

**Ministry of External Affairs  
Latin America and Caribbean Division**

**India-Brazil brief**

India and Brazil share a very close and multifaceted relationship both at bilateral level as well as in plurilateral fora such as BRICS, BASIC, G-20, G-4, IBSA, International Solar Alliance, as well as in the larger multilateral bodies such as the UN, WTO, UNESCO, and WIPO. The two countries have been Strategic Partners since 2006. The bilateral relationship 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.

2. Pedro Alvares Cabral, a Portuguese explorer landed on the East Coast of Brazil in 1500, two years after Vasco de Gama had landed in India. Between the 16th and 18th centuries, Brazil and Goa, both outposts of the Portuguese imperialist empire, had bilateral exchanges that are reflected in food and dressing as well as local traditions. Another remarkable, but relatively unknown facet of India-Brazil bilateral relations is that the bulk of Brazilian cattle are of Indian origin. More recently, the popularity of a Brazilian tele-novella called 'Caminho das Indias' (Paths of India) has had a great impact in enhancing awareness of India in the minds of the Brazilian public.

3. Diplomatic relations were established in 1948, with both countries opening the embassies in the same year. India has a Consulate General in Sao Paulo while Brazil has a Consulate General in Mumbai. India opened its Embassy in Rio de Janeiro, which was later moved to Brasilia in 1971. The two countries have been Strategic Partners for more than a decade.

4. India's Strategic Partnership with Brazil has continued to intensify with a number high level engagements. At the invitation of PM Modi, President Bolsonaro paid a State Visit to India from 25-27 January 2020. He was the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day Parade on 26 January 2020 and was accompanied by a high-level delegation which included eight Ministers, four Members of Parliament, senior officials of the Brazilian Government and members of business community. During the visit, an Action Plan to Strengthen the Strategic Partnership between India and Brazil was adopted, which provides a roadmap aimed at revitalizing ongoing engagements in a focused manner. Fifteen MoUs/ Agreements in diverse sectors that include Investment, Assistance in Criminal Matters, Cyber Security, Oil & Gas, Bio-energy, S&T, Culture, Animal Husbandry, Health and Traditional Medicines were signed. Both sides also discussed other areas of cooperation including trade and investments, defence, space and areas of cooperation on global issues of mutual interest. The leaders agreed on the need to work together more closely in BRICS, IBSA, UN and other international fora, including fight against terrorism. On 4 April 2020, PM Modi and President of Brazil Mr. Bolsonaro had a telephonic discussion and discussed the global situation of Covid-19 pandemic.

5. Regular high level exchange of visits have provided a sustained impetus to the growing relationship. A list of VVIP visits is given below:

<b>From India to Brazil</b>	<b>From Brazil to India</b>
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice President (1954)	Mr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President (1996)
Ms. Indira Gandhi, PM (1968)	Mr. Luiz Inacio Lula DA Silva, President (2004, 2007 and 2008)
Dr. Manmohan Singh, PM (2006, 2010, 2012)	Mr. Jair Bolsonaro, President (2020)
Ms. Pratibha Patil, President (2008)	
Mr. Narendra Modi, PM (BRICS) (2014, 2019)	

### **Foreign Minister-level Interactions**

6. On the sidelines of BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting held in Rio de Janeiro on 25 July 2019, Gen V. K. Singh (Retd.), MoS Road Transport and Highways met Foreign Minister of Brazil Ernesto Araujo and had bilateral discussions. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met Minister Ernesto Araújo on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 26 September 2019. On 23 April 2020, EAM held a telephonic conversation Minister Araújo wherein they reviewed bilateral cooperation in follow up to the State visit of President Bolsonaro (January 2020) and exchanged views on global issues including the coronavirus pandemic. On 11 November 2020, EAM held a virtual meeting with Minister Araujo during which they exchanged views and agreed to further strengthen their cooperation in global affairs.

### **Ministerial visits from India (since 2014)**

7. Ministerial visits from India are as below:

- Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry (November 2019)
- Shri Raj Kumar Singh, MoS (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy (November 2019);
- Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor (October 2019);
- Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, MoS for Health & Family Welfare (October 2019);
- Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, MoS (IC) for Culture and Tourism (October 2019);
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science and Technology (September 2019),
- Shri Prakash Javadekar, Environment Minister (August 2019),

- Gen (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.), MoS Road Transport and Highways (July 2019),
- Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers (April 2017);
- Shri. Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister for Consumer Affair, Food and Public Distribution (August, 2016);
- Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping (November, 2015);
- Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan (March 2015);
- Minister of Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh (March 2015);
- Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, MoS for Commerce and Industry (July 2014).

### **Ministerial visits from Brazil (since 2014)**

8. The following are the Ministerial visits from Brazil since 2014:

- Mrs. Tereza Cristina, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (January 2020)
- Mr. Bento Albuquerque, Minister of Mines and Energy (January 2020)
- Mr. Fernando Coelho Filho, Minister of Mines and Energy (November, 2016)
- Mr. Blairo Maggi, Minister of Agriculture (September 2016)
- Ambassador Mauro Vieira, Minister of External Relations (November 2015)
- Ms. Katia Abreu, Minister of Agriculture (November 2015)

### **Institutional Mechanisms**

9. As Strategic Partners, India and Brazil have several Institutional mechanisms to coordinate various aspects of their bilateral relationship. This includes Joint Commission Meeting (Foreign Minister level), Strategic Dialogue (NSA), Foreign Office Consultations (Secretary), Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM), Economic and Financial Dialogue, Dialogue on Consular and Mobility Issues, Joint Defence Commission, Joint Committee on Science & Technology and India-Brazil Business Leaders Forum. Last meeting of the TMM was held on 24 January 2020. Both sides also have several Joint Working Groups to take forward sectoral cooperation.

### **Parliamentary Exchanges**

10. Parliamentary exchanges is another major feature of India-Brazil bilateral relations. In Brazil, there is a Brazil-India Parliamentary Friendship Group chaired by Deputy Vinicius Carvalho (Republicanos Party) and composed of 35 members of the lower chamber and one senator. In India, there was an India-LAC Parliamentary Friendship Group in India during the last term of Lok Sabha. A Brazilian Parliamentary delegation attended the BRICS Women Parliamentarians' Forum in Jaipur, India on 20-21 August, 2016.

## **Trade and Investment**

11. In 2019-20, the bilateral trade was valued at US\$ 7.04 billion with exports worth US\$ 3.97 billion and imports worth US\$ 3.07 billion. Major Indian exports to Brazil includes processed Petroleum products, Agro-chemicals (insecticides, fungicides), Chemicals, Pharmaceutical, Textured filament yarn, and Unwrought Aluminum. Brazilian exports to India included Crude oil, soya oil, Gold (non-monetary), cane sugar, cotton, gum, wood and turpentine oils, chemicals (carboxylic acids) and iron ore and concentrates.

12. While the overall trade of Brazil declined by 7.1% in 2019 (compared to the previous year), India posted a trade surplus of US\$ 1.48 billion because of increase of Indian exports to Brazil by 16.2 %, mainly because of increase in organic and in-organic compounds, combustible petroleum oil, insecticides and medicines. The Joint Statement of January 2020 aspires to set a realistic bilateral trade target of US\$ 15 billion could be set for 2022 by both countries.

### Trade Monitoring Mechanism

13. India and Brazil have established Trade Monitoring Mechanism as an institutional mechanism to monitor and identify bottlenecks in bilateral trade and take appropriate measures to address them. Since 2008, the TMM has met five times. The last meeting was held on 24 January 2020 in New Delhi.

14. Total Indian investment in Brazil is estimated at more than US\$ 6 billion. Brazilian investments in India are around US\$ 1 billion. Sterlite Group from India has recently won a power transmission project worth US\$ 800 million in Brazil. United Phosphorus Limited has set-up a new plant in Sao Paulo for US\$ 150 million. Major Brazilian companies present in India are Polo (auto mobiles), Vale (mining), Stefanini (IT), Gerdau (Steel), WEG (Heavy Electrical motors/generators etc.), Compsis (Toll Road software system), Dedini (Ethanol production), Farmas Kunz (footwear), Perto (Fabrication of ATMs), Fanem (Hospital instrumentation). Major Indian companies in Brazil are Glenmark, ZydusCadila, Sun Pharma, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Pidilite Industries Limited, ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), NMDC Limited, TVS, Tata Motors, Infosys and Wipro. In 2020, India and Brazil signed the Investment Cooperation and Facilitation Treaty & Social Security Agreement, with the objective of deepening bilateral trade cooperation and provide for an enabling framework for investment cooperation.

### India-Brazil Business Leaders Forum

15. The India-Brazil CEO Forum was constituted in 2012 and was re-christened as India-Brazil Business Leader's Forum in January 2016. The Indian composition of the Forum was constituted in January 2016 with 16 nominated members and FICCI was

designated as the supporting Chamber. In January 2020, on the side lines of President Bolsonaro's visit, a meeting of India-Brazil Business Forum was held in New Delhi.

### **India-MERCOSUR PTA**

16. MERCOSUR is a regional grouping comprising Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. India signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with MERCOSUR in 2004. Both sides agreed to expand the India-Mercosur PTA from its current list of 450 items with the objective of further enhancing trade ties. The last round of talks with MERCOSUR, was held on 24 September 2019 and the issue was also discussed in TMM meeting held on 24 January 2020. In the Joint Statement of 2020, India and Brazil underscored the importance of diversification of trade between the two countries and reiterated the interest in the expansion of the India-MERCOSUR PTA towards a more comprehensive and encompassing agreement. In July 2020, President Bolsonaro stated in an online MERCOSUR summit, "We want to make progress in our talks with Canada, South Korea, Singapore, and Lebanon, as well as to expand current deals with Israel and India and open new fronts in Asia."

### **Defence & Security Cooperation**

17. India and Brazil signed an agreement in 2003 for cooperation in defence. Meetings of Joint Defence Committee (JDC) are held as an institutionalized mechanism for defence cooperation. Six JDC meetings have taken place so far between the two sides. The 6th JDC meeting was held in February 2019 in Brasilia.

18. During the State Visit of President Bolsonaro to India (24-27 January 2020), PM Modi and President Bolsonaro reiterated the importance of broad-based bilateral defence cooperation in enhancing the Strategic Partnership. An event focussed on defence industries took place on 27 January 2020 in New Delhi. During the Presidential visit, the Brazilian firearms company Taurus Armas SA signed a joint venture with Jindal Defence (part of O P Jindal Group) to produce and sell small arms in India. With an initial investment of US\$ 5 million in a project that is to be developed in phases, the agreement proposes setting up a plant at Hisar (Haryana). Indian and Brazilian Navies are also coordinating the technical aspects related to White Shipping Information through a data sharing agreement.

### **Security Cooperation**

19. India and Brazil established a Strategic Dialogue mechanism in 2006 to cover regional and global issues of mutual concern. The last meeting was held in November 2015 in New Delhi. The two countries already have an Extradition Treaty, Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters and an Agreement of Transfer of Sentenced Persons in place.

20. An MoU on cooperation in the area of Cyber Security between CERT-In and its counterpart agency was signed during the State Visit of President Bolsonaro in January 2020. India and Brazil also cooperate in cyber issues at BRICS and IBSA.

### **Space Cooperation**

21. India and Brazil signed a framework agreement for peaceful use of outer space in 2004 as well as an Agreement inter-institutional cooperation between the space agencies. Both countries have been collaborating in Data sharing and satellite tracking of Indian satellites. As part of the UNISPACE+50 (50th Anniversary of first UN Conference on Space) initiative, ISRO organized an 8-week long training programme on nano-satellite building. This programme, named as 'UNNATI' (UNspace Nanosatellite 4 Assembly & Training by ISRO), saw participation by two officials from Brazilian Space Agency (AEB).

22. Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Brazil Mr. Marcos Pontes visited India from 23 February to 1 March 2021. During the visit, Minister Pontes witnessed the launch of Brazilian satellite Amazonia-1 at Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota. Amazonia-1 is the first Earth Observation satellite to be completely designed, integrated, tested and operated by Brazil. New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO has signed a launch service agreement for its launch on board PSLV as its primary payload. The satellite will provide remote sensing images to observe and monitor deforestation, especially in the Amazonia region, as well as monitor the diversified agriculture throughout the country. During the visit Minister Pontes met and held meetings with Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Space and Atomic Energy, Dr. K. Sivan, Chairman, ISRO and Chairman, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and visited institutions such as Indian Council of Medical Research, Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE) of the Indian Institute of Science, Indian Institute of Space, Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), National Aerospace Laboratories and Raman Research Institute.

### **Cooperation in Science and Technology (S&T)**

23. Science and Technology (S&T) is another key area of co-operation. The Agreement on S&T Cooperation between India and Brazil was signed on 12 September, 2006. A Program of Scientific and Technological Cooperation (PoC S&T) for the period 2020-2023 was signed during the recent State Visit of President Bolsonaro to India. Under the S&T Cooperation so far, 15 joint workshops and 3 mega/coordinated projects have been held in areas of biotechnology and human health, renewable energy including low carbon technologies; ICT; ocean sciences and climate change. The last meeting of the Joint Committee on Science and Technology was held on 30 May 2018. In order to encourage implementation of new technologies in Agricultural sector, the first edition of the Maitri- Indo-Brazil Agritech Cross-Incubation Programme is currently underway.

## **Cooperation in Bio-fuels, Oil & Gas**

24. Bio-energy sector offers large business potential for Brazilian companies, who are already leaders in this sector. India and Brazil are already co-operating in multilateral forums such as Bio platforms. 'National Biofuel Policy' of India and 'Renova Bio' Programme of Brazil have some common objectives related to increase in the current blending percentage of bio-fuel with Petrol and Diesel.

25. Engagement in the hydrocarbon sector has intensified in the recent years. Brazil is the destination for India's largest upstream investment in South America. During FY 2018-19, India imported 3.4 MMT of crude oil worth US\$ 1.6 billion from Brazil. Brazil with total crude oil reserves of 13.4 billion barrels has the 2nd largest oil reserves in South America after Venezuela. During the State Visit of President Bolsonaro, the two sides signed MoUs in Bioenergy and Oil & Gas to strengthen cooperation. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Oil and Gas was held in virtual mode on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Brazil has signed the International Solar Alliance Agreement and its ratification is awaited.

## **Cooperation in, Agriculture, Food Processing and Animal Husbandry**

26. Agriculture, food processing and animal husbandry are other key focus areas for bilateral cooperation. The cattle of Brazil and India share the same genetic heritage. Indian cattle like Gir and Kankrej, which were exported centuries back has been suitably modified to yield large quantities of milk. Both sides are working on training and capacity building including Technology Transfer.

## **Technical Cooperation & Scholarships**

27. Brazil is covered under the Scholarship scheme of the Indian Council of Cultural relations (ICCR) with two fixed slots annually. Brazil is also covered under the AYUSH Scholarship Scheme. In the last seven years (2011 onwards) around 55 Brazilians have availed of the ITEC programme for training in communications, management and defence. Nine slots in various defence courses have been utilized under ITEC in the last five years. Four Brazilian diplomats underwent training at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi for the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) and Disarmament and Internal Security Fellowship programme.

## **Cooperation in the context of COVID-19**

28. The high-level interactions between the two countries continued even during the pandemic situation. On 4 April 2020, Prime Minister Modi had a telephonic conversation with President Bolsonaro against the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic where Prime Minister Modi assured all possible support to the Brazilian President. Following this, a consignment (530 kg of Hydroxychloroquine) for Brazil was cleared for export on

priority. India also offered 5 million tablets of Hydroxychloroquine to Brazil on a commercial basis.). On 8 April 2020, in his fifth national address on COVID-19 outbreak in Brazil, President Bolsonaro thanked PM Modi and Indian people for raw material exports for producing Hydroxychloroquine.

29. On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021, a Videoconference was held between (former) Brazilian Health Minister H.E. Mr. Eduardo Pazuello and Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. During the VC, the Brazilian side requested approval for the import from India of 2 million doses of finished AstraZeneca vaccines, produced by the Serum Institute of India. Following this, President of Brazil Mr. Jair Bolsonaro wrote a letter addressed to our PM requesting his support for expediting the import to Brazil of 2 million doses of the vaccine prepared by Serum Institute of India, so as to enable the immediate implementation of the National Immunisation Programme of Brazil. On 22 January 2021, India dispatched two million doses of Made in India Covishield vaccines to Brazil. Subsequently an additional 2 million doses of Covishield vaccines were sent to Brazil.

30. Under the Vande Bharat Mission, the Embassy and Consulate facilitate repatriation of more than 700 Indian national from Brazil (including few from countries neighbouring Brazil).

### **Consular Relations**

31. Under a bilateral agreement signed in 2004, diplomatic and official passport holders are exempted from Visa for a stay of maximum of 90 days. India issues e-visas for Brazilians visiting India for the purpose of tourism, medical treatment and attending conferences. Brazil has also announced Visa free travel for Indian citizens for short term business and tourism purposes.

### **Cultural Relations**

32. In Brazil, there is a lot of interest in India's culture, religion, performing arts and philosophy. Ramakrishna Mission, ISKCON, Satya Sai Baba, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Bhakti Vedanta Foundation and other spiritual gurus and organizations have chapters in Brazil. Folkloric traditions and celebrations from India relate a lot to the joyful and colorful festivities in Brazil. Indian philosophy, spirituality and religion were the first forms of Indian culture to reach Brazil. The first classical Indian art form to come to Brazil was Bharatanatyam, followed by Odissi, Kathak and Kuchipudi.

33. India's first cultural centre in Latin America was opened in Sao Paulo in May 2011. ICCR has deputed a Teacher of Indian Culture at the Cultural centre in CGI Sao Paulo and the Embassy of India in Brasilia. A Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the years 2020-2024 was signed during the State Visit of President Bolsonaro to India in January 2020.



34. Brazil has a strong community of Yoga and Ayurveda practitioners. There are numerous organizations teaching Yoga all over Brazil. Regular Yoga classes are organised at the Embassy of India in Brazil since September 2017. In 2015, the 1<sup>st</sup> International Day of Yoga (IDY) was celebrated in 12 major cities of Brazil and Correios, Brazil (Brazilian Postal Department) issued a stamp on this occasion. All the subsequent editions of IDY were commemorated in prominent landmarks in major cities in Brazil including Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Florianopolis and Curitiba. On 21 June 2019, a mass yoga session was organized in front of the famous National Museum with the iconic Cathedral as a backdrop in Brasilia. A Special Solemn Session was organized in the Plenary hall of the Chambers of Deputies (Lower House of the Parliament) with guest speakers observing the importance of Yoga in the daily lives. The entire IDY 2020 event, spread over 19 and 21 June, was organised on the YouTube channel of the Embassy and was viewed by over 9500 people.

35. The Brazilian Association of Ayurveda (ABRA) is a non-profit association with offices in 9 states of Brazil and members all over Brazil. The third International Congress on Ayurveda was held from in March 2018 in Rio de Janeiro and saw participation of more than 4000 delegates, including many from India. During the COVID 19 pandemic, webinars were organised on Facebook with prominent Brazilian Yoga and Ayurveda experts on the benefits of Yoga and Ayurveda. Special Yoga sessions for frontline workers in the fight against COVID like hospitals, journalists, and other law enforcement agencies have also been organised.

36. 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 Gandhy (Sons of Gandhi) is very popular in Salvador, Brazil and takes out street processions wearing Gandhian attire every year. A commemorative postal stamp was released by Correios, Brazil (Brazilian Postal Department) on 2 October 2018. As part of celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (Bapu@150), various activities were organised in 2019 in cities of Brasilia, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte. A bust of Mahatma Gandhi was installed at the prestigious City Park in Brasilia on 9 January 2020. In coordination with the Secretary of Culture and Tourism of the city of Salvador, a Gandhi Statue was installed at one of the city Squares of the city, which is an old capital city of Brazil and rich in culture and heritage.

37. On 25 January 2020, the Government of India conferred Padma Shri, the 4<sup>th</sup> highest civilian award, to Prof Lia Diskin & Ms. Gloria Arieira, for their contribution in the fields of social work, and literature & education respectively. Globo Television, Brazil's leading media group produced and aired a news special in 2019 titled "The Journey of Life: Ganges River". The programme focuses on places that have played an important role on the development of human civilization.

38. Indian cinema is also popular among the Brazilian people. Brazilian Post issued a commemorative stamp in May 2014 on “100 years of Indian Cinema”. Indian Film weeks organized by the Embassy and Consulate have received a good response.

### **Indian Community in Brazil**

39. The Indian community in Brazil is estimated to be around 5,000 people, with majority of them living in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Manaus. The community comprises primarily of professionals and businessmen, with some scientists/researchers also working in the fields of space, agriculture, physics and biotechnology. There is an Indian Association in Sao Paulo, which organises events to celebrate national days and community festivals.

### **Useful Resources:**

Embassy of India Website: <https://eoibrasilia.gov.in/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/indiainbrazil>

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/indiainbrazil/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTAUaQPy8nziEUnCues7bFg>

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