# India – Portugal

## Why in news?

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PM Narendra Modi will land in Lisbon for the first-ever bilateral visit of an Indian PM to Portugal. It will symbolically mark the beginning of a new era in Indo-Portuguese relations.

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## Why the visit?

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- PM's Lisbon detour is also driven by three strategic factors. These reflect a confident India, focused on reaching new shores **by engaging Europe, balancing China, and leveraging the diaspora.**
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- **Context of European outreach effort -** In order to balance Beijing's formidable Western offensive.
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- As one of Beijing's few strategic partners on the Atlantic, Portugal hosts one of the highest levels of Chinese per capita investments.
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- Beijing is now seeking to establish a similar framework (like **the 16+1 mechanism**), for the Mediterranean to link its continental connectivity plans to the Atlantic and Africa.
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- Modi's visit to Portugal thus marks **a symbolic response to China,** as President Xi Jinping has yet failed to make an appearance in Lisbon.
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- It also seeks greater **Indo-European engagement in Africa,** in cooperation with "like-minded" states.
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- The Portugal connection could also be laying the ground for a complementary Indo-Atlantic space that **reflects India's reorientation towards West.**
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- **Expanding presence in Africa and Latin America -** It could also seek to

leverage Lisbon’s influence and expertise in those regions.
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- The Portuguese-speaking world includes nine states on four continents, including Brazil, Mozambique and Timor-Leste.
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- This **“lusophone” sphere** offers significant scope for trilateral alignments, and fits with New Delhi’s emphasis on inclusive partnerships with small states and middle powers in niche sectors.
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- New Delhi is also considers joining **the CPLP,** the community of Portuguese-speaking nations, as an associate member.
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- **Diaspora in Portugal -** Where one of Europe’s largest communities of Indian origin has taken much pride in seeing Antonio Costa (his father was a Goan) elected as the West’s first leader of Indian-origin Minister.
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- India can leverage its historical connections and overseas communities as an asset to build bridges and increase influence abroad.
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**Source: The Indian Express**

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