

INDIA-BRAZIL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP 2025: INTERNATIONAL RELATION

NEWS: PM Modi conferred with Brazil's highest civilian award

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

In July 2025, the Indian Prime Minister's state visit to Brazil reset the India–Brazil Strategic Partnership through a 10-year roadmap focused on defence, energy, digital, and global governance cooperation. Six key agreements were signed, emphasizing multilateral reform, trade expansion, and joint leadership in the Global South.

India–Brazil Strategic Partnership 2025



Historic Significance

- First Indian PM visit to Brazil in nearly 60 years.
- PM Modi conferred with Brazil's highest civilian award: *Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross*.
- 26th international honour awarded to PM Modi by a foreign nation.

Strategic Roadmap (2025–2035) – Five Key Pillars

- Defence and Security
- Food and Nutritional Security
- Energy Transition and Climate Change
- Digital Transformation and Emerging Technologies
- Industrial Partnerships in Strategic Areas

Bilateral & Geopolitical Coordination

- Reaffirmed democratic and sustainable development values.
- Called for peaceful global conflict resolution via dialogue and diplomacy.
- Emphasized multipolarity and Global South cooperation.
- Rejected protectionism, reaffirmed WTO rules.
- Pushed for UNSC reform invoking Article 109 of UN Charter.
- Brazil backed India's UNSC non-permanent seat (2028–29); India backed Brazil's permanent seat.

Multilateral Cooperation

- India–Brazil leadership in:
 - G4 (UNSC reform)
 - BRICS (economic & digital governance)
 - IBSA (inclusive growth)
 - BASIC (climate justice and equity)
- Both advocate reform of global governance structures.
- Brazil supports India's G20 and South-South leadership initiatives.

Six Bilateral Agreements Signed

1. Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime Cooperation
2. Exchange & Protection of Classified Information
3. MoU on Renewable Energy
4. MoU on Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA–ICAR)
5. MoU on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)
6. MoU on Intellectual Property Rights (DPIIT–MDIC)

Defence & Security Cooperation

- Condemned Pahalgam terror attack; reiterated zero tolerance to terrorism.
- Support for UN and FATF counter-terror mechanisms.
- Emphasis on cybercrime cooperation under UN Cybercrime Convention.
- Joint defence production in land, air, and maritime systems encouraged.

Space & Maritime Domain

- Joint R&D in satellite development, launch, tracking, and command systems.
- Cooperation extended to ocean monitoring and space sustainability.

Food and Nutritional Security

- Advocated food sovereignty and equitable agri-trade.
- Joint R&D in biotechnology, animal genetics, and sustainable farming.
- Endorsed Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.

Climate and Energy Transition

- Co-founders of Global Biofuels Alliance.
- Promotion of ethanol blending, flex-fuel tech, and SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel).
- India supported Brazil's COP30 Presidency.
- Brazil backed India's Mission LiFE, Green Credit Initiative.
- Joint emphasis on climate finance and tropical forest preservation (TFFF).

Digital Cooperation & Innovation

- MoU on AI, quantum computing, DPI.
- India to host AI Safety Summit (2026).
- Scientific Cooperation Commission launched for emerging technologies.

Industrial & Trade Expansion

- Target set to raise bilateral trade to \$20 billion in 5 years.
- Collaboration in pharmaceuticals, oil & gas, defence, mining.
- Supported joint ventures in tropical disease R&D and generic medicine production.
- Opened EXIM Bank (São Paulo) and ANVISA office (Delhi).

Mobility, Education & Culture

- Agreement to streamline visa systems and business travel.
- Encouraged 2025–2029 Cultural Exchange Programme.
- India to host APAIE 2025; encouraged PEC–ICCR student exchange.
- Promoted creative industries and capacity-building initiatives.

Historical and Soft Power Connections

- Bilateral links trace back to Portuguese colonial era (Goa–Brazil).
- Indian-origin cattle form genetic base of Brazilian breeds.
- Brazil issued a stamp for 100 years of Indian cinema (2014).
- Yoga introduced in public schools in Mato Grosso do Sul (2024).
- Padma Shri awards conferred on Brazilian cultural ambassadors of Indian heritage.

Economic and Energy Relations

- Trade in 2024–25: \$12.2 billion (Exports: \$6.77B, Imports: \$5.43B).
- Brazil: India's top Latin American partner and major oil investment hub.
- Indian PSUs invested \$3.5 billion in 4 Brazilian oil blocks.
- Investment collaborations in critical minerals and green tech.

Institutional Mechanisms

- JCM, FOC, Strategic Dialogue, Joint Defence Committee, Business Forum, etc.
- 9th JCM (New Delhi, 2024), 2nd FOC (Brasília, 2023), 6th TMM (Brasília, 2023).

Challenges in India–Brazil Relations

- Trade friction in agri-exports (e.g., sugar subsidy dispute).
- Brazil's concerns over India's agri-policy.
- Limited people-to-people contact and modest diaspora.
- Lack of comprehensive FTA/PTA.
- China's dominant economic presence in Brazil.
- Strategic focus divergence: Brazil (Latin America–China), India (Indo-Pacific).
- Irregular high-level engagement and divergent multilateral positions.

Way Forward

- Diversify trade and ensure stable food/agro imports.
- Expand renewable energy partnerships (biofuel, hydrogen).
- Enhance defence industrial cooperation and joint training.
- Resolve tariff/non-tariff barriers (e.g., basmati rice phytosanitary norms).
- Promote cultural diplomacy (e.g., Bollywood, yoga, Ayurveda).
- Operationalize SSA for pension and social security coordination.

Conclusion

India–Brazil ties serve as a model for South–South cooperation, rooted in Gandhian values and multilateral equity. The partnership advances key SDGs (7, 9, 13, 17) through shared vision on clean energy, innovation, climate resilience, and inclusive development.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-conferred-with-brazils-highest-civilian-award/article69789179.ece>