

# Cinco de Mayo festival

May 7, 2021

- Cinco de Mayo (May the fifth in Spanish) is a **joyous celebration every year in Mexico and the United States.**
- It is a day that celebrates Mexican national pride, **marking Mexico's military victory on its soil over French forces in 1862.**
- Mexico was then **led by President Benito Juárez (1806-1872)**, a revered democratic reformer and opponent of foreign intervention in his country.
- It is after him the Benito Juárez Marg in New Delhi is named and where the Embassy of Mexico in India is located.
- In present context, in Puebla, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated annually with speeches, parades, and by reenacting episodes of the 1862 battle.
- The city houses a museum dedicated to the battle, and the actual battlefield is maintained as a park.
- In the US, in the mid-20th century, the celebration became a way for immigrants from Mexico to express pride in their heritage.
- Later, Cinco de Mayo also became popular with other demographics in the country when the festivities were linked with Mexican alcoholic beverages, such as the margarita.

## ***Battle of Puebla-***

- In late 1861, a **French** fleet attacked the Mexican port of Veracruz on the country's eastern coast and landed a large army that drove the Juárez government into retreat.
- As they moved from Veracruz to the capital Mexico City, the French encountered stiff resistance from Mexican forces.

- At Puebla, over 100 km ahead of Mexico City, a poorly equipped Mexican force decisively defeated the advancing French troops on May 5, 1862, killing over a thousand.
- This event marked a significant political victory of Mexican republicans and President Juarez.