

## India - Paraguay Relations

### Political

The bilateral relations between India and Paraguay were established in 1950. The relations can be described as warm and friendly. The Indian Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is concurrently accredited to Paraguay. Paraguay opened its resident Mission in India in March 2006.

### Recent Visits

#### Paraguay to India

2002	Mr. Jose Antonio Moreno Ruffinelli, Foreign Minister
2004	Mrs. Leila Rachid, Foreign Minister
2005	Mrs. Leila Rachid, Foreign Minister
2010 (April)	Parliamentary delegation

#### India to Paraguay

2002	Shri Digvijay Singh, MOS, MEA
2003	Shri Satyabrata Mookherjee, MOS (C&I)
2012 (January)	Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker Lok Sabha

### Parliamentary contacts

The first ever- Parliamentary delegation from Paraguay visited India from 10-14 April 2010. The 8 member delegation was led by Mr. Miguel Carrizosa, President of the Senate (Upper House). The delegation met Hon'ble Speaker and Indian Parliamentarians and called on MOS (PK). Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar led a parliamentary delegation to Paraguay from 15-17 January 2012.

### Foreign Office Consultations

An MOU on Foreign Office Consultations was signed in 2002. The first bilateral Foreign Office Consultation between India and Paraguay was held in Asuncion on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2010. Shri Vivek Katju, Secretary (West) co-chaired the talks along with Mr. Jorge Lara Castro Vice-Foreign Minister of Paraguay. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations.

### Bilateral Agreements

- Agreement between India and Paraguay on Exemption of Visa for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports – 1996.
- Agreement on holding Foreign Office Consultations - 2002

### Bilateral Trade

(US\$ in million)

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
India's exports	16.83	20.90	24.6	36	59	50.6	65	78
India's imports	3.47	4.26	2.4	5	38	56.3	72	74

### India's exports to Paraguay:

Chemicals, pharmaceuticals, tractors, two wheelers, Mahindra vehicles and textiles.

**India's imports from Paraguay:**

Soya oil (94% of imports) sunflower oil, leather and wood. Indian imports of soya and sunflower oil are expected to increase in the coming years, given the growing shortage of edible oil in India.

**Business**

TATA vehicles (light trucks, pick-ups, TATA Sierra vans) have been introduced in the Paraguayan market by a local company.

Mahindra and the Indian two-wheeler company, HERO Motors have appointed distributors in Paraguay.

A consortium of Indian edible oil companies is exploring the possibility of acquisition of farm land in Paraguay to grow oilseeds and food crops.

An Indian IT Company, Flatworld Solutions, in collaboration with a local company, runs a call centre employing around 1300 Paraguayans.

**Technical Cooperation**

India gives 3 ITEC scholarships to Paraguayan candidates every year. Paraguayan diplomats attend the PCFD Course run by the Foreign Service Institute from time to time.

**Cultural**

The First ever " Festival of India" in Paraguay was organised by the Indian Embassy in Argentina, concurrently accredited to Paraguay from 11-15 November 2009 in two cities: Ciudad del Este and Asuncion. The Festival which was inaugurated by the Tourism minister of Paraguay Ms Rosana Cramer Campos. The Third Festival of India in Asuncion was held from 11-12 Nov 2010. Oddisi and Folk Dance by Goan Dance group performed in Paraguay.

**Indian community**

About 300 Indians live in Ciudad del Este, a city on the border with Brazil. These Indians are in trading, wholesale and retail business. Most of them are of Sindhi and Gujarati origin.

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