

India - Brazil Relations

India and Brazil share a very 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, which has opened a new phase for India-Brazil relations, 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.

Political Relations:

India's strategic partnership with Brazil continued to intensify in 2016. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Michel Temer met at the VIII BRICS Summit which took place on October 15-16, 2016 in Goa, India. The large number of side events provided ample opportunity for the five BRICS nations to hold discussions on various proposals and adopt action plans on subjects in areas of mutual interest, leading to the comprehensive Goa Declaration. On October 17, 2016, PM and President Temer held delegation-level deliberations to further strengthen the strategic partnership. Three MOUs were signed during the bilateral visit of President Temer, viz:

- (i) MOU between ICAR and Brazilian Agriculture Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) for Cooperation in the fields of Genetic Resources, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Natural Resources and Fisheries;
- (ii) MOU between Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DADF) and Brazilian Agriculture Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) on cooperation in the Fields of Zebu Cattle Genomics and Assisted Reproductive Technologies;
- (iii) MOU between Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Brazilian Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) for cooperation in the field of pharmaceutical production regulation.

The two sides agreed to explore the early signing of an Investment Cooperation and Facilitation Treaty that will act as a catalyst to boost trade and economic ties. An Agreement between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Brazilian Association of Technical Norms (ABNT) for Cooperation in Mutual Recognition was also signed on October 24, 2016. Other areas of cooperation discussed during the bilateral meeting were UNSC reforms, IBSA, bilateral trade, agriculture, food processing, energy, science and technology, pharmaceuticals, space, nuclear energy, climate change, counterterrorism and cyber security.

The **Third Meeting of the Joint Administrative Committee (JAC) on India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** was held on 29th September, 2016 in Brasilia. The modalities and next steps for expansion of the PTA were discussed.

Exchange of the first list of 484 tariff lines took place in September 2017 according to the mutually agreed widening of the trade basket under India-Mercosul Preferential Trade Agreement from 450 items for each side to 2500 lines each. The **fourth meeting of the Brazil-India Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM)** was held on 30th September in Brasilia. Productive discussions resulted in progress on visa/immigration issues, business missions and trade fairs, market access issues, as well as sectors such as leather, civil aviation, automotive, food processing and agribusiness.

On March 16, 2017, India and Brazil initialed the text of the **Social Security Agreement** in Brasilia. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. K. Nagaraj Naidu, Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy) and the Brazilian delegation was led by Mr. Benedito A. Brunca, Secretary (Social Security Policies), Government of Brazil. The SSA between India and Brazil once brought into force after completion of the ratification process in the respective countries will favorably impact the profitability and competitive position of Indian and Brazilian companies with foreign operations in both countries by reducing their cost of doing business abroad. The SSA will also help promote more investment flows between the two countries. The SSA between India and Brazil once in force by early 2018 will be the first such agreement between the BRICS countries.

The Eighth India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries was scheduled for 2017 in Brazil. This mechanism discusses the entire gamut of the bilateral relationship. The 8th JCM could not be held in 2017 and is due to be held next year.

Important Bilateral Visits:

Regular high level bilateral visits have provided a sustained impetus to the growing relationship between India and Brazil. From the Indian side Vice President S. Radhakrishnan (1954), Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (1968), Prime Minister Narasimha Rao (1992 - for Earth Summit), President K.R. Narayan (1998), Prime 2 Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh (2006, April 2010 and June 2012), Prime Minister Shri NarendraModi (July 2014) and President PratibhaPatil (2008) visited Brazil while President Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1996), President Lula (2004, 2007 & 2008) and President DilmaRousseff (March 2012) reciprocated from the Brazilian side. At the invitation of Prime Minister, President Michel Temer visited Goa in October 2016 to attend the VIII BRICS Summit (15-16 October) and paid an official visit on 17 October, 2016. He was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. José Serra, Minister of Agriculture Mr. Blairo Maggi, Minister of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services, Mr. Marcos Pereira and large official and business delegations.

Recent Ministerial visits from India include: Shri P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister (Nov 2008), Shri S.M. Krishna, Minister of External Affairs (August-September 2009), Smt. Preneet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs (May 2010), Shri Jairam Ramesh, Environment Minister (July 2010), Shri JyotiradityaScindia (September 2010, April 2011), Shri SharadPawar, Agriculture Minister (September 2010), Shri Anand

Sharma, Commerce, Industry and Textile Minister (June 2012), Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of State for Environment and Forests (June 2012), Shri Beni Prasad Verma, Steel Minister (February 2013), Shri Ajay Maken, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (February 2013), Shri Salman Khursheed, Minister of External Affairs (October 2013) and Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, MOS for Commerce and Industry (July 2014). In March 2015, Minister of Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh visited Brasilia to attend the second BRICS Agriculture Ministers Meeting. In the same month, Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan attended the Second BRICS Science and Technology Ministers meeting in Brasilia and also he had a bilateral meeting with the Brazilian Science and Technology Minister Mr. Aldo Rebelo. Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping attended the 2nd High Level Global Conference on Traffic Safety: Time of Results, from November 17-19, 2015 in Brasilia, which was inaugurated by the President of Brazil. Shri Jawhar Sircar, CEO, Prasar Bharati signed an MOU on behalf of Prasar Bharati with EBC, the Brazilian counterpart on exchange of materials on February 17, 2016. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution visited Brazil from August 16-19, 2016. Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers visited Brazil from April 17-22, 2017. Shri Arun Jaitley, Defence Minister met his counterpart Mr. Raul Jungmann in Moscow on April 26, 2017.

The visits from Brazil include: Celso Amorim as Foreign Minister (April and July 2007 and again in September 2009 for Ministerial meeting in WTO-Doha Round and as Defence Minister in February 2012); Minister of Health, Jose Temporao (July, 2008); Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade Mr. Miguel Jorge (March and October 2008); Minister of Defence Nelson Jobin (March 2010); Minister of External Relations Antonio Patriota in March 2011 for IBSA Ministerial and bilateral meetings and in December 2011 for India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting; Ms. Katia Abreu, Minister of Agriculture of Brazil in November, 2015 and Ambassador Mauro Vieira, Minister of External Relations who visited India in November 2015 for the 7th India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting. The Brazilian Agriculture Minister, Blairo Maggi attended the BRICS Agriculture and Agrarian Development Ministers' Meeting India on September 23, 2016. Mr. Fernando Coelho Filho, Minister of Mines and Energy visited Delhi from November 5-7, 2016 to attend Petrotech 2016 and hold other meetings on sidelines of Petrotech.

PM met his counterpart President Michel Temer on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in China on 4 September, 2017. EAM also met her counterpart Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes on 20 September, 2017 on the sidelines of UNGA. Key issues including defence cooperation were discussed during the meetings, opening up opportunities on both sides to take this strategic partnership forward.

Commercial Relations:

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. However, the global drop in commodity prices and

the economic recession in Brazil in 2015 affected Brazil's overall trade. Consequently the negative impact was felt in bilateral trade as well. Indian exports to Brazil stood at US\$ 4.29 billion in 2015 while Indian imports from Brazil stood at US\$ 3.62 billion. Thus the overall bilateral trade was at US\$ 7.9 billion, with the balance of trade favouring India with US\$ 672.13 Million compared to US\$ 1.846 billion in 2014. About 39% of Indian exports were value added petroleum products such as diesel. The other prominent export items from India were organic chemicals and pharmaceutical products valued at USD 730 Million. Boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances were other major items in India's export basket constituting about US\$ 226 million. The other important export items included textile products (cotton, apparels, accessories etc.) which amounted to US\$ 150 million. Brazilian exports to India were also weighed in favour of Petroleum products, mainly crude oil. India also imported soya oil worth US\$ 420 million, sugar worth US\$ 363 million, copper ore worth US\$ 250 million and gold worth US\$ 261 million.

Total trade between India and Brazil was USD 5.64 billion in 2016, which was 28.62% less than the total trade recorded in the same period in the previous year (USD 7.90 billion). In the ranking for the largest trading partners of Brazil, India slipped to 11th position from 10th position last year. While Brazil's exports to India (of USD 3.16 billion) declined by 12.16%, India's exports to Brazil (USD 2.48 billion) decreased by 42.12% with India having a trade deficit of USD 680 million with Brazil.

Trade Figures – 2016 (USD in Billion)

	Export	Import	Total	Growth % of Export	Growth % of Import
Brazil's Trade with India	3.161	2.482	5.644	-12.61	-42.12
Brazil's total global trade	185.235	137.552	322.787	-3.09	-19.77

India-Brazil trade remained low in 2016. However, this must be seen in the context of overall decline in Brazil's global trade which was down to even less than year 2008 levels when it was USD 370 billion- the period when Brazil's trade started to rapidly increase. Brazil's total trade even attained a high of USD 481 billion in 2013, at the height of Brazil's growth but the recent years' sharp economic and political turmoil has greatly affected the country's overall growth and trade. Consequently, sharp declines in import of diesel from India and the world in general, is the main reason for the current low trade figures. Despite this, India sustained its position among the top trade partners of Brazil and slipped only one spot to 11th position. With an economic recovery expected in 2017, trade may begin to pick up in the coming months.

A plethora of sectors have seen investments 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. Indian companies such as ONGC, Videocon, TCS, Wipro, Infosys, Cadilla, Mahindra, L&T, Renuka Sugars, United Phosphorus, Polaris are present in Brazil. The Brazilian

companies in India include Marco Polo (automobiles), Vale (biggest mining company), Stefanini (IT), Gerdau (Steel).

Defence:

Brazil and India signed an agreement in 2003 for defence cooperation which was ratified by Brazil in 2006. The agreement calls for cooperation in defence related matters, especially in the field of Research and Development, acquisition and logistic support between the two countries. Subsequently, Defence Wing was established in the Embassy of India, Brasilia on 24 December 2007 and Brazil opened its Defence Wing in the Embassy of Brazil, New Delhi on 14 April 2009. The Joint Defence Committee flows from Article 3 of the Defence Cooperation Agreement. Four JDC meetings have taken place so far between the two sides. The 4th JDC meeting was held on 16-18 Jun 2015 in Brazil. The 5th JDC meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in 2017.

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. There are numerous organizations teaching Yoga all over Brazil. Ramakrishna Mission, ISKCON, SatyaSai Baba, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Bhakti Vedanta Foundation and other spiritual gurus and organizations have chapters in Brazil.

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. An International Congress on Ayurveda was organized in the State of Goias in Brazil from 12-14 November 2013. The event was co-sponsored by Department of AYUSH, Ministry of health and family welfare, Government of India and State government of Goias.

The International Day of Yoga, 2015 was celebrated in 12 major cities of Brazil. On June 21, 2015, President DilmaRousseff congratulated Prime Minister Shri NarendraModi on her twitter page and the PM thanked the Brazilian President for her greetings.

The Embassy has been conducting Yoga classes at its chancery complex thrice a week since January, 2016. These classes have attracted Yoga practitioners from all walks of life as well as the diplomatic community in Brasilia. The number of Yoga practitioners at these thrice-a-week classes has now increased to 60-80. '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.

The 2nd International Day of Yoga 2016 was celebrated in Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro with active participation of Art of Living members, diplomatic community, yoga schools and followers of yoga and meditation from all walks of life. In Brasilia, Sahaj Yoga, Brasilia chapter also celebrated the event for 5 days.

The 3rd International Day of Yoga (IDY 2017) was celebrated in Brasilia, Sao Palo, Rio de Janeiro and other major cities of Brazil with participation from all walks of life, diplomats, government officials, Yoga teachers and practitioners, among others. The Embassy also organized a talk on VasudhaivKutumbakam (The World is a Family) to celebrate the 3rd International Day of Yoga. Mr. Marcos Resende, President of the Theosophical Society of Brazil and Mr. U.S. Pandey, an inspirational speaker from India addressed the gathering. Earlier, a delegation of Ministry of Ayush and the Embassy participated at the 11th Brazilian Holistic Meeting in Porto Alegre, capital of MatoGrosso state in March 2017. The Embassy also organized screening of films on Yoga as well as talks on Yoga by Mr. BenoyBehl in Brasilia and Sao Paulo in May 2017, with support from Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Lectures on Yoga were also organized by the Embassy on April 6 and May 10 in coordination with Art of Living.

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.

India cinema is also popular among the Brazilian people. Indian Film weeks organized by the Embassy and Consulate have received a good response. Brazilian Post issued a commemorative stamp in May 2014 on "100 years of Indian Cinema" and marked International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2015 with the issue of another commemorative stamp. Caminhos das India (paths of India), a TV serial inspired from Indian society, is extremely popular in Brazil and is being re-telecast on the popular Brazilian TV channel Globo.

The fourth edition of "Food Week of India" was organized from January 27-31, 2015 in Brasilia, showcasing diversified cuisines of India. The Festival was well received by the local Brazilian people and international community.

An 8-member troupe led by Padma Bhushan Dr. L. Subramaniam gave spellbinding performances at prestigious venues in Brasilia and Sao Paulo on December 3-4, 2016.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of Art of Living Foundation, visited various cities of Brazil from December 14-17, 2016, during which he held discussions with local

authorities, conducted meditation sessions and gave discourses. He met President Temer on 14 December in Brasilia.

Under Ministry of External Affairs' initiative to promote Indian states, a cultural troupe from Rajasthan, comprising of a Kalbelia dance group, five artisans and a master chef, visited Brazil from April 7-12, 2017. While dance group's performances and the products of the five artisans were highly appreciated, the master chef offered select Rajasthani cuisine to specially invited guests. Local media gave wide publicity to various aspects of Rajasthan state.

A ten-day long Festival of India was organized in Brasilia, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Embassy of India in Brazil from August 31 to September 9, 2017, to celebrate the completion of 70 years of India's independence. The Festival featured an exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, enthralling performances of Carnatic music by renowned Indian musicians, scintillating performances of Kathak and celebration of Indian literature, with renowned Indian poets sharing gems of Indian literature with Brazilian audience. All these events were attended by Brazilian government officials, Ambassadors, media personnel, culture lovers and friends of India.

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, 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:

Embassy of India, Brasilia

Website: <http://indianembassy.org.br/> Embassy of India, Brasilia

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/indiainbrazil> Embassy of India, Brasilia

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

Youtube: India in Brazil

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