

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 civilization 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 organizations. 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.
- **President Rebelo de Sousa paid a State Visit to India from 13- 16 February 2020 (Delhi, Mumbai and Goa) – the first such by a Portuguese President in 13 years.** During the state visit, **India and Portugal exchanged a total of 32 agreements as well as 4 Announcements in a number of key areas**, including mobility, defence maritime heritage and shipping related cooperation, cinema, yoga, intellectual property rights, start-ups, aerospace, scientific research and other institutional collaborations. **Notably, 15 of these agreements were signed/exchanged in Goa.**
- Portugal chaired the EU Presidency from January to June 2021. During this period, **Portugal had proposed to host the first full-fledged India-EU Leaders' meeting (27+1) on 8-9 May 2021 in Porto however due to Covid situation it was held in virtual mode.**

- 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

- As per DGFT data, India-Portugal trade in FY 2019-20 **amounted to \$ 886 million. Indian exports stood at \$ 744.49 million and Portuguese exports at \$141.82 million.** Over the last many years, 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 **51st** in **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into India with total cumulative FDI equity inflows from 2000-2020 amounting to **US\$ 101.86 million (DPIIT data, September 2020)**. Compared to their level of US\$ 49 million in 2017, **Portuguese investments in India have doubled in only three years.** They include a **Visabeira** joint venture (JV) with the MP Birla Group worth US\$ 20 mn (includes an optical fibre plant in Goa, and a 5,000 km optical fibre network in Odisha and West Bengal); the technology company **Vision Box's** contract with the International Airports of Bengaluru and New Delhi for installing facial recognition biometric systems for paperless DIGIYATRA travel, worth US\$ 8 mn; **Inspira-Martifer Solar's** JV for a 350 kW rooftop solar project in Mahabaleshwar; a US\$ 4 mn investment by **Portind Shoe** (an ancillary of the Portuguese shoe manufacturer Soprefa); **Martifer** (metals); **Efacec** (industrial machinery, equipment and tools); and the **Petrotec Group** (retail petroleum and oil distribution industry).

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 70 Indians have made investments under the Portuguese Golden Visa Scheme** launched in 2012 to attract foreign investments into Portugal.
- The Indian High Commission in Lisbon 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 organized a gala event to promote Indian whiskies in Portugal.
- A 16-member delegation of Portuguese defence companies participated in DEFEXPO2018 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. 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 5 th 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 150 th 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, organized 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.
- During the visit of PM Costa to India in December 2019, PM Modi conveyed **India's interest in joining the *Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (CPLP)* as an Associate Observer**, which was welcomed by PM Costa. India requested this formally in February 2020 and 'in principle' approval was given by the CPLP Ambassador's meeting held in July 2020. During the XIII Summit of the Community of the Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) in Luanda, Angola, on 16-17 July 2021, India's application was formally accepted to be an Associate Observer to the CPLP. Under the CPLP ambit, India will be able to work with Portugal on triangular development and commercial projects in Africa and Lusophone countries.

The Indian Community / Diaspora in Portugal

- Portugal has a large Indian-origin diaspora of about **120,000, including 17,619 Indian nationals** (as per official Portuguese data from 2019). They mainly consist of Hindus (33,000), Goans (mainly Catholics, 15,000); Sikhs (25,000), Muslims (Sunnis, 12,000) and Ismailis (5,000). The Indian community migrated to Portugal in two streams: in smaller numbers from Goa, Daman and Diu before 1961, and in larger numbers (mostly of Gujaratis from Mozambique and Angola) in the 1970s.

- The Indian High Commission 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 August 2021