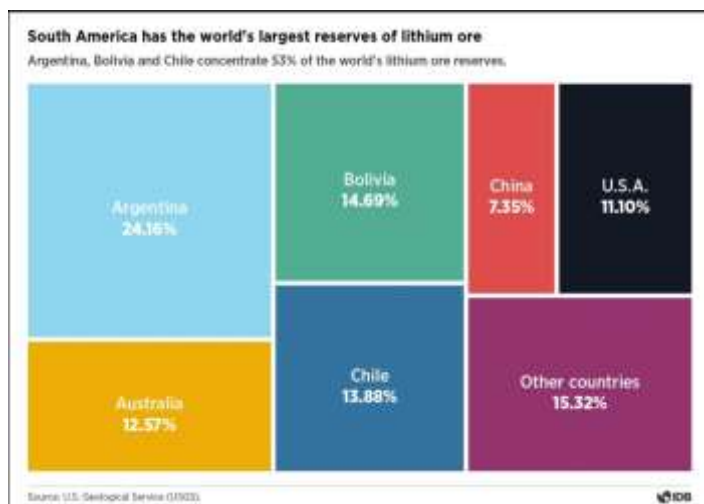
- fourth-largest river system of South America
- flows within Brazil and drains in Atlantic Ocean



Lithium Triangle: new white Gold

- is an intersection of Chile, Bolivia and Argentina, known for high quality salt flats.

- The three countries, along with Peru, contain about 67% of proven lithium reserves and produce about half of the global supply
- Demand for electric vehicles and smart devices powered by lithium-ion batteries gives an opportunity for development.
-



Largest Oil Reserves Decreasing Order :Venezula , Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina

Important Lakes

NAME	LOCATION
Lake Maracaibo (12,950 sq. km)	North of Venezuela, is one of the major oil producing region.Largest lak of South America.
Lake Titicaca (12,500 feet above sea level)	Situated between Bolivia and Peru. the highest commercially navigable lake in the world,
Lake Popo	Lies in the Altiplano (high Plateau between the Andes mountain chain) in Bolivia.

Islands

- The Galapagos Islands near the Equator and the Juan Fernandez Islands near Central Chile are in the Pacific Ocean.
- The Tierra del Fuego is in the Southern Ocean and the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic Ocean. The island of Trinidad is near Venezuela in the North Atlantic Ocean.





Name	Information
Gulf of Guayaquil	West of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean.
Gulf of Penas	Southern Chile in the Pacific Ocean
Gulf of San Jorge	East of Argentina in the Atlantic Ocean.
Gulf of San Matias	North of Valdes Peninsula (Argentina) in the Atlantic Ocean.
Taitao Peninsula	Surrounded by Gulf of Penas and the Pacific Ocean in Southern Chile
Valdes Peninsula (Argentina)	Lowest part of South America surrounded by Gulf of San Matias (North), Gulf of San Jose (West), Gulf of Nuero and the Atlantic Ocean.
Magellan's Strait	Separates southern end of South America, the Tierra Del Fuego.
Drake Passage	Strait between South America and Antarctica.

Grasslands of South America

- Tropical Grassland: Llanos- Savanna grasslands of Venezuela
- Campos-Savanna grassland of eastern Brazil
- PAMPA: Vast monotonous temperate grassland that covers about 20% area of Argentina's heartland and Uruguay, One of the world's greatest agricultural regions for grain and beef.
- Alfa-Alfa, a nutritious leguminous grass is grown for commercial grazing.

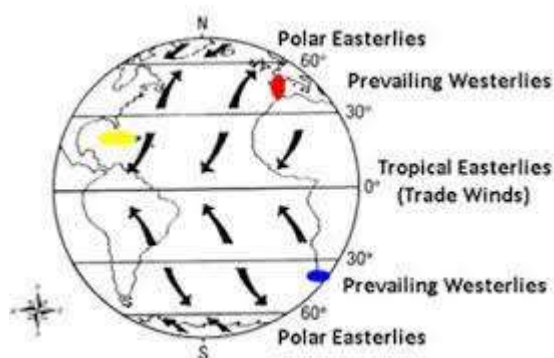
Note : Polygon of Drought: region in NE of Brazil, frequently affected by drought conditions

CLIMATE OF SOUTH AMERICA

Solve the Pattern of Climate : Arrange the given Climate Patterns with their characteristic

Equatorial Climate, Tropical Climate, Warm Temperate Climate, Cool Temperate Climate , Mediterranean Climate, Desert Climate

- High Temp+ High Humidity+ High Rainfall
- Long Hot and rainy summer and short and warm winters
- Cool and Dry winters and warm and wet Summers
- Cool Summer and Cold Winters
- Hot, Dry Summer and Cool Wet Winters
- Extreme Climate with Hot Summer and Cold Winters
- South America Climate Varies from Equatorial to Temperate Type

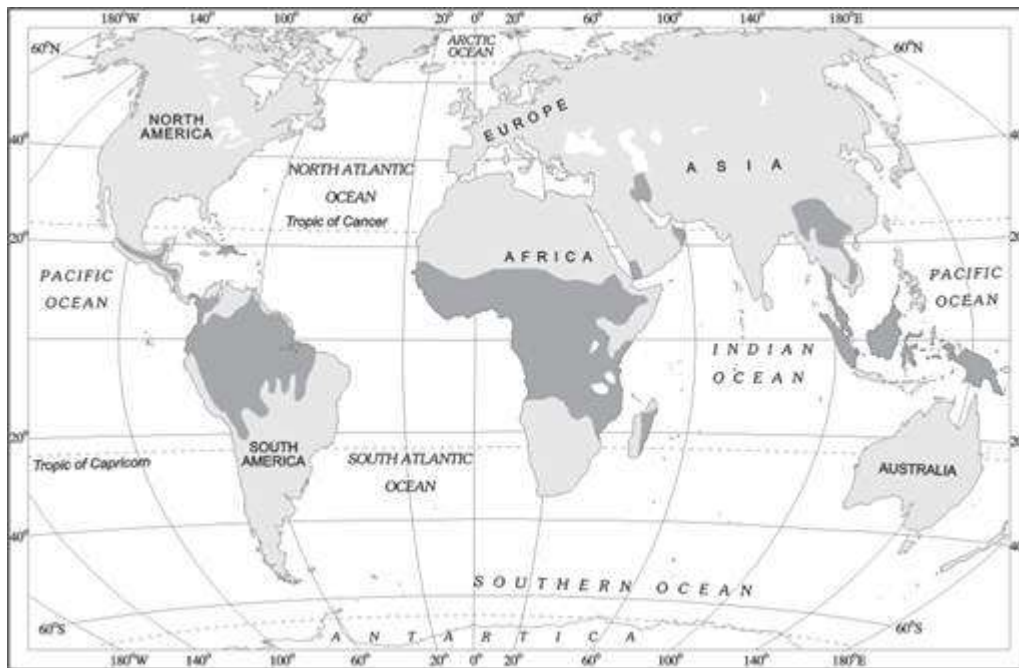


- ❖ Equatorial Climate : Characterised by High Temperature and High Humidity throughout the Year. And Area of Convectional rainfall , and found in both sides of Equator and in the Amazon Basin
- ❖ Tropical Climate Characterised by Long Hot and rainy summer and short and warm winters found in Orinoco basin and Brazilian Highlands
- ❖ Warm Temperate Climate : Characterised by Cool and Dry winters and warm and wet Summers , found in La Plata region of Argentina
- ❖ Cool Temperate Climate: Characterised by Cool Summer and Cold Winters . Westerlies Winds cause rainfall throughout the Year. Found in South West part of Chile
- ❖ Mediterranean Climate : Characterised by Hot, Dry Summer and Cool Wet Winters. Winter rainfall occurs due to Westerlies Winds. Found in Central Part of Chile
- ❖ Desert Climate : Characterised by Extreme Climate with hot Summer and Cold Winters . Region receives little rainfall , Found in Atacama Desert and Pantagonia Desert

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AMERICA

AGRICULTURE KEY FACTS

- Pampas Region: Granary of South America due to Wheat Production in Cool Temperate region
- Maize : Main Producers Brazil and Argentina
- Rice: Mainly grown in Coastal Areas of South America
- Coffee: It is grown in large plantation called " Fazendas" grown in Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela
- Peru and Chile Leading Fish countries , reason due to Cold Offshore Humboldt Current or Peru Cold Current that causes upwelling nutrients for marine and plant life on which fish feed .



Map Showing Areas of Primitive Subsistence Agriculture

- Primitive Subsistence Agriculture or shifting Cultivation mainly practices by tribes in the Tropics
- This Vegetation is usually cleared by fire and the ashes adds to fertility of Soil. So this type called " Slash and Burn Agriculture.
- Milpa in Central America and Mexico, Ladang of Malayasia and Indonesia and Jhuming in NE India .

MINERALS KEY FACTS

- Iron Ore : Brazil second largest producer of iron ore in the World after Australia , third china and Fourth India.
- Copper : Rich deposit found in Chile and Peru
- Tin: Brazil and Bolivia are among the largest producer in the World
- Nitrates: mainly found in Atacama Desert , Chile is largest producer in World
- Mineral Oil: Venezuela, Argentina, Chile



Map Showing Areas of Commercial Livestock Rearing

- Unlike Nomadic Herding , CLR is more organised and capital intensive
- mainly associated with Western Cultures.
- This is a specialised activity in which only one animal is reared.
- Like Sheep, Goats, Cattle, Horses
- Mostly practised in New Zealand, Australia, USA, Argentina, and Uruguay

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

- Density of Population = Population/ Area

South America

- Population distribution is highly uneven
- The population density in South America is 25 per Km²
- 85.5 % of the population is urban
- Latin America, the most urbanized region in the world,
- Brazil and Mexico, the region's urban leaders
- Largest population : Decreasing Order : Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Peru ,Venezuela
- Smallest Population: Falkland Island, French Guiana, Suriname, Guyana

NORTH AMERICA

- The population density in Northern America is 20 per Km²
- North America is 82.6 % of the population is urban

ASIA AND AFRICA

- The population density in Asia is 150 per Km²
- Asia 46.3 % of the population is urban
- The population density in Africa is 45 per Km²
- Africa 43.8 % of the population is urban

India And Latin America : Snapshot

Introduction:

- India and Latin American nations were both colonies of European powers. After achieving independence, both adopted socialist policies, which did little to enhance relations.
- India's ties with certain Latin American nations are longstanding and Mexico was the first Latin American country to recognize India after its independence in 1947.
 - When Fidel Castro ousted the Batista regime in Cuba in 1959, India was one of the first countries to recognize the new government, set-up an embassy in Havana and establish diplomatic relations.
 - Many Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries joined the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
 - However, relations between India and Latin America did not gather momentum throughout most of India's post-independence history.

Why does Latin America matter to India?

Hurdles in cooperation

- Geographical and logistic Hurdles : High Freight Costs, Long transit times, and differing domestic and international priorities.
- Inadequate Infrastructure within Latin America
- Lack of cultural connection: There has also been a lack of cultural, linguistic and diaspora connections between the two regions in the past
- Economic and Trade Hurdles - Limited Trade Agreements; Competition from China; Low Awareness of Indian Products
- Political & Institutional Hurdles- Historical Low Priority: Historically, Latin America has often been a lower priority in India's foreign policy.
- Political Instability and Economic Fluctuations: Some Latin American countries periodically experience political instability, policy changes, and economic volatility (e.g., high inflation, currency fluctuations). This creates an unpredictable business environment, making long-term investments risky for Indian companies
- Socio-Cultural & Perceptual Hurdles- Language Barriers: The predominant languages in Latin America are Spanish and Portuguese, while English is the main business language in India and Cultural Differences and Lack of Awareness- Limited People-to-People Ties: While there's a significant Indian diaspora in some Caribbean countries, it's smaller in mainland Latin America, limiting the "diaspora bridge" that facilitates economic and cultural exchanges in other regions

Despite , Benefits are :

GEO ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE :

- Resource security in terms of Energy -Crude Oil and Critical Minerals
- Venezuela, Brazil, and Mexico: Oil Suppliers
- The "Lithium Triangle" (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile) holds over half of the world's lithium resources crucial for electric vehicle (EV) sector and green energy transition.
- Chile and Peru are major copper producers,

- Trade and Investment Opportunities , Growing Market and Diversification of Trade
- Three Important G 20 countries Brazil, Argentina, Mexico provide important markets and space for Indian Businesses to expand their markets in these countries.
- India's Trade has grown substantially and its investments are diversified in sectors such as Information Technology (IT) and manufacturing
- See as Export hub for India's pharmaceutical and automobile industries.

GEO POLITICAL IMPORTANCE

- China emerged in this region as leader so India must begin expanding its own footprint in the region.
- India soft power like yoga, cultural and civilization practices, gained traction in latin America.
- Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana and Suriname, where the large Indian diaspora has a strong cultural affinity with India

GEO STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

- South-South Cooperation: Latin America aligns with India's vision of South-South Cooperation, promoting development partnerships based on mutual respect and non-interference.
- Multipolar World Order: India seeks to diversify its partnerships in a multipolar world. Deepening ties with Latin American countries strengthens India's position as a key player in the Global South and contributes to a more balanced global order.
- Multilateral Platforms: India cooperates with key Latin American countries like Brazil and Argentina in multilateral forums such as BRICS and G20, strengthening its voice on global governance reforms, climate change, and other international issues, including India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council
- Important Bodies : CELAC, the pacific Alliance, Mercosur,



ision IAS Academy
inspirations

CELAC:

- The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States called CELAC
- is a regional bloc of 33 sovereign countries in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Created 2010.
- Member countries: The 33 members CELAC includes Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil*, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Panama, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Uruguay



PACIFIC ALLIANCE

- is a Latin American trade bloc, formed by Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, which all border the Pacific Ocean.
- formed 2012



MERCOSUR :

- Southern Common Market
- is a South American trade bloc
- Mercosur was finally established in 1991 by the Treaty of Asunción,
- HQ: montevideo
- Its Four full members are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
- Venezuela is a full member but has been suspended since 1 December 2016.
- Associate countries are Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname

New Vision IAS Academy
...wings to aspirations