

India - Brazil Relations

India and Brazil share close and multifaceted relationship at bilateral level as well as in plurilateral fora such as BRICS, BASIC, G-20, G-4, IBSA, International Solar Alliance, Biofuture Platform and in the larger multilateral bodies such as the UN, WTO, UNESCO and WIPO. The decade long bilateral strategic partnership is based on a common global vision, shared democratic values, and a commitment to foster economic growth with social inclusion for the welfare of the people of both countries.

A. Political Relations:

Regular meeting between the leaders of both countries, including at the summit level, during various multilateral fora such as BRICS, IBSA, G-5 etc. and on the sidelines of other global fora is the cornerstone of India's bilateral relations with Brazil. Brazil's President Michel Temer visited India to participate in the VIII BRICS Summit hosted by India from October 15-16, 2016 in Goa, followed by an official visit on 17 October, 2016. He was accompanied by a large delegations comprising of Ministers, senior officials and businessmen. PM also met Brazilian President Michel Temer on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in China on 4 September 2017. EAM met her Brazilian counterpart Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes on 20 September, 2017 on the sidelines of UNGA.

Important Bilateral Visits: Regular high-level bilateral visits have provided a sustained impetus to the growing relationship between India and Brazil. From India, a number of VVIP visits have taken place, which mainly included the visits of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (July 2014), Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh (2006, April 2010 and June 2012), President Smt. Pratibha Patil (2008), President Shri K.R. Narayanan (1998), Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao (1992), Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi (1968) and Vice President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (1954). Visits from the Brazilian side included the visit of President Michel Temer (October 2016), President Dilma Rousseff (March 2012), President Lula (2004, 2007 & 2008), and President Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1996).

Besides VVIP visits, a number of Ministerial visits have also been exchanged between the two countries. In the recent years, the visits from India included visit of Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, MoS for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers (April 2017); Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (August, 2016); Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping (November, 2015); Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan (March 2015); Minister of Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh (March 2015); Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, MOS for Commerce and Industry (July 2014).

The visits from Brazil included visits of Mr. Fernando Coelho Filho, Minister of Mines and Energy (November, 2016); Agriculture Minister, Mr. Blairo Maggi (September, 2016); Ambassador Mauro Vieira, Minister of External Relations (November 2015), and Ms. Katia Abreu, Minister of Agriculture (November, 2015).

Bilateral Mechanism : A bilateral Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) exists between India and Brazil that is co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries. This mechanism discusses the entire gamut of the bilateral relationship. The 7th JCM was held in November 2015 in New Delhi. The 8th JCM was scheduled to be held 2017, but has since been pending.

MOUs Agreements signed : A number of bilateral agreements/MOUs in the diverse sectors of cooperation have been signed between the two countries. Some of the key agreements/MOUs are as follows:-

- 1) Agreement on Cooperation in the Utilisation of Atomic Energy for Peaceful Purposes in December 1968
- 2) Brazil-India Double Tax Treaty in April 1988; amended on 26 April 1988.
- 3) MOU for Technology Cooperation in the Field of Blending of Ethanol in Transport Fuels in April 2002
- 4) MOU for establishment of a Joint Commission for Political, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation in August 2002
- 5) Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in January 2003
- 6) Agreement on Cooperation in Defence related Matters in December 2003
- 7) Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic, Official and Service Passports in January 2004
- 8) Air Services Agreement in September 2006
- 9) Agreement on Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters in June 2007.
- 10) Implementing Arrangement regarding Cooperation in Augmentation of a Brazilian Earth Station for Receiving and Processing Data from Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) Satellites in June 2007; again on 16 July 2014
- 11) MOU on Cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs in February 2008.
- 12) MOU for cooperation in the Field of Oil and Natural Gas in April 2008.
- 13) MOU on Cooperation in the Field of Biotechnology on 30 March 2012.
- 14) MOU on Technical Cooperation on 30 March 2012.
- 15) Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons on 15 October 2013.
- 16) Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Research & Education in Homeopathic Medicines on 14 July 2017.
- 17) MOU on the Establishment of a Consultation Mechanism on Consular and Mobility Issues on 16 July 2014.

B. Commercial Relations:

Trade: Brazil is one of the most important trading partners of India in the entire LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) region. India-Brazil bilateral trade has increased substantially in the last two decades. In last decade, the bilateral trade registered handsome annual growth every year, and reached to a peak of US\$11.4bn in 2014 making India the 8th largest trading partner. Due to economic recession of Brazil started in 2015, and the global drop in commodity prices affected Brazil's overall global trade. Consequently, the negative impact was felt in the bilateral trade as well; it came down to US\$7.9 bn in 2015 and US\$5.64 bn in 2015. However, with recovery in Brazilian economy in year 2017, the bilateral trade rose back to US\$7.6 bn, with a handsome 34.71% growth, the highest among the top 10 trading partners of Brazil. During 2017, India's exports to Brazil were US\$2.94 bn and India's imports from Brazil were US\$4.66 bn with India having a trade deficit of USD 1.7 Billion; and India rose to 10th

position from 11th position in year 2016. The balance of trade has generally been in favour of India, except 2009, 2012 and 2016 when it was slightly in favour Brazil.

Diesel imports from India, which used to form 40-50% of the export basket, has seen a continuous slump since 2014. It further declined in both volume and value terms in year 2017 when India exported 76 million kg worth USD 43 Million (1.46% share) as against 465 Million kg worth USD 169 Million in the last year, resulting in a humongous decline of -74.67% in dollar terms y-o-y. This resulted in slipping to 8th spot as top exporters of diesel oil to Brazil from 2nd position in year 2016.

The main items of export from India to Brazil are diesel, organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products, man-made filaments, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, textile products (synthetic filaments/fibres, cotton, apparels, accessories etc.). Main items of Brazilian exports to India were Petroleum products, mainly crude oil, cane sugar, copper ore, soya oil and gold.

Investment : The bilateral investment has been in diverse sectors. The Brazilian companies have invested in automobiles, IT, mining, energy, biofuels, footwear sectors in India; the Indian companies have invested in sectors such as IT, pharmaceutical, energy, agri-business, mining, engineering and automobiles.

C. Defence Relations:

Brazil and India have signed a bilateral 'Defence Cooperation Agreement' in 2003 that calls for cooperation in defence related matters, especially in the field of Research and Development, acquisition and logistic support between the two countries. Under the framework of the agreement, a 'Joint Defence Committee (JDC)' has been set-up that meets at regular interval. The 4th JDC meeting was held on 16-18 Jun 2015 in Brazil, and the 5th JDC was held during 27-29 November 2017 in New Delhi.

D. Cultural Relations:

In Brazil, there is enormous interest in India's culture, religion, performing arts and philosophy. The first forms of Indian Culture to reach Brazil were related to spirituality, philosophy and religion. Folkloric identities and celebrations from India could relate very much to the jolly and colorful nature of the festivities such as the typical dances and parades of north and northeast of Brazil. The first classical Indian art form to come to Brazil was Bharatanatyam; Odissi, Kathak and Kuchipudi followed.

Brazil has a strong community of Yoga and Ayurveda practitioners. The Brazilian Association of Ayurveda (ABRA) is a non-profit association with offices in 9 states of Brazil and has members all over Brazil. The third International Congress on Ayurveda was held from 12 to 15 March, 2018 in Rio de Janeiro. The conference saw participation of more than 4000 delegates, including many from India.

There are numerous organizations teaching Yoga all over Brazil. The Embassy also conducts regular Yoga classes at its chancery complex thrice a week since January, 2016 which has been increased to four times per week since September 2017 due to their popularity among the Brazilians. These classes have attracted Yoga practitioners from all walks of life including the diplomatic community in Brasilia. The '*Chá com Letras*', a regular event focusing on readings of Brazilian poetry inviting Brazilian poets to the Embassy, has received great appreciation in the literary circles of Brasilia. Regular shows of Indian cinema organized by the Embassy have been received well in Brazil.

Mahatma Gandhi is highly regarded in Brazil and the government and NGOs are trying to inculcate the philosophy of non-violence among students, youth and police. Statues of Mahatma Gandhi have been installed in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Londrina. An organization called Filhos de Gandhi (Sons of Gandhi) is very popular in Salvador, Brazil and takes out street processions wearing Gandhian attire every year.

ITEC Programme: About 55 Brazilians have gone to India under ITEC programme for training in communications, management, defence etc. in the last seven years. ITEC courses continue to gain popularity amongst Brazilians, and a number of students have enrolled for the current session.

Indian Community in Brazil: The Indian community of PIOs/NRIs in Brazil is small, numbering around 4700 people, with a majority of them living in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Manaus. The community mainly comprises professionals, businessmen and some scientists/researchers in space, agriculture, physics and biotechnology. There is an Indian Association in Sao Paulo.

Useful Resources: Contact particulars of the Embassy of India, Brasilia

Website : <http://indianembassy.org.br/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/indiainbrazil>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/indiainbrazil>

YouTube : @IndiainBrazil

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