

After reading the chapter, the reader will be able to develop an analytical understanding on the following:

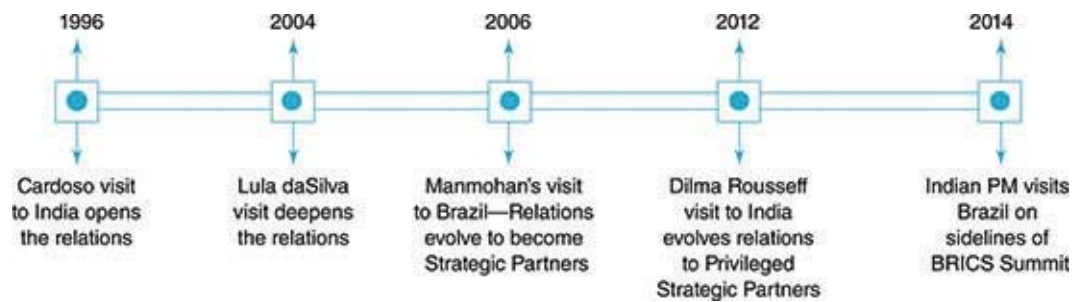
- Basic background
- Commercial diplomacy
- Defence diplomacy

BASIC BACKGROUND

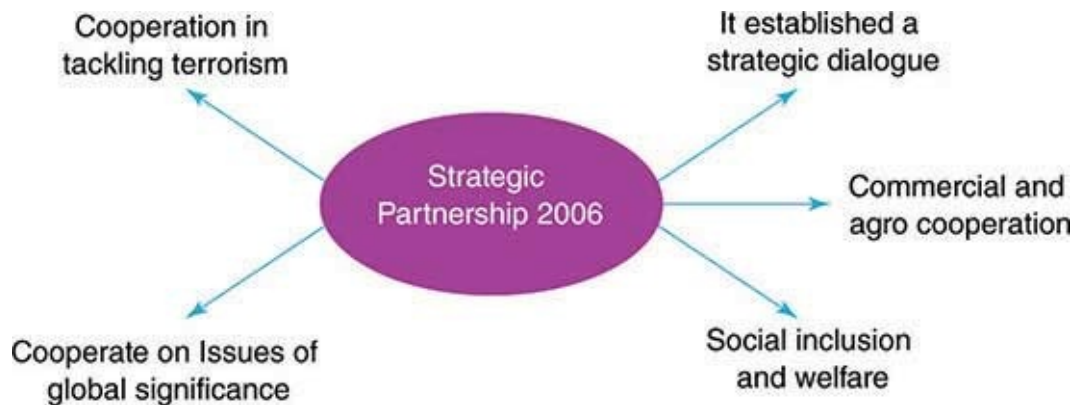
In 1500, a Portuguese sailor, Pedro Alvares Cabral, left Portugal to find India but reached Brazil instead. After a halt in Brazil, he sailed to India and reached Goa. Since then, Brazil became a halt between Portugal and India. Over a period of time, as the interaction between the two countries opened up, agro-cattle cooperation began to take place. Brazil has a lot of bovines that are of Indian origin. For that matter, coconut and mango reached Brazil from India. Surprisingly, Brazil, though a country of immigrants, has the least number of immigrants from India.

When India became independent, it initiated diplomatic relations with Brazil in 1948 by opening up a mission in Sao Paulo. During the Cold War, due to the policy neglect of Latin America by India, Brazil too got neglected. Brazil witnessed a number of military coups and regime changes from the 1940s to 1994. The only interaction India had during at this time with Brazil was at international forums and platforms like UNCTAD and G-77. During the liberation of Goa, the Indo-Brazil relationship also dipped. Things began to improve at the end of the Cold War. Since 1994, domestically, Brazil began to witness some stability after the emergence of democracy. However, Brazil's domestic politics, despite being democratic, was still fragile. In April–May 2016, political upheaval was witnessed once again in Brazil against incumbent President Dilma Rousseff due to the Lava Jato scandal.

India's relations with Brazil have improved only in the post-Cold War period. Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso visited India in 1996. However, the real depth in the Indo-Brazil relations can be attributed to the efforts of President Lula da Silva, who visited India three times—in 2004, 2007 and 2008. From the Brazilian side, Dilma Rousseff also paid a state visit to India in 2012. The visit of former Indian PM Manmohan Singh to Brazil in 2006 became a most important visit as it is on this tour that the relationship got elevated to the level of Strategic Partnership. The incumbent Indian PM paid a visit to Brazil in 2014 on the sidelines of the BRICS summit. The PM participated in the BRICS Summit in 2014 and also met Dilma Rousseff.



In 2006, when Manmohan Singh visited Brazil, the relationship evolved into strategic partnership, which can be further divided into the following components:



COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY

India exports to Brazil manufactured goods, polyester yarn, drugs, chemicals and, in turn, imports crude oil, sugar, soya oil, rubber, aluminium and iron.



India and Brazil have a PTA under MERCOSUR (is a sub-regional bloc whose full members are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) since 2003. The importance of Brazil can be judged by the fact that it is the largest exporter of food products and has well-established industrial farms, availability of fresh water and abundant raw materials. Despite tremendous potential, the trade between India and Brazil has been unable to flourish due to lack of political will, the immense geographical distance between the two nations and the political fragility of Brazil. Prominent Indian firms in Brazil include TCS, Mahindra, Wipro, Cadila while Brazilian firms in India include Marcopolo, Vale and Stefanini.



Brazil as an Agro Superpower

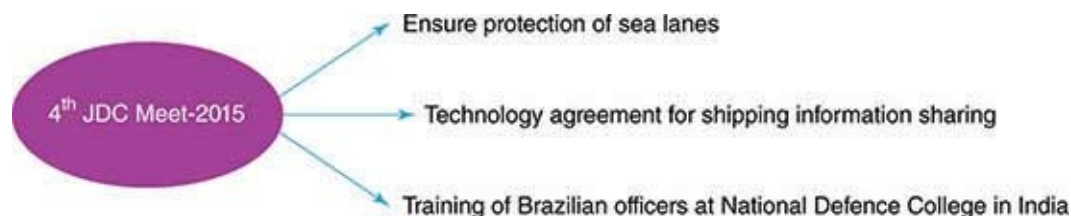
Brazil has around 850 million hectares of arable land available for agriculture but uses only around 60 million hectares today. There is an in ordinate potential for Brazil to emerge as a key player to assist India to meet its food security challenges. An Indian firm called Renuka Industries has been importing a lot of sugar from Brazil. Sugarcane is a commodity that can easily grow in more than 70% of the land that Brazil has. Brazil has a favourable agricultural climate, with enormous

hydropower potential, which can certainly help it emerge as a leader in sugarcane, soya and so on. From Indian point of view, Brazil offers its industries ample opportunities in agro-processing.

At the economic level, TCS has been a leader in Brazil since 2002. The company is based on outsourcing and software production and is also involved in a multimillion dollar project with ABN AMRO bank. Tata is also in a joint venture with Marcopolo to establish a rapid transit system in Brazil. Renuka Industries has also established a mega ethanol sugar business in Brazil.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

India and Brazil signed a Defense Agreement in 2003 to cooperate in aeronautics and ship building. The agreement also envisages military-to-military contacts and modules of defence training. In 2010, on the sidelines of BRICS and IBSA (a dialogue form consisting of India, Brazil and South Africa) summits, India and Brazil decided to set up a joint committee on defence cooperation called the India–Brazil joint defence committee. The committee envisaged joint military technology development and arms and defence technology production. The 4th Joint Defense Committee meet happened in 2015.



Though the nuclear issue has been kept out of the ambit of their strategic partnership as of now, Brazil has shown interest in its addition to the same.

ANALYSIS OF RECENT MEETS

The Indian PM Narendra Modi went to Brazil in 2014 to participate in the BRICS summit. On the sidelines of the 6th BRICS summit, India and Brazil concluded agreements to cooperate in remote sensing and environment. The two also decided on defence cooperation. Another important area of cooperation identified was cyber security, which had also found mention in the 6th India–Brazil Joint Commission (IBJC) meet in Brazil. In the 7th IBJC in 2015 held in New Delhi, decision was taken to boost bilateral trade to realise the true potential of the relations. The two have identified cooperation in climate change as a priority area in the 8th IBJC in 2016.

PART-G

1

CHAPTER

The Concept of Middle Powers

After reading the chapter, the reader will be able to develop an analytical understanding on the following:

- Concept of Middle Powers
- India and Middle Powers diplomacy

The term middle power is applied frequently in the discourse of international politics. The origin of the term, however, in the modern context, goes back to the World War–I. The initial mention of the terminology is visible in the Paris Peace Conference and the League of Nations with respect to allocation of seats in the League. But the actual usage of the term happened during the creation of the UN after the World War–II. During this period, we see the application of this term to some countries like Canada, Australia, and so on. They used the term middle powers to distinguish themselves from other foreign powers that were relatively small in power and in influence. The application of the term by Australia and Canada was done at the UN level to assert that they would exercise more influence than smaller players in world politics. Although they demanded extra privileges, the great powers refused to grant exclusivity to the middle powers. The term did become popular in the discourse of international governance, but could not come to stand for more assertion vis-à-vis the great powers.

The subsequent period of the Cold War saw some change. The middle powers now began to play a different role and their recognition was based on the ability of a middle power states to mediate on international disputes, their military power, the size of territories and populations they possessed, and so on. Thus, during the era of bipolarity, the middle powers resorted to differentiate themselves from the other two big powers based on the points mentioned above. When the Cold War ended, the term came to be used to signify how a country undertakes diplomacy on soft issues. In the post-Cold War period, human rights, environment, and conflict management have emerged as new concerns. Today, the middle powers use their diplomacy to advocate on these soft issues and the way they address themselves gives them the leverage to distinguish themselves from other powers. Thus, today, we broadly see that middle powers are those that do not possess substantial military power but are still powerful enough to exercise influence in the world using persuasion and cooperation. In our study with respect to the Indian foreign policy in this book, we shall analyse three broad-range middle powers, namely, Britain, Iran and Canada, and their relations with India.