

India-Brazil Relations

Political: India-Brazil bilateral relations are in a state of clearly discernible upswing. Although the two countries are divided by geography and distance, they share common democratic values and developmental aspirations. Both are large developing countries, each an important player in its region, both stable, secular, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, large democracies as well as trillion-dollar economies. There has been frequent exchange of VVIP, Ministerial and official-level visits in recent years resulting in strengthening of bilateral relationship in various fields. Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for 2006 and Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2010 was conferred on President Lula. Our shared vision of the evolving global order has enabled forging of close cooperation and coordination in the multilateral arena, be in IBSA, BRICS, G-4, BASIC, G-20 or other organizations.

VVIP visits from India: Vice President S. Radhakrishnan (1954), Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (1968), Prime Minister Narasimha Rao (1992 - for Earth Summit), President K.R. Narayanan (1998), Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh (2006 and April 2010), President Pratibha Patil (2008) and Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh (June 2012-for Rio+20 summit).

Other important visits from India in recent years: Kumari Selja, Minister of State of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Mr. Anand Sharma, Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for Defence Production, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahai, Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of External Affairs (Feb 2008), Shri P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister from India (Nov 2008) and Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs (August-September 2009), Smt. Preneet Kaur, Hon`ble Minister of State for External Relations (May - June 2010), Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon`ble Minister of Environment & Forests (to attend the BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change in Rio de Janeiro in July 2010), Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister for State for Commerce and Industry (September 2010, April 2011), Mr. Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (September 2010).

Smt Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of state for Environment and Forests(i/c)(June 2012), Mr Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce and Industry(June 2012),Mr Beny Prasad Verma, Minister of Steel (February 2013) and Mr Ajay Maken, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation(February 2013).

VVIP visits from Brazil: President Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1996), President Lula (2004, 2007 & 2008) and President Dilma Rousseff in March 2012 to attend the 4th BRICS Summit and bilateral State visit.

Other important visits from Brazil: Celso Amorim, Foreign Minister of Brazil (April, July 2007 and September 2009) and as Defence Minister in February 2012, Minister

for Strategic Affairs, Roberto Mangabeira Unger (Oct 2007), Minister of Health, Jose Temporao (July, 2008), Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Mr. Miguel Jorge (March and October 2008) and Minister of Defence Nelson Jobin (March 2010). Foreign Minister Mr. Antonio Patriota visited India for IBSA Ministerial and bilateral meetings in March 2011 for Brazil-India JCM in December 2011.

Important Bilateral Agreements: A number of bilateral agreements/MOUs have been signed including Extradition Treaty, Cooperation in Tourism, Space, S&T, Air Services, Oil and Natural Gas, Audio-Visual Co-production, Academic Exchanges, Infrastructure, Hunger and Poverty, Civil Defence and Humanitarian Assistance, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Plant Health Protection, Human Settlements, Biotechnology, Technical Cooperation, Education, Metrology , Gender Equity, etc.

Bilateral Trade and Investment:

Bilateral trade reached a figure of US dollar 10, 62 billion in 2012 (India's imports: US\$ 5,577 billion; India's exports: US\$ 5,043 billion); This is the first time in the history of economic and commercial relations between the two countries that the bilateral trade has crossed US \$ 10 billion mark.

India – Brazil bilateral trade 2007-2012 (US\$ million)

	India's Exports	India's Imports	Balance of Trade for India	Total trade	% Growth
2008	3,564	1,102	2,461	4,666	49.23
2009	2,191	3,415	-1,224	5,605	20.12
2010	4,242	3,492	750	7,734	37.97
2011	6,081	3,201	2,880	9,282	20
2012	5,043	5,577	-534	10,620	14.41

India's main exports to Brazil : Diesel oil, coke of coal, lignite or peat, equipments related to wind energy, engineering and electrical equipment, cotton and polyester yarns, naphtha, pigments, medicines and chemicals.

India's main imports from Brazil :Crude oil, copper sulphates, soya oil, Raw sugar, denatured alcohol, other minerals of copper and its concentrates, asbestos, valves, motor pumps, airplanes, wheat, precious and semi-precious stones, etc.

There has been two-way investment between India and Brazil. While the Brazilian companies have invested in automobiles, IT, mining, energy, biofuels, footwear sectors in India, the Indian companies have invested in such sectors as IT, Pharmaceutical, Energy, agri-business, mining, engineering/auto sectors.

India and Brazil have formed a bilateral Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM) for periodic consultations.

India signed a framework agreement with MERCOSUR in June 2003. The India Mercosur PTA entered into force on 1st June 2009 under which 450 items from each side will have duty reductions of 10% to 100%. Efforts are underway to broaden and deepen the India-Mercosur PTA and to link it, under IBSA to SACU as well.

India-Brazil Chambers of Commerce, based in Sao Paulo and Belo Horizonte work in close cooperation with the Embassy/Consulate.

Potential areas for cooperation: There is ongoing cooperation between the two countries in the trade and investment, oil and gas, automobiles, IT, Pharmaceutical, engineering goods, bio-fuels, agriculture and allied areas (the bulk of Brazilian cattle livestock is of Indian origin and Brazil still imports fresh embryos from India to rejuvenate its cattle breed), agro-food sectors which could further be enhanced. S&T and infrastructure are other promising areas.

ITEC: A few Brazilians have gone to India under ITEC programme for training in communications, management, defence and etc.

Cultural Exchanges: There is enormous Brazilian interest in India's culture, religion, performing arts and philosophy. There are numerous organizations teaching Yoga, all over Brazil. Ramakrishna Mission, ISKCON, Satya Sai Baba, Maharishi Maharshi Yogi, Bhakti Vedanta Foundation and other spiritual gurus and organizations have chapters in Brazil. Mahatma Gandhi is highly regarded in Brazil and the government and NGOs are trying to circulate the philosophy of non-violence among students, youth and even police. Statues of Mahatma Gandhi have been installed in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Londrina. The Brazilian cultural troupe had given splendid performances in India in 2008 and a large group of Indian artists gave several popular performances in several Brazilian cities in May-June 2011. The airing of the telenovela by the influential O Globo television greatly contributed to the warmth and friendliness in the common masses of Brazil.

Indian community: The Indian community of PIOs/NRIs in Brazil is small, numbering about 2000 persons. A majority of them lives in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Manuas. The community mainly comprises of professionals and businessmen and some scientists/researchers in agriculture, physics, etc. There is Indian Association in Sao Paulo.

Visas: Under a bilateral agreement, diplomatic and official passport holders are exempted from visa for a stay of maximum of 90 days.

Air links/travel: There are no direct flights between India and Brazil. Convenient connections are however available via Europe (London, Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam), the US (New York and Chicago) and via Dubai.

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