India-Portugal Relations

Relations with Portugal today remain close, friendly and devoid of irritants. Diplomatic relations between India and Portugal were established in 1949 but following problems on negotiations over Goa, all diplomatic and consular links were severed in September 1, 1955. Goa was liberated in 1961. Through the sixties and up to 1974, in Portugal, there continued an increasingly strong movement for democracy at home and decolonization abroad. With India this culminated in signing a Treaty re-establishing diplomatic relations in New Delhi on December 31, 1974, following which Embassies of the two countries were reopened.

The two countries share an excellent political relationship today having overcome the irritants of 1961. Portugal has consistently supported India at multilateral fora, including for a permanent seat at the UNSC. It also supported India for a non-permanent seat for 2011-12. Cooperation between India and Portugal is also witnessed in the fact that Portugal agreed to the extradition of Abu Salem. Portugal is the first European Union nation to agree to extradition.

Political Relations:

Political relationships have been buttressed and reinforced by exchanges at the highest level. President Cavaco Silva visited India in January 2007. Prime Minister Jose Socrates visited in December 2007 for the 8th India-EU Summit in New Delhi during the Portuguese Presidency of EU. Dr. Mario Soares visited India twice, as Prime Minister to attend the funeral of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 and as President and Chief Guest for Republic Day in 1992. From the Indian side, PM Atal Bihari visited Portugal for the first India-Portugal Summit in Lisbon in June 2000, President KR Narayanan visited in 1998 and President Venkataraman in 1990. (Please see annexure for other high level visits).

Portugal has formed a “Parliamentary Friendship Group”; reciprocally India also formed a similar group with membership across political parties. Parliamentary exchanges have also been maintained with Portugal with the first ever visit of 9-Parliamentarians from Portugal led by Dr. Antonio de Almeida Santos, Speaker of the Parliament in 1999 followed by another visit of 4-member delegation, led by Speaker Dr. Joao Bosco Mota Amaral in 2003. From India, a 12-member Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Manohar Joshi, Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha visited Portugal from May 25-28, 2003 and a 16-member Parliamentary Goodwill Delegation led by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs & Information and Broadcasting Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi visited Portugal in November 6-7, 2007.

Bilateral Trade and Economic relations:
A bilateral Agreement on Trade, Economic, Industrial and Technical Cooperation was signed in 1977 to give an impetus and improve bilateral trade relations. To further facilitate and enhance trade, a series of trade agreements were signed viz., an Agreement on Economic and Industrial Cooperation (signed in April 2000); Bilateral Cooperation Agreements between FICCI and the Portuguese Institute for Foreign Trade and Investment (ICEP) in 1992; Cooperation Agreement between Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Portuguese Association of Industries (AIP) in 1995 and an Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation in September 1988.

Bilateral trade has been growing steadily over the years but has remained modest and below potential. However, in the wake of the global economic crisis in 2008 and the continuing crisis in the developed world, Portugal has begun increasingly to look at developing countries including India. Additionally, with a new and younger generation of business leaders there are greater efforts at engagement in the economic and commercial spheres including in new areas such as infrastructure, IT, renewable energy, and pharmaceuticals. While trade has been largely one sided and in India’s favour, the global economic and financial crisis which caused a drop in bilateral trade.

**India-Portugal Trade Statistics:**

(Indian exports and imports in Euro millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012 (Jan-Nov.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>286.03</td>
<td>417.05</td>
<td>475.28</td>
<td>330.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>59.03</td>
<td>70.84</td>
<td>107.55</td>
<td>101.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AICEP – Portuguese Investment and Economic Promotion Agency

**Science and Technology:**

The cooperation - under the Agreement for Cooperation in Science and Technology signed on December 3, 1998, between India and Portugal - and remains an active partnership with widened areas of scientific research, with 60 joint projects presently under its ambit.

**Culture:**

The substantial Indian community contributes to cultural ties with Portugal remaining strong and continuous. A Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1980 under which several Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEPs) have been implemented. However here again there is potential for increased cultural cooperation.
Indian Community:

Out of a population of 10 million, Indian community in Portugal is estimated at around 70,000, including 5000 Indian citizens. This is the third highest population of persons of Indian origin in Europe, after the UK and the Netherlands. The Indian community enjoys a special position in Portugal because of its historical relations with India. Migration of the community took place in two streams, firstly direct movement from India - in smaller numbers from Goa, Daman, Diu before the liberation of Goa and thereafter in a pronounced flow after its liberation in 1961. The second stream consists of arrival in Portugal of Indians, mostly Gujaratis, from Portugal’s African colonies, particularly Mozambique and Angola at the start of the de-colonization there in 1975.

Recent Ministerial-level visits from Portugal:

- Dr. Joao Cravinho, Secretary of State (MOS) for Foreign Affairs in Nov, 2006.
- Luis Amado, Foreign Minister of Portugal from July 8-11, 2008.
- Prof. Carlos Zorrinho, Secretary of State (MOS) for Energy and Innovation participated in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) from 27-29 October, 2010.
- Humberto Rosa, Secretary of State for (MOS) for Environment to participate in the 11th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from 3-5 February 2011.

From India:

- Anand Sharma, Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs to Lisbon from 10-12th June 2007.
- Mr. Shashi Tharoor as MOS to the COD Ministerial in July 2009.
- Mr. Digambar Kamat, Chief Minister of Goa visited Portugal from 4-6 October, 2010.
- Mr. Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indians Affairs visited Portugal from 9-11 October, 2011.

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