



## PM's Visit to Nigeria, Brazil and Guyana

**For Prelims:** [India-Brazil Relations](#), [WTO](#), [Caribbean Community \(CARICOM\)](#), [Line of Credit BRICS](#), [IBSA](#), [G4](#), [G20](#), [Africa](#), [African Continental Free Trade Area](#), [African Union](#), [India's 2023 G20 Presidency](#), [International Solar Alliance](#), [Indian Ocean Region](#), [Rare earth elements](#)

**For Mains:** Areas of Cooperation between India and Brazil, India's relations with Nigeria and Guyana, Significance of Africa for India.

[Source: LM](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the [Prime Minister](#) of India has commenced a significant three-nation visit to [Nigeria](#) (Africa), [Brazil](#), and [Guyana](#) in South America.

- Following his visit to Nigeria, the PM travelled to Brazil to participate in the 19th [G20 Summit](#) and subsequently proceeded to Guyana.

### What are the Key Highlights of India-Nigeria Relations?

- **Recent Diplomatic Engagement:**
  - The recent visit by the Indian [Prime Minister \(PM\)](#) to Nigeria in November 2024 marked a significant moment in bilateral relations, being the **first visit by an Indian prime minister in 17 years**.
    - During this visit, his reception included the **conferral of Nigeria's second-highest national award**, the [Grand Commander of the Order of Niger](#).
- **India-Nigeria Relations:**
  - **Historical Ties:** India established its diplomatic presence in Lagos in **1958**, just two years before Nigeria **gained independence from British colonial rule in 1960**, marking the beginning of their bilateral relationship.
    - In 2007, both nations elevated their relationship to a ["Strategic Partnership"](#).
  - **Cultural and Educational Exchange:** India has played a significant role in Nigeria's development, especially in the fields of **education and healthcare**.
    - India established the [National Defence Academy](#) in **Kaduna** and the **Naval War College in Port Harcourt**, contributing to Nigeria's military training and capacity-building.
  - **Economic Engagement:** India-Nigeria economic ties hold significant importance, with over 200 Indian companies investing approximately **USD 27 billion** across key sectors such as [manufacturing](#), [telecommunications](#), and [pharmaceuticals](#).
    - This robust partnership positions India as the **second-largest employer in Nigeria** after the Federal Government.
  - **Developmental Assistance:** India has positioned itself as a key development partner for Nigeria, offering developmental assistance through **concessional loans** totalling USD 100 million.

- This assistance reflects India's commitment to supporting Nigeria's **socio-economic development** and aligns with India's broader vision of fostering growth in the **Global South**.
- **Regional Influence:** Nigeria, known as the "**Giant of Africa**," has Africa's **largest population (~220 million)** and the **largest economy** in the continent.
  - As a founding member of the **African Union (AU)**, Nigeria plays a pivotal role in African politics and regional stability.
- **Strategic Interests:** India seeks stronger ties with Nigeria to **counter China's growing influence**, as China has become Africa's largest trading partner over the past two decades.
  - **India acknowledges Africa's wealth of critical minerals**, which are essential for industries like **electric vehicles** and vital for India's economic goals.
- **Focus on Common Challenges:** Both nations share common challenges such as **terrorism, separatism, piracy, and drug trafficking**.
- **Cultural Significance:** The relationship is enriched by a **large Indian expatriate (about 60,000)** community in Nigeria, which is the **largest in West Africa**.
  - This fosters **cultural ties and economic collaboration** through cultural exchanges, educational initiatives, and people-to-people interactions.
- **Opportunities in India-Nigeria Relations:**
  - **Healthcare Cooperation:** India is the leading destination for Nigerian **medical tourists**, with affordable and quality healthcare services.
  - **Defence Collaboration:** Nigeria seeks enhanced defence cooperation with India in areas like **training, equipment supply, and counter-insurgency strategies**, particularly to combat groups like **Boko Haram**.
  - **Business and Economic Cooperation:** To boost trade and investment, forming an **India-Nigeria Business Council** with leading business houses from both countries could help identify and develop new opportunities.

## Nigeria

- **Location:** Western coast of Africa, often called the "Giant of Africa."
  - **Borders:** North – Niger, East – Chad and Cameroon, South – Gulf of Guinea, West – Benin.
- **Independence:** Gained independence from Britain in 1960.
- **Official Language:** English; local languages include Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, and Ijaw.
- **Geography:** Diverse, with climates ranging from arid to humid equatorial.
  - **Drainage:** Major basins include Niger-Benue, Lake Chad, and Gulf of Guinea. The Niger River and its largest tributary, the Benue River, are principal rivers.



## What are the Key Highlights of India-Brazil Relations?

### ▪ Recent Diplomatic Engagement:

- India and Brazil held bilateral discussions on the sidelines of the **19th G20 Summit** in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**.
- Both nations focused on strengthening cooperation in sectors such as **energy, biofuels, defence, agriculture, healthcare, and digital technology**.
- India expressed strong support for Brazil's '**Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty**' initiative and appreciated Brazil's leadership during its **G20 Presidency**.
- Brazil emphasised the urgency of addressing **global climate challenges**, calling for **decisive action** at **UNFCCC COP29** climate talks in **Azerbaijan**, ahead of the **COP30 summit** in **Belem, Brazil, in 2025**.
  - Brazil supports India's candidature for a **non-permanent seat** of the **UNSC** for the 2028-2029 term.

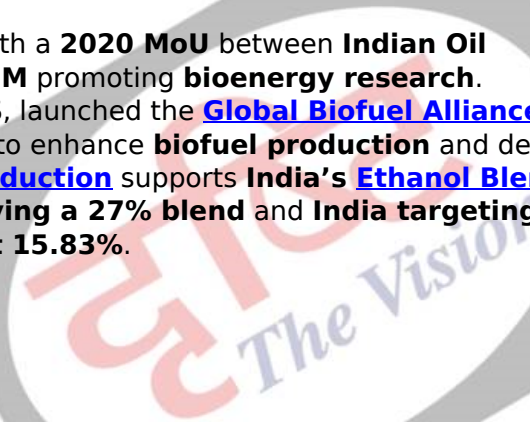
### ▪ India-Brazil Relations:

#### ◦ Institutional Engagements:

- India and Brazil share a robust and multifaceted relationship, marked by

collaborations at bilateral and multilateral levels through platforms such as [BRICS](#), [IBSA](#), [G4](#), [G20](#), [BASIC](#), [International Solar Alliance \(ISA\)](#), [WTO](#), [UNESCO](#), and [WIPO](#).

- Institutional mechanisms like the Strategic Dialogue led by [National Security Advisors \(NSA\)](#), [India-Brazil Business Leaders Forum](#), [Economic and Financial Dialogue](#), and [Joint Committee on Science & Technology](#) foster collaboration on trade, defence, science, and economic policy.
- **Trade and Investment:**
  - Bilateral trade between the **two nations reached USD 15.2 billion in 2022**.
  - **In 2021, India became the 5th largest trading partner of Brazil** with investments spanning sectors such as **automobiles, IT, mining, energy, and biofuels**.
  - The [Preferential Trade Agreement \(PTA\)](#) signed with [MERCOSUR \(Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay\)](#) in **2004** further strengthens economic ties.
- **Defence Cooperation:**
  - Defence cooperation is anchored by a **2003 agreement** and institutionalised through **Joint Defence Committee (JDC)** meetings.
  - **Strategic Dialogue** addresses defence and global issues, while a **2020 MoU on Cyber Security** with [CERT-In](#) highlights cyber cooperation.
- **Energy Security:**
  - Energy security is a vital area, with a **2020 MoU** between **Indian Oil Corporation** and **Brazil's CNPEM** promoting **bioenergy research**.
  - Both countries, along with the US, launched the [Global Biofuel Alliance \(GBA\)](#) during the **G20** summit in **2023** to enhance **biofuel production** and demand.
  - Brazil's expertise in [ethanol production](#) supports **India's Ethanol Blending Programme**, with **Brazil achieving a 27% blend** and **India targeting 20% by 2025-26**, building on its **current 15.83%**.





## What are the Key Areas of Engagement Between India and Guyana?

### ▪ Recent Diplomatic Engagement:

- The PM's recent visit to Guyana, **the first in 56 years**, shows India's renewed interest in the Caribbean and Latin America, **supported by historical ties** with the Indian diaspora and Guyana's growing oil sector.

### ▪ India-Guyana Relations:

#### ◦ Historical and Diplomatic Ties:

- India established its **diplomatic presence in Guyana** with the Commission of India in **1965**, upgraded to a full-fledged High Commission in **1968**.
- Guyana reciprocated by **reopening its mission in India in 2004** after economic constraints led to its closure in 1990.

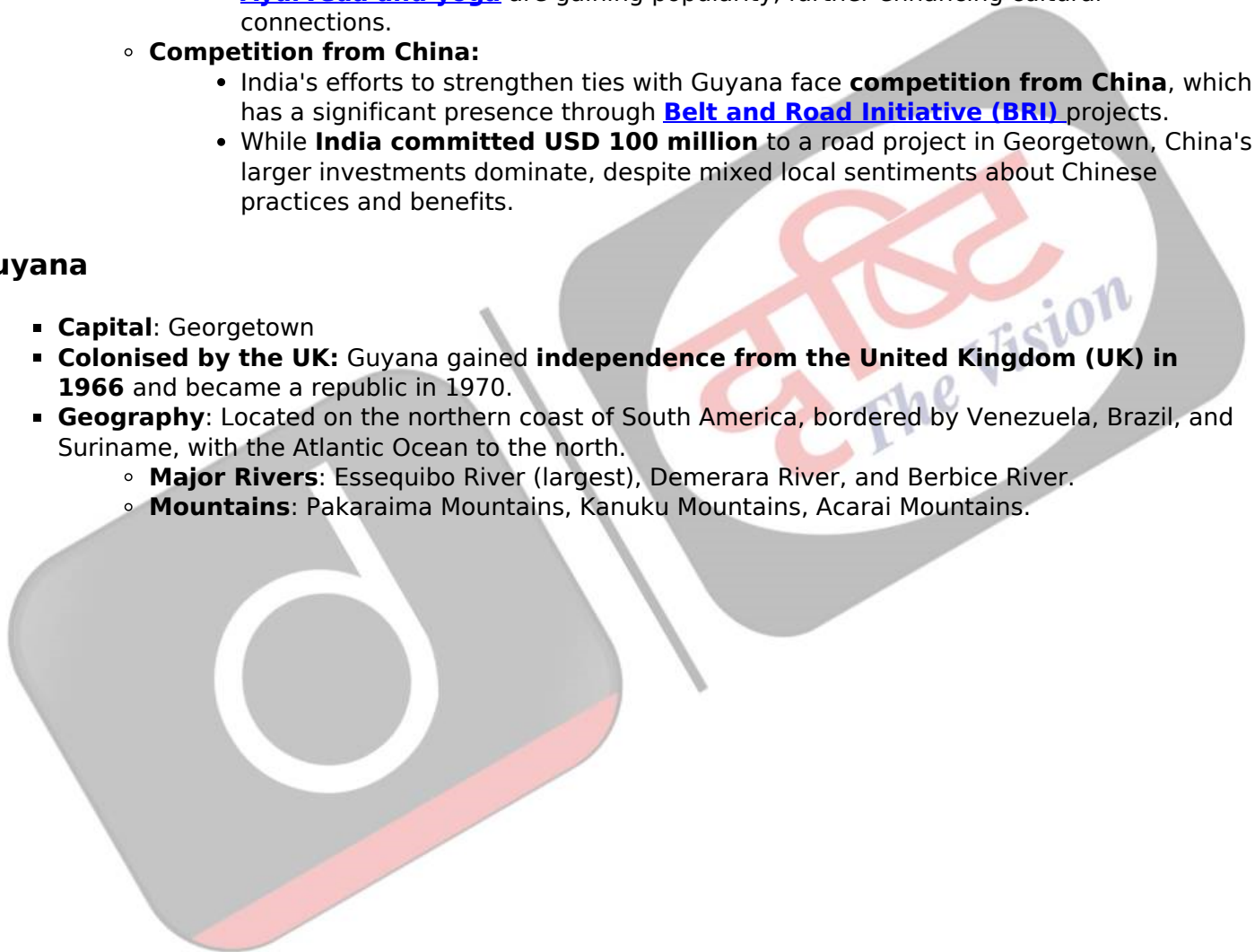
#### ◦ Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance:

- India provides developmental support through the **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** program, offering **scholarships in diverse fields**.
  - The ICCR scholarship program also facilitates academic exchange, with over 600 Guyanese scholars trained under these schemes.

- **Economic and Trade Relations:**
  - Indian companies are **exploring opportunities** in **biofuel, energy, minerals, and pharmaceuticals**.
  - The **Joint Business Council** between **FICCI** and the **Georgetown Chamber of Commerce** facilitates economic cooperation.
  - Guyana has engaged actively with India in **renewable energy projects**, particularly under the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. Bilateral collaboration extends to **solar energy, biofuels, and sustainable development** initiatives.
- **Cultural and People-to-People Ties:**
  - Guyana, with a population where approximately **43.5% are of Indian origin**, represents one of the **oldest Indian diasporas**, having migrated over 185 years ago.
  - Cricket serves as a unifying force, with Guyanese players participating in the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**.
  - **Ayurveda and yoga** are gaining popularity, further enhancing cultural connections.
- **Competition from China:**
  - India's efforts to strengthen ties with Guyana face **competition from China**, which has a significant presence through **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** projects.
  - While **India committed USD 100 million** to a road project in Georgetown, China's larger investments dominate, despite mixed local sentiments about Chinese practices and benefits.

## Guyana

- **Capital:** Georgetown
- **Colonised by the UK:** Guyana gained **independence from the United Kingdom (UK) in 1966** and became a republic in 1970.
- **Geography:** Located on the northern coast of South America, bordered by Venezuela, Brazil, and Suriname, with the Atlantic Ocean to the north.
  - **Major Rivers:** Essequibo River (largest), Demerara River, and Berbice River.
  - **Mountains:** Pakaraima Mountains, Kanuku Mountains, Acarai Mountains.





## PM Received Top National Awards from Guyana, Barbados and Dominica

- The PM of India received the **highest national honours** from **Guyana (*Order of Excellence*)**, **Barbados (*Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados*)** and **Dominica (*Dominica Award of Honour*)**.
  - PM was conferred with Dominica's highest National Award for his **statesmanship, support to Dominica** during the **Covid-19** pandemic, and commitment to **strengthening India-Dominica ties**.
- With these awards, PM international recognition tally now stands at 19.

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

Examine the key opportunities and challenges in strengthening India-Africa relations in the context of global strategic and economic shifts.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### **Prelims**

**Q. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20? (2020)**

(a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey

(b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand

(c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam

(d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

**Ans: (a)**

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**Mains**

Q. 'The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order.' Elaborate. (2019)

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