

Embassy of India

Lisbon

Portugal – Bilateral Brief

Political Relations

- India's relations with Portugal remain warm and friendly. Portugal views India as a vibrant pluralistic democracy, a major world economy and an ancient civilisation with which it has close, historical and cultural ties. Portugal has advocated for India in multilateral fora by supporting India's permanent membership in the UNSC and Indian candidatures to various international organisations. Under the Portuguese EU Presidency in 2000, the first India-EU Summit was held in Lisbon.
- Two Indian Presidents have paid visits to Portugal, President Venkataraman (1990) and President Narayanan (1998). Two Portuguese Presidents paid bilateral visits, President Aníbal Cavaco Silva (2007) and President Mário Soares (1992). Two Indian Prime Ministers have visited Portugal, PM Vajpayee (2000) and PM Modi (24 June 2017). Three Portuguese Prime Ministerial visits have taken place - PM Jose Sócrates (2007); PM Soares (1984); and PM António Costa (January 2017).
- António Costa's assumption of office as Prime Minister of Portugal in November 2015 gave a boost to India-Portugal relations. His father Orlando da Costa grew up in Goa; PM Costa holds an OCI card, takes pride publicly in his Indian roots and is keen to deepen India-Portugal engagement.
- PM Costa visited India from 7-12 January 2017 with a ministerial and business delegation. The visit included (i) bilateral meetings in New Delhi (ii) participation as Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in Bengaluru (where he was also awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award as the first western Indian-origin Head of Government), (iii) participation in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gandhinagar, and (iv) a visit to his ancestral home in Goa. During the visit, **8 MoUs were signed** in the areas of Defence, Agriculture & Allied sectors, Marine Research & Resources, IT & Electronics, Startup Partnerships, Renewable Energy, a Visa Waiver Agreement for diplomatic passport holders, and the establishment of an ICCR Chair for Indian Studies at the University of Lisbon.
- PM Modi reciprocated by visiting Portugal on 24 June 2017. During this **first-ever standalone bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Portugal, 11 MoUs were signed** in the areas of Space, Avoidance of double taxation, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Public Administration and Governance Reforms, Culture, Youth & Sports, Higher Education (IITs). Both countries also agreed to set up a €4 million Joint S&T Fund. The two high-level visits within a span of 6 months in 2017 have imparted a robust momentum to bilateral relations, with active follow-up on over 20 outcomes.
- The fourth round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in Lisbon on 13 December 2016, with the third India-Portugal Joint Economic Committee (JEC) on Economic Matters held in New Delhi in December 2006. The fourth session of the India-Portugal Joint Commission on Economic Matters was held in Lisbon on 30 May 2017 where an MoU was signed between FICCI and Portugal's CCIP for exchange of trade missions and formation of the India-Portugal Joint Business Council (IPJBC).
- António Guterres, former Prime Minister of Portugal, assumed office as UN Secretary General in 2017. He had visited India in 2016, where he met the EAM, to canvas support for his candidature.
- In 2005, Portugal became the first EU country to extradite a person to India for trial, without a bilateral extradition treaty, when extraditing Abu Salem and Monica Bedi. An extradition treaty was only signed in 2007.

Commercial Relations

- In 2018-19, **bilateral trade stood at a total value of USD 876.09 million. Indian exports stood at USD 743.27 million and Portuguese exports at USD 132.83 million.** The trade balance has consistently been in India's favour.
- **Major exports from India:** Textiles and apparel; agriculture products; metals; chemicals; plastic and rubber; footwear; machinery and appliances; leather; vehicles and other transport materials.
- **Major exports from Portugal:** Machinery and appliances; minerals; plastic and rubber; chemicals; metals; textiles and apparels; leather; paper/pulp; wood and cork; optical and precision instruments.

- There are 3 Joint Working Groups (JWGs) in the areas of Renewable Energy, Agriculture and Allied Sectors and IT & Electronics and one Senior Consultative Body in Administrative Modernisation and Good Governance was set up. Two business platforms were also launched, namely the **Portugal-India Business Hub (PIBHub)**, a diaspora hub for expanding Indian business ties with Lusophone countries, and the FICCI-CCIP **India-Portugal Joint Business Council** to enhance bilateral trade and investment.

Portuguese Investments in India

- Portugal ranks **50th** in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India with total cumulative FDI inflows amounting to **US\$ 42.10 million** (as of 31 December 2017). Portuguese investments in India include: **Martifer** in the Metals sector; **Efacec** in the Industrial Machinery, Equipment & Tools sector; **Euroamer Garuda**, a subsidiary of **Euroamer**, with investments in Real Estate in Bangalore; **Sodecia** in 2011 acquired the Automotive Ancillary Services Group; **Petrotec Group** with investments in retail petroleum and oil distribution; the US\$ 20 million worth **Birla-Visabeira Joint Venture** Optical Fibre plant in Goa and proposed investment to lay a 3,500 km optical fibre network in Odissa and West Bengal; **Feedback Brisa Highways**, a Joint Venture between Feedback Infra Pvt Ltd and **Brisa Auto-Estradas de Portugal** to install toll and safety systems on Indian roads; **Inspira Martifer Solar's** Joint Venture 350 kW rooftop solar project in Mahabaleshwar; and **Vision Box's** (~US\$ 6 million) 8-year contract with Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru to install facial recognition biometric systems for paperless Digi Yatra air travel.
- Areas where Portuguese expertise may be leveraged for Indian development include: Infrastructure & Construction, Footwear, Textiles, Renewable Energy (solar and wind), Defence & Aerospace, Tourism, IT & Electronics, Water & Waste management, Startups, Agriculture & Food Processing.

Indian Investments in Portugal

- Precise figures are not available, but Indian investments in Portugal are in the range of US\$ 285 million. Indian investments in Portugal include: The Indian Hotelier Nesamani Maran N. Muthu of the **MGM Group** invested in four hotels in the Algarve and Madeira; **Saptashva Solar**, a subsidiary of XL Telecom & Energy in renewable energy; **TCS Iberoamerica**, an IT and software services project; **Sakthi Auto**, an automotive subsidiary of Sakthi Sugars, Chennai, in an auto-component plant in Águeda; and **Zomato. Indorama Ventures**, a petrochemical company founded by an Indian businessman, invested €50 million in logistics near Sines in southern Portugal. **Aurobindo Pharma** Limited has invested €135 million to acquire the generic drug company Generis, with a production plant in Amadora that has a annual production capacity of 1.2 billion doses. **Tata Elxsi** has announced a Digital Centre of Excellence with local telecommunications provider NOS.
- **More than 40 Indians have made investments under the Portuguese Golden Visa Scheme as of December 2017.** In 2013, Nesamani Maran N. Muthu was the first recipient of a Golden Visa.
- The Embassy organised India Business Opportunities Seminars in Porto (with AEP) and in Braga (with Invest Braga) in March 2019, with active participation by FICCI, CII and KPMG.
- PWD Goa and AdP (Águas de Portugal) signed an MoU in December 2018 to collaborate in the Water & Waste Management sector. There are currently finalising the work order of Rs 5 crore to have a detailed project for diagnosis and modernisation of the existing two water treatment plants.
- In March 2019, the Embassy, in association with India Tourism Paris, participated in BTL Lisbon. Goa Tourism also participated in BTL Lisbon for the first time.
- On 26 October 2018, the Embassy organised a gala event to promote Indian whiskies in Portugal.
- A 16-member delegation of Portuguese defence companies participated in DEFEXPO-2018 in April 2018. FICCI signed an MoU with idD at the Farnborough airshow in July 2018. The Portuguese Defence Minister José Cravinho visited India in April 2019 and met Raksha Mantri to review the entire gamut of Defence relations.
- A 14-member FICCI delegation led by the JS DIP visited Portugal on 11-12 July 2019 to discuss possible commercial collaboration in the Defence sector.

- The Joint Science and Technology Committee held its fifth session in Lisbon on 13-14 March 2017 and concluded a Programme of Cooperation with joint funding of 15 projects and three workshops in marine science, nano-technology and biotechnology and tissue engineering. The next session will be held in 2019 in India. An MoU to launch a €4 million joint fund for S&T research collaboration was signed on 1 March 2019 between the Department of S&T and its Portuguese counterpart FCT.

Cultural Relations

- An MoU in Cultural Cooperation was signed on 24 June 2018 during PM Modi's visit to Portugal. Several cultural exchanges have been organised in Portugal through the ICCR under this MoU. The Mission, together with the India-Portugal Friendship Association (AAPI) and Casa da Índia, has been organising a series of cultural events/celebrations of Indian festivals in Portugal, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture.
- A series of events showcasing Indian art and culture were organised, including the commemoration of the 5th International Day of Yoga on 21 June 2019 with the Portuguese Yoga Confederation at the iconic Belém Tower and the Jiya Festival of Dance at the Orient Foundation with Nakshatra Productions on 10 November 2018.
- The two-year celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was marked in Lisbon with a public LED projection of Gandhi's images and messages. PM Costa, who is a member of the Committee organising global commemorations, has authored a text for a Gandhi anthology. The Portuguese flutist Rão Kyao has rendered Gandhi's favourite bhajan 'Vaishnava Jana To'.
- An ICCR-Teacher of Indian Culture (TIC) has been promoting Yoga in Portugal since April 2018.
- The Centre for Indian Studies at the University of Lisbon was inaugurated in April 2016. As the first centre dedicated to the study of India in Portugal, it hosts a Distinguished Lecture series on culture, art, foreign policy, economy and international relations. It offers Hindi language teaching, with 240 local students enrolled so far. It regularly hosts events such as Hindi Divas, and launched an ICCR-sponsored online Hindi-Portuguese dictionary. It also hosted an ICCR India Chair in 2018.
- A Protocol on Cooperation on Archives was signed in Lisbon on 17 May 2017 between the National Archives of India and the Portuguese Directorate-General for Books, Archives and Libraries. The latter returned copies of 1,200 historical documents, which had been missing from archives in Goa. Two Portuguese museologists visited Goa to work at the Vice-Roy Galleries Project in August 2019.
- An exhibition with paintings of Bireswar Sen was held at Museu do Oriente from 17 January to 31 March 2019, curated by the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) and facilitated by ICCR.
- A Portuguese MP from the ruling Socialist Party, Pedro Delgado Alves, attended Kumbh Mela in February 2019, sponsored by ICCR. He is a member of the India-Portugal Parliamentary Friendship Group and represents Lumiar, the constituency housing the largest Indian diaspora in Portugal.
- Carnegie India, in association with the Orient Foundation, organised the second India-EU Strategy Group conference in the Arrabida Monastery in Portugal in September 2019.
- A 10-member youth delegation from Portugal visited India in September 2019, under the bilateral youth exchange programme. At least three other youth delegations have been carried out under this framework. Two Portuguese students now pursue a 4-year Bachelors degree in Ayurveda at the Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, on ICCR Scholarships.

The Indian Community / Diaspora in Portugal

- Portugal has a large Indian-origin diaspora of around **70,000 Indian-origin** and **7,244 Indian nationals** (as per Portuguese government data of 31 December 2016). The Indian community migrated to Portugal in three streams; in small numbers from Goa, Daman and Diu before 1961, and in larger numbers (mostly Gujaratis from Mozambique and Angola) in the 1970s. More recently, some 20,000 newcomers (mostly farm workers from Punjab and Haryana) have settled in Portugal.
- The Embassy has launched periodic consular camps in southern Portugal in partnership with Indian community associations, to reach out to the Indian community and facilitate consular services.
- Punjab State Day was celebrated on 1 November 2018 with local Punjabis and Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Revenue, Mining, Water Resources and Irrigation, Government of Punjab.

As on 25 September 2019