

## India-Uruguay Bilateral Relations

### Political Relations

The Embassy of India in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is concurrently accredited to Uruguay. Diplomatic relations between India and Uruguay were established in 1960. Relations between India and Uruguay are cordial and friendly. Mr. Rubén Azar was appointed as India's Honorary Consul in 2009. Apart from the Embassy in New Delhi, Uruguay has an Honorary Consulate in Mumbai. The Embassy of Uruguay in India is also concurrently accredited to Sri Lanka.

2. Three rounds of Foreign Office Consultations have been held between the two countries. The last round was held in April 2014 in Montevideo. Then Secretary (West) led the Indian delegation to the Foreign Office Consultation.

### Visits.

3. Foreign Minister of Uruguay, Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa visited India on 8-9 October 2015 with a commercial delegation to participate in the India-LAC Conclave. He called upon the External Affairs Minister and also held discussions with Commerce Minister to promote bilateral trade, tourism and economic co-operation.

4. Shri Dinkar Khullar, then Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs visited Uruguay for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of Foreign Office Consultations and held bilateral meetings with Uruguay's Acting Foreign Minister Luis Porto in Montevideo on April 11, 2014.

5. In February 2013, during the visit of Union Minister of Steel Shri Beni Prasad Verma, which included a delegation from NMDC, a Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed by Mr. D R S Chaudhary, Secretary (Steel), and Mr. Roberto Kreimerman, Minister, Industry, Energy and Mining, Uruguay to explore and encourage investment opportunity in iron and steel sector and to facilitate exchange of technical know-how in iron ore and steel related raw materials.

6. In January 2012, Smt Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Uruguay. In February 2011, the Vice President of Uruguay Mr. Danilo Astori visited India. Other important visits are as below:

### Important Visits from Uruguay to India

1999	Dr. Hugo Fernandez Faingold, Vice President
2004	Mr. William Ehlers, Vice Foreign Minister
2010	Uruguayan Parliamentary Delegation
2015	Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Foreign Minister

### Important Visits from India to Uruguay

1968	Smt. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister
2002	Shri Digvijay Singh, MOS, MEA

2008  
2011

ShriAnand Sharma, MOS, MEA  
ShriJyotiradityaScindia, MOS (Commerce)

### **Agreements and MoUs between India and Uruguay**

7. The following agreements and MoUs have been signed by India and Uruguay:

<b><u>Sl.no</u></b>	<b><u>MOU/Agreement</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Signing</u></b>
<u>1.</u>	<u>Agreement on Exemption of Visa for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports</u>	<u>1994</u>
<u>2.</u>	<u>MOU on Foreign Office Consultations</u>	<u>1999</u>
<u>3.</u>	<u>Agreement on long-term visa for businessmen</u>	<u>1999</u>
<u>4.</u>	<u>Agreement between the Uruguayan Diplomatic Academy and the Foreign Service Institute of India</u>	<u>1999</u>
<u>5.</u>	<u>MOU establishing Joint Commission</u>	<u>January 2007</u>
<u>6.</u>	<u>Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA)</u>	February 2008
<u>7.</u>	<u>Agreement for cooperation in renewable energy</u>	2011
<u>8.</u>	<u>Agreement for the avoidance of Double Taxation</u>	September 2011

<u>9.</u>	<u>The Union Cabinet of India approved signing and ratifying an Agreement between India and Uruguay regarding Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.</u>	<u>January 2017</u>
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### **Technical Co-operation and Training.**

8. India extends ITEC scholarships to working professionals from Uruguay every year. Uruguayan diplomats attend training courses at the Foreign Service Institute of India from time to time. In 2015-16, out of 8 ITEC slots allotted to Uruguay, 3 were utilized.

### **Support in Multilateral Fora.**

9. India and Uruguay support each other on major international issues as well as India's candidature to various UN and multilateral bodies.

### **Commercial Relations**

#### **Bilateral Trade(US \$ million).**

10. Bilateral trade over the last 6 years is as follows:

Year	India's Exports	Growth	India's Imports	Growth	Total Trade	Growth
2010	59	-	14	-	73	-
2011	86	45%	21	-49%	107	46%
2012	94	9%	18	-1%	112	4%
2013	111	17%	17	-4%	128	14%
2014	140	27%	17	-1%	157	23%
2015	204.3	45%	14.1	-17%	218.4	28.1%
2016	115	-44%	17	20%	132	-39%

(Source: MERCOSURonline)

#### **India's Exports to Uruguay**

11. Chemicals, garments, vehicles, sound and image devices, pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, synthetic yarn, equipment and machinery.

#### **India's Imports from Uruguay**

12. Wool, leather and timber

#### **Investments and Joint Ventures**

13. Uruguay is one of the more stable and transparent markets in Latin America with an investor friendly policy environment. Uruguay, under its pro-tempore

Presidency of Mercosur from January – June 2016, worked to fast track India – Mercosur Preferential Trade Agreement.

**14. TCS** has established a Global Delivery Centre in Montevideo employing 1500 local staff besides approximately 250 Indians. This was the first IT Centre opened by TCS in Latin America in 2002. Carlos Ott, a famous architect of Uruguay designed the 250 million dollar IT park of TCS in Chennai, the largest software development center in the world, employing 24,000 professionals. This was inaugurated by the Uruguayan Vice President in February 2011. Tata Motors has also started operations in May 2015. Indian IT Company Geodesic Ltd acquired a Uruguayan software company in Montevideo in May 2009. The Uruguayan company has a staff of 40 persons and specializes in Instant Messaging solutions and applications for mobile phones and companies. Arcelor Mittal has acquired (Dec 2007) a Uruguayan stainless steel tube producer CINTER S.A., with sales of US \$ 47 million employing about 200 people. Olam, a NRI company based out of Singapore has acquired a Dairy farm in Uruguay for over US\$ 150 million dollars. Olam has also started rice farming in Uruguay. Other Indian companies have shown interest in investment in pharma and agri-business sectors.

**15.** A number of Indian companies, including Reliance and Sakti pumps, use the bonded warehouse facilities of a Uruguayan company, GrupoRas, which is keen to provide the warehouse facility and extend marketing support to other Indian companies. The Central Warehousing Corporation of India had operations in Uruguay, which were eventually wound up.

### **Business Delegations**

**16.** The Embassy organized business seminars in Uruguay in June 2009 and in May 2011. The Vice President of Uruguay Danilo Astori addressed the latter. A Buyer Seller Meet for the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) comprising 14 companies was organized in Uruguay in August 2013. In May 2013, a 12 member Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation visited Uruguay and held meetings with local companies. A six member CII delegation visited Montevideo in September 2012 to explore opportunities for Indian business and investment in Uruguay. A Buyer – Seller meetings were organized for the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) in March 2014 and March 2016. Indian companies in the delegation established contact with around 50 importers of apparels and home furnishings in Uruguay.

### **Cultural Relations**

**17.** Yoga and meditation are popular in Uruguay. There are several hundred followers of Sai Baba, Hare Krishna and other spiritual groups. The third International Day of Yoga was celebrated on ..... An Odissi performance attended by large numbers of Indians as well as Uruguayans was organized in Montevideo in March 2015. A mini-Festival of India was organized in Montevideo in 2009. Diego Forlan, the most famous football player of Uruguay visited Kolkata for a TV show in July 2010. In February 2011, the Uruguayan postal department issued a stamp to commemorate the 150 birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

## **Indian Community**

18. There are approximately 530 Indians living in Uruguay, out of which roughly 500 are NRIs, most of whom are employees of TCS and reside in Montevideo. There are also some Indians from the Gujarati and Sindhi communities who are mainly importers and run retail outlets of Indian textiles and handicrafts.

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**Useful Resources:**

**[Mission's Webpage](#)**

**[India in Argentina, Mission's Facebook Page](#)**

**[Mission's Youtube Channel](#)**

**[Mission's Twitter Page](#)**

**[Directory of Yoga Institutions and Schools in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay](#)**

**[A Guide to Do Business with Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay](#)**