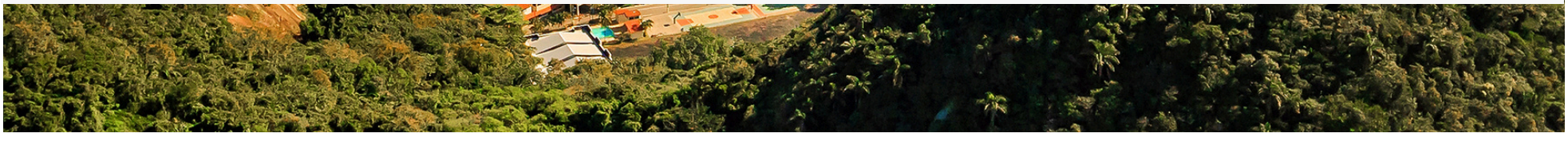
Chandrawat & Partners



BILATERAL RELATIONS

INDIA - BRAZIL



INTRODUCTION

India and Brazil share a close and multifaceted strategic partnership based on common global perspectives, shared democratic values and a commitment to inclusive economic growth and social development. The two countries have been Strategic Partners since 2006 and cooperate closely in bilateral as well as plurilateral forums including BRICS, IBSA, G20, G4, the International Solar Alliance, the Global Biofuel Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
Diplomatic relations between India and Brazil were established in 1948, with both countries opening their embassies in the same year. Over the decades, the relationship has expanded across trade and investment, defence and security, agriculture, energy, science and technology, health, digital transformation, renewable energy and culture. Regular high-level exchanges have provided further momentum to the partnership.

The strategic partnership has acquired greater significance through cooperation on global and multilateral issues. India and Brazil work together to promote the interests of developing countries and advocate greater representation of the Global South in international institutions. Their cooperation in BRICS, G20, IBSA and other multilateral platforms reflects convergence on issues such as sustainable development, international peace and security, climate change, energy transition and reform of global governance institutions.

Recent high-level engagement has further strengthened the relationship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi undertook a State Visit to Brazil in July 2025, followed by Brazilian Vice President Geraldo Alckmin's visit to India in October 2025. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's State Visit to India from 18–22 February 2026 further deepened bilateral cooperation, with new agreements covering critical minerals, the postal sector, agriculture, culture and other areas.



HISTORY

India and Brazil share historical links based on their long-standing contacts, cultural similarities and common interests among developing countries. Although geographical distance separated the two countries, contacts increased during the twentieth century, particularly after India's independence and Brazil's growing engagement with newly independent Asian and African nations.
India and Brazil established diplomatic relations in 1948, shortly after India became independent. Both countries opened diplomatic missions in each other's capitals in the same year. During the early decades, bilateral relations were shaped by their common commitment to peace, sovereignty, non-interference and cooperation among developing countries, including coordination in the United Nations and other multilateral forums.

During the Cold War period, India and Brazil gradually expanded cooperation in political, economic and multilateral areas. The two countries worked together on issues concerning disarmament, development, international economic relations and the interests of developing countries. Their cooperation became particularly significant through their shared participation in international groupings representing the Global South.

A major milestone came with the establishment of the India–Brazil–South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum in 2003. IBSA created a platform for the three democratic developing countries to coordinate positions on international issues and promote South–South cooperation. India and Brazil also strengthened cooperation through the G4, where both countries support reform of the United Nations Security Council and each other's aspirations for permanent membership.

In 2006, India and Brazil elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership, marking an important transformation in bilateral ties. Cooperation subsequently expanded into trade and investment, agriculture, energy, defence, science and technology, health, education and culture. The creation of BRICS in 2009 provided another important platform for India and Brazil to coordinate on global economic governance and issues affecting developing countries.

Recent years have given new momentum to the relationship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State Visit to Brazil in July 2025, followed by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's State Visit to India in February 2026, strengthened the strategic partnership and resulted in new cooperation in areas including critical minerals, agriculture, culture, postal services and other sectors. Thus, the historical relationship has evolved from diplomatic cooperation into a broad-based strategic partnership with growing importance in the Global South and multilateral affairs.

CULTURAL RELATIONS

India and Brazil share growing cultural relations supported by historical links, people-to-people exchanges and increasing interest in Indian culture in Brazil. Cultural cooperation forms part of the broader strategic partnership and includes yoga, Indian dance, music, cinema, literature, Ayurveda and traditional knowledge. The two countries have encouraged cultural exchanges through festivals, exhibitions, academic interactions and visits by artists and cultural groups.



Yoga has become an important element of India's cultural outreach in Brazil. The International Day of Yoga is celebrated in different Brazilian cities with participation from local communities, yoga organisations and Indian diplomatic missions. Indian cultural traditions, including classical dance, music and Ayurveda, have also gained visibility through cultural programmes and educational activities organised by the Embassy of India and Indian cultural organisations.



Cinema and performing arts provide another avenue for strengthening cultural understanding. Indian films, music and dance performances have been showcased in Brazil, while Brazilian cultural and artistic activities have also received exposure in India. Such exchanges help increase awareness of the cultural diversity of both countries and contribute to stronger people-to-people relations.

Recent high-level engagement has provided further momentum to cultural cooperation. During President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's State Visit to India in February 2026, India and Brazil signed an MoU on cooperation in culture, providing a framework for expanding exchanges and collaboration in the cultural field. This reflects the growing importance of cultural and people-to-people links within the India–Brazil Strategic Partnership.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS



India and Brazil have strong and expanding economic relations, supported by growing bilateral trade, investment and business cooperation. Both countries are major emerging economies and cooperate through multilateral groupings such as BRICS, G20 and IBSA. Their economic engagement covers sectors including agriculture, energy, pharmaceuticals, information technology, automobiles, chemicals, mining and infrastructure.

Bilateral trade has expanded significantly over the years, with Brazil being one of India's important trading partners in Latin America. India exports pharmaceuticals, chemicals, petroleum products, machinery, automobiles and engineering goods to Brazil, while imports include crude oil, edible oils, minerals, sugar and other agricultural and industrial commodities. Both sides have also encouraged greater participation of their companies in each other's markets and sought to diversify and strengthen trade.

Investment and business cooperation are also important components of the relationship. Indian companies have a presence in Brazil in sectors such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, information technology, energy and agribusiness, while Brazilian companies operate in India in areas including mining, energy, engineering and agriculture. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State Visit to Brazil in July 2025, the two countries discussed expanding trade and investment cooperation along with agriculture, energy, digital transformation and other economic sectors.

The two countries are also working to deepen economic cooperation through new areas such as renewable energy, digital technologies, critical minerals and sustainable development. The agreements and MoUs concluded during the 2025 visit, including cooperation in renewable energy, digital transformation and agriculture, provided additional avenues for economic and commercial engagement.

TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

India and Brazil have developed a broad framework of bilateral treaties and agreements covering investment, taxation, trade, defence, security, aviation, science and technology, energy and agriculture. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1948 and elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership in 2006, providing an institutional basis for expanding bilateral cooperation.
A major economic instrument is the India–MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), signed in 2004. The agreement provides preferential market access for selected products and has been an important framework for expanding India's trade with Brazil and other MERCOSUR members. India and MERCOSUR have subsequently discussed expanding and deepening the agreement to promote greater trade and investment.

The Investment Cooperation and Facilitation Treaty (ICFT) was signed between India and Brazil in New Delhi on 25 January 2020. It aims to strengthen bilateral investment, facilitate investment flows, provide a predictable environment for investors and promote sustainable economic development. Brazil promulgated the agreement in October 2025, and it entered into force for Brazil on 21 December 2025.
The two countries also have a Double Taxation Avoidance Convention, originally signed in 1988, with subsequent amendments. A further protocol signed in Brasília on 24 August 2022 amended the convention to update arrangements for avoiding double taxation and preventing tax evasion; the protocol entered into force for Brazil on 18 October 2025.

In the fields of defence and security, India and Brazil signed a Defence Cooperation Agreement in 2003, supported by the Joint Defence Committee mechanism. The two countries also have an Extradition Treaty, a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty in Criminal Matters and an Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. In January 2020, they signed an MoU on cooperation in cyber security.
During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State Visit to Brazil in July 2025, India and Brazil signed six agreements/MoUs covering cooperation against international terrorism and transnational organised crime, renewable energy, digital transformation, intellectual property, agriculture, and the exchange and mutual protection of classified information.

Recent agreements have also expanded cooperation in renewable energy, critical minerals and trade facilitation. In 2025, India and Brazil signed an MoU on renewable-energy cooperation, while in 2026 Brazil's Ministry of Mines and Energy listed new MoUs concerning rare earth elements and critical minerals and cooperation in mining for steel supply chains. The countries also signed a Joint Action Plan in 2024 to work towards a future mutual recognition agreement for their Authorised Economic Operator programmes, aimed at facilitating and securing bilateral trade.


12th BRICS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTERS MEETING
21 August 2026
Pune, India

MILITARY COOPERATION

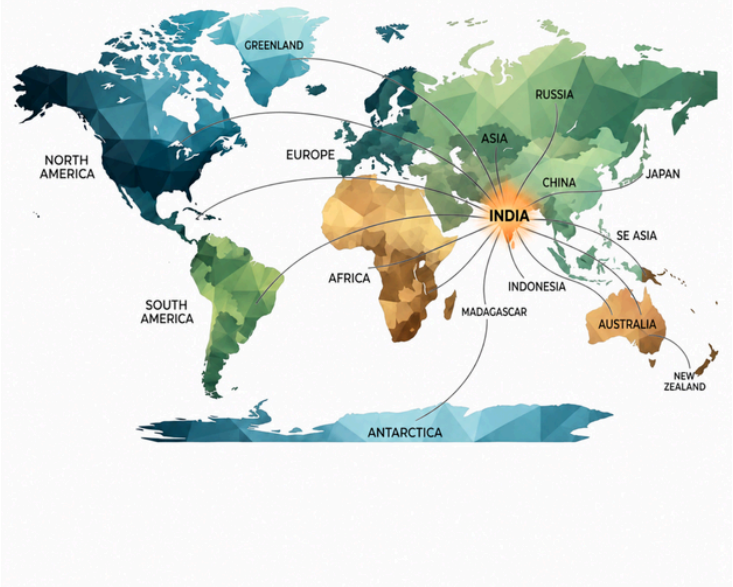


India and Brazil have developed steady defence and military cooperation as an important component of their Strategic Partnership. The two countries signed a Defence Cooperation Agreement in 2003, which was ratified in 2006 and established the Joint Defence Committee (JDC) as the main institutional mechanism for defence cooperation. The 8th meeting of the JDC was held in Brasília in July 2025, demonstrating the continued institutional engagement between the two armed forces.

Military cooperation includes regular exchanges of high-level defence delegations and professional interaction between the armed forces of both countries. In recent years, the Chiefs of the Brazilian armed services and the Brazilian Joint Chief of Staff have visited India, while Indian defence delegations have participated in exchanges with Brazilian institutions. Delegations from India's National Defence College, College of Defence Management and Army War College have also engaged with Brazilian defence colleges. India and Brazil have strengthened defence industrial cooperation through the India-Brazil Focus Group on Defence Industrial Cooperation, whose inaugural meeting was held in March 2024. The countries have also established a 2+2 Political-Military Dialogue, inaugurated in New Delhi in March 2024, providing an additional platform for discussing defence and strategic issues.

Naval cooperation has emerged as another important area. During the visit of Indian Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi to Brazil in December 2025, India, Brazil and Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) signed an MoU concerning the maintenance of Scorpene-class submarines and other military ships. This has opened an avenue for greater technical and industrial cooperation between the Indian and Brazilian navies.

SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



Chandrawat & Partners

The information contained herein is of a general nature. Although we endeavor to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. The information is not offered as an advice on any matter, and no one should act or fail to act based on such information without appropriate legal advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation. The information does not make us responsible or liable for any errors and/or omissions, whether it is now or in the future. We do not assume any responsibility and/or liability for any consequences.

The Bar Council of India does not permit advertisement or solicitation by advocates in any form or manner. The information may be provided to user on request or otherwise. The information contained in it is entirely determined by the user voluntarily and any transmission or use does not establish any lawyer client relationship.

Key Contact



Surendra Singh Chandrawat

Global Managing Partner

surendra@chandrawatpartners.com

+91 99939 85763

Connect Surendra on

LinkedIn WhatsApp

Chandrawat & Partners is a leading and rapidly growing full-service law firm providing high quality professional, legal and corporate services to foreign and local clients, representing worldwide companies and individuals in a wide range of practice areas and sectors.

Copyright © 2027 I All rights reserved I Chandrawat & Partners I Email: enquiries@chandrawatpartners.com I Website: www.chandrawatpartners.co

Follow us on: LinkedIn twitter facebook Instagram