

## **India - Brazil Relations**

India and Brazil share a very close and multifaceted relationship at bilateral as well as plurilateral fora such as IBSA, BRICS, BASIC, G-20, G-4 or the larger multilateral arena such as the UN, WTO, UNESCO, WIPO, etc. Bilateral relations between India and Brazil have acquired the dimension of a strategic partnership in the last decade. The 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 the countries.

### **Political Relations**

India's multifaceted bilateral relationship with Brazil continued to intensify in 2015. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Dilma Vana Rousseff met during the Seventh BRICS Summit on July 8, 2015. During the meeting, PM requested the Brazilian President for her assistance in the expansion of the list of items in the India-Mercosur Preferential Trade Agreement and President Dilma Rousseff responded to the proposal positively. Cooperation in the field of agriculture and oil & gas was also discussed. PM also conveyed that India and Brazil needed closer cooperation at the COP21 climate change summit. Brazil agreed to join the Solar Alliance jointly launched in Paris by PM and French President François Hollande on November 30, 2015.

On September 26, 2015, PM invited the Brazilian President for a G-4 meeting in New York. The G-4 leaders stressed that a more representative, legitimate and effective Security Council is needed today more than ever, to address the conflicts and crises of global dimensions. They shared the view that this can be achieved by reformed global structures reflecting the realities of the international community in the 21st century, where more Member States have the capacity and willingness to take on major responsibilities with regard to maintenance of international peace and security.

### **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

Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh (2006, April 2010 and June 2012), Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi (July 2014) and President Pratibha Patil (2008) have visited Brazil while President Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1996), President Lula (2004, 2007 & 2008) and President Dilma Rousseff (March 2012) reciprocated from the Brazilian side.

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 Jyotiraditya Scindia (September 2010, April 2011), Shri Sharad Pawar, 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. Harsha 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.

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 of in November, 2015.

## **Seventh India- Brazil Joint Commission Meeting:**

Ambassador Mauro Vieira, Minister of External Relations of Brazil visited India in November 2015 for the 7th India-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) co-chaired by the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi on November 19, 2015. The Ministers agreed that there should be a mechanism at senior officer level to hold "Foreign Office Consultations" to take stock of the bilateral cooperation, regional & multilateral issues. The two Ministers reviewed economic and trade relations noting that there remained tremendous potential for further growth and diversification of bilateral trade.

India expressed satisfaction with Brazilian investments in spheres such as urban transportation, IT Services and equipment, footwear, infrastructure, energy, and healthcare materials. Conversely, the Brazilian side acknowledged that a significant number of Indian companies had invested in Brazil with over fifty having a physical presence in areas such as oil, renewable energy, mining, engineering, automotive services, information technology and pharmaceuticals. India apprised Brazil of the relaxed FDI policies & 'Make in India' initiative, inviting more investments from Brazil.

## **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. Evidently, some negative impact was felt in the India- Brazil bilateral trade as well. Indian exports to Brazil stood at US\$ 4.29 Billion in 2015 as compared to US\$ 6.63 billion in 2014 and US\$ 6.36 billion in 2013. Indian imports from Brazil stood at US\$ 3.62 Billion compared to US\$ 4.789 billion in 2014 and US\$ 3.13 billion in 2013. Thus the overall bilateral trade was at US\$ 7.9 billion, decreasing 30.7% from US\$ 11.424 billion in 2014. Balance of trade was in favour of India at 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.

**India – Brazil bilateral trade 2008-2015 (US\$ million)**

	<b>India's Exports</b>	<b>India's Imports</b>	<b>Balance of Trade for India</b>	<b>Total trade</b>	<b>Growth %</b>
<b>2008</b>	3,564	1,102	2,461	4,666	49.23
<b>2009</b>	2,191	3,415	-1,224	5,605	20.12
<b>2010</b>	4,242	3,492	750	7,734	37.97
<b>2011</b>	6,081	3,201	2,880	9,282	20.00
<b>2012</b>	5,043	5,577	-544	10,620	14.41
<b>2013</b>	6,357	3,130	3,227	9,487	-10.67
<b>2014</b>	6,635	4,789	1,846	11,424	20.40
<b>2015</b>	4,289	3,617	672	7,907	<b>-30.7</b>

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).

**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, Satya Sai Baba, Maharishi Maharshi Yogi, Bhakti Vedanta Foundation and other spiritual gurus and organizations have chapters in Brazil.

Ayurveda is also very popular in Brasilia. Recognising this, an International Congress on Ayurveda was organised 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.

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. 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 Brazilian people. Indian Film weeks organized by Embassy and Consulate have always received a good response. Brazilian Post Department issued a commemorative stamp in May 2014 on "100 years of Indian Cinema". 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.

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

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

**ITEC Programme:**

About 50 Brazilians have gone to India under ITEC programme for training in communications, management, defence and etc. in the last six years.

**Indian Community in Brazil:**

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 Manaus. The community mainly comprises of professionals and businessmen and some scientists/researchers in agriculture, physics, etc. 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>

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