

## **INDIA-PORTUGAL RELATIONS**

Relations with Portugal today remain close, friendly and devoid of irritants. Diplomatic relations between India and Portugal were established in 1949 but following problems on negotiations over Goa, all diplomatic and consular links were severed in September 1, 1955. Goa was liberated in 1961. Through the sixties and up to 1974, in Portugal, there continued an increasingly strong movement for democracy at home and decolonization abroad. With India this culminated in signing a Treaty re-establishing diplomatic relations in New Delhi on December 31, 1974, following which Embassies of the two countries were re-opened.

Diplomatic ties were restored in 1974, but bilateral interaction between India and Portugal upto the 80`s, remained muted. The transformation in the political relationship with Portugal began with the visits of Dr. Mario Soares to India twice, first as Prime Minister to attend the funeral of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984 and as President and Chief Guest for Republic Day in 1992. From India two State Visits took place in the 1990`s – that of President Venkataraman in 1990 and President KR Narayanan in 1998, while Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Portugal for the first India-Portugal Summit in Lisbon in June 2000. From Portugal, President Anibal Cavaco Silva paid a state visit to India in January 2007 followed by visit of Prime Minister Jose Socrates to India in December 2007 further strengthening our bilateral relationship.

Ministerial level visits include that of Dr. Joao Cravinho, Secretary of State (MOS) for Foreign Affairs on 21-22 November, 2006, Anand Sharma, Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs to Lisbon from 10-12<sup>th</sup> June 2007, Luis Amado Foreign Minister of Portugal to India from July 8-11, 2008 and Shashi Tharoor as MOS to the COD Ministerial in July 2009. Mr. Digambar Kamat, Chief Minister of Goa visited Portugal from 4-6 October, 2010 and Mr. Alexo Sequeira, Minister of Power and Environment from 17-18 June, 2010. From Portugal, Prof. Carlos Zorrinho, Secretary of State (MOS) for Energy and Innovation participated in the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference (DIREC) from 27-29 October, 2010 and Humberto

Rosa, Secretary of State for (MOS) for Environment visited India to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Delhi Sustainable Development Summit from 3-5 February 2011.

**Parliamentary Exchanges:** Parliamentary exchanges commenced in 1999 with the first ever visit of 9-Parliamentarians from Portugal led by Dr. Antonio de Almeida Santos, Speaker of the Parliament (National Assembly of the Portuguese Republic) from 15-22 December 1999 followed by visit of Dr. Joao Bosco Mota Amaral, Speaker of Parliament who led a four-member delegation to the Golden Jubilee celebrations of our Parliament (Jan. 21-25, 2003) bringing closer the two Parliaments. From India, a 12-member Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Manohar Joshi, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha visited Portugal from May 25 – 28, 2003 and a 16-member Parliamentary Goodwill Delegation led by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs & Information and Broadcasting Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi visited Portugal in November 6-7, 2007.

**Bilateral Trade and Economic relations :** A bilateral Agreement on Trade, Economic, Industrial and Technical Cooperation was signed in 1977 to give an impetus and improve bilateral trade relations. To further facilitate and enhance trade, a series of trade agreements were signed viz., an Agreement on Economic and Industrial Cooperation (signed in April 2000); Bilateral Cooperation Agreements between FICCI and the Portuguese Institute for Foreign Trade and Investment (ICEP) in 1992; Cooperation Agreement between Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Portuguese Association of Industries (AIP) in 1995 and an Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation in September 1998.

Bilateral trade has been growing steadily over the years but has remained modest. However, with a new and younger generation of business leaders there are greater efforts at engagement in the economic and commercial spheres including in new areas such as infrastructure, IT, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals. While trade has been largely one sided and in India's favour (over 90% of the trade turnover), the global economic and financial crisis which caused a drop in exports and imports has since revived and overtaken pre-crisis levels of 2008-2009.

### India-Portugal Trade Statistics

(Calendar Years)

(Value: Million Euros)	India's Exports to Portugal	India's Imports from Portugal	Bilateral Total Trade	India's Trade Balance Surplus
2011 Jan/Apr	<i>Euros 190,83</i>	<i>Euros 36,20</i>	<i>Euros 227,03</i>	<i>Euros 154,63</i>
2010	<i>Euros 408, 92</i>	<i>Euros 60, 83</i>	<i>Euros 469, 75</i>	<i>Euros 348,09</i>
2009	<i>Euros 262, 24</i>	<i>Euros 40, 39</i>	<i>Euros 302, 63</i>	<i>Euros 221, 85</i>
2008	<i>Euros 474, 87</i>	<i>Euros 46, 53</i>	<i>Euros 521,40</i>	<i>Euros 428, 34</i>
2007	<i>Euros 334,57</i>	<i>Euros 29,75</i>	<i>Euros 364,32</i>	<i>Euros 304,82</i>

**Science and Technology:** The present Programme of Cooperation for 2010-2012 under the Agreement for Cooperation in Science and Technology signed on December 3, 1998, between India and Portugal, and remains an active partnership with widened areas of scientific research, with 60 joint projects presently under its ambit.

**Cultural ties:** A Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1980 under which several Cultural Exchange Programmes (CEPs) have been implemented enhancing cultural relations and understanding.

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