India - Portugal Relations

India’s relations with Portugal remain close, friendly and devoid of irritants. Diplomatic relations were established in 1949. They were severed on September 1, 1955. With the signing of a treaty in New Delhi on December 31, 1974, the two embassies were re-opened.

The two countries share an excellent political relationship. Portugal has consistently supported India at multilateral fora, including for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. It supported India for a non-permanent seat for 2011-2012. In October, 2005 Portugal extradited Abu Salem to India. It is the first European Union nation to agree to the extradition of a person facing charges in India. On October 9, 2015, Portugal became the first European and western country, and the fourth outside the East Asia Summit, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Nalanda University.

Political Relations

The political relationship has been reinforced by exchanges at the highest level. President Anibal Cavaco Silva visited India in January, 2007. Prime Minister Jose Socrates visited India in December, 2007 for the 8th India-EU Summit in New Delhi, during the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union. Dr. Mario Soares visited India twice, as the Prime Minister to attend the funeral of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984, and as President and Chief Guest for Republic Day in 1992. From the Indian side, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Portugal for the first India-Portugal Summit in Lisbon in June, 2000. President K. R. Narayanan visited Portugal in 1998 and President Venkataraman in 1990.

Portugal has formed the cross-party “India – Portugal Parliamentary Friendship Group.” There is a similar group in India with membership across political parties. The first visit of 9 parliamentarians from Portugal led by Dr. Antonio de Almeida Santos, Speaker of the Parliament, took place in 1999, followed by another visit of a 4-member delegation, led by the Speaker, Dr. Joao Bosco Mota Amaral, in 2003. From India, a 12-member parliamentary delegation led by Shri Manohar Joshi, Speaker, Lok Sabha visited Portugal from May 25-28, 2003. A 16-member parliamentary goodwill delegation led by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, visited Portugal from November 6-7, 2007.

The Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, Dr. Charnjit Singh Atwal, visited Lisbon from May 10-14, 2015. He met Dr. Guilherme Silva, Deputy Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament and Dr. Francisco Duarte Lopes, Director General for Foreign Policy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He attended a lunch in his honour by the Portugal-India Parliamentary Friendship Group and a dinner by the Indian community.

The India-Portugal Joint Commission has met three times, the third meeting having been held in New Delhi in December, 2006. Foreign Office Consultations were held in Lisbon on July 26, 2005.
Commercial Relations

A bilateral Agreement on Trade, Economic, Industrial and Technical Cooperation was signed in 1977, to facilitate and enhance trade. An Agreement on Economic and Industrial Cooperation was signed in April, 2000. A Cooperation Agreement between the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Portuguese Foreign Trade and Investment Agency (AICEP) was signed in 1992. A Cooperation Agreement between the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Portuguese Association of Industries (AIP) was signed in 1995, and an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation in September, 1988. In March, 2013, an Agreement on Social Security was signed to strengthen trade and investment.

Trade has been growing steadily, but has remained 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, for business. With a new and younger generation of business leaders there are greater efforts for business links, including in new areas such as infrastructure, IT, renewable energy and pharmaceuticals. Trade has been in India’s favour, but noteworthy is the rise in Portuguese exports from 2011-2012. In 2012-2013 trade grew by 9.38%, and by 6.65% in 2013-2014. Even with a fall in trade in 2014-2015, India's exports increased.


On June 3, 2015 a joint venture agreement was concluded between Portugal's Visabeira Group and Vindhya Telelinks Limited. The joint venture company, Birla Visabeira Private Limited, plans operations both in India and third countries. On October 27, 2015 World Trade Centre Mumbai and the Portuguese Indian Chamber of Commerce concluded a MoU.

India-Portugal Bilateral Trade

(Indian exports and imports in US $ million)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXPORTS</td>
<td>526.84</td>
<td>525.27</td>
<td>528.46</td>
<td>627.00</td>
<td>636.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMPORTS</td>
<td>85.37</td>
<td>303.62</td>
<td>378.21</td>
<td>339.98</td>
<td>145.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL TRADE</td>
<td>612.21</td>
<td>828.89</td>
<td>906.67</td>
<td>966.98</td>
<td>781.48</td>
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Indian Investments in Portugal

The first major foreign investor under the Golden Visa Scheme was an Indian, in the hospitality industry in the Algarve.

Portuguese Investments in India

Portugal ranks 58th, with U.S. $ 27 million in foreign direct investment inflows between April, 2000 - September, 2013.

Science and Technology

Cooperation has been fostered under the Agreement for Cooperation in Science and Technology, signed on December 3, 1998.

International Day of Yoga

On June 21, 2015 the first commemoration of the International Day of Yoga was held at Lisbon in partnership with the Portuguese Yoga Confederation. As part of the celebrations an international conference was held on June 20, 2015, with attendees from 17 countries.

Culture

A Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1980. Several Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEPs) have been implemented. Since June, 2014, five cultural troupes, four of them were sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations have visited Portugal. A Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Archives Between India and Portugal was signed on March 11, 2014 in New Delhi.

Lusofonia Games

Portugal participated in the third Lusofonia Games held in Goa from January 18-29, 2014.

Indian Community

The Indian community in Portugal is estimated at 65,000. According to Portuguese government figures, in 2013 there were 6,022 Indian nationals in Portugal. Portugal has the third largest population of persons of Indian origin in Europe, after the UK and the Netherlands. The migration of the community took place in two streams, firstly direct movement from India - in smaller numbers from Goa, Daman and Diu before 1961, and thereafter in a pronounced flow after 1961. The second stream consists mostly of Gujaratis, from Portugal’s former African colonies, particularly Mozambique and Angola, at the start of decolonization there in 1975.
Recent High-level Visits from Portugal

- Dr. Joao Cravinho, Secretary of State (MOS) for Foreign Affairs in November, 2006.
- Mr. Luis Amado, Foreign Minister of Portugal from July 8-11, 2008.
- Prof. Carlos Zorrinho, Secretary of State (Minister of State) for Energy and Innovation participated in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) from October 27-29, 2010.
- Mr. Humberto Rosa, Secretary of State (Minister of State) for Environment to participate in the 11th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from February 3-5, 2011.
- Dr. Cecília Meireles, Secretary of State for Tourism, from November 19-22, 2012.
- Dr. Paulo Portas, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, from March 5-8, 2013.
- Dr. Jorge Barreto Xavier, Secretary of State for Culture in March, 2013.
- Dr. Rui Machete, Foreign Minister, from November 10-12, 2013 to attend the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
- Dr. Jorge Moreira da Silva, Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, to participate in the 14th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from February 5-8, 2014.
- Mr. Artur Trindade, Secretary of State for Energy, to participate in the 14th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from February 5-8, 2014.

From India

- Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of State for External Affairs to Lisbon from June 10-12, 2007.
- Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for External Affairs to attend the 5th Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies (CoD) in Lisbon on July 11-12, 2009
- Shri Digambar Kamat, Chief Minister of Goa from October 4-6, 2010.
- Shri Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indians Affairs from October 9-11, 2011.
- Shri Francis D’Souza, Deputy Chief Minister of Goa for the India-Portugal Cultural Week in October, 2012.
- Delegation from National Defence College led by Rear Admiral Ravindra Gaikwad, Senior Directing Staff (Navy) from May 19-24, 2013.
• Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha, Joint Secretary (Personnel), Ministry of External Affairs from November 20-24, 2014.

• Shri Krishna Chaudhary, Director General, Railway Protection Force to attend the International Union of Railways (UIC) World Security Congress from November 26-28, 2014.

• Shri Shekhar Sinha, Special Secretary (Member, Postal Services Board) and Shri Kushal Vashist, Director (Philately) from March 30-April 2, 2015.

• Dr. Charnjit Singh Atwal, Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly, on a study tour from May 10-14, 2015.

• Shri Tripurari Sharan, Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Bihar for Geospatial World Forum from May 25-29, 2015.

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India, Lisbon website: http://www.indembassy-lisbon.org

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