

BILATERAL BRIEF ON INDIA-PARAGUAY

Political Relations

Diplomatic relations between India and Paraguay were established in 1961. The Embassy of India in Asuncion started its operations on 27 January 2022. Before the opening of the resident Mission in Asuncion, Embassy of India in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was concurrently accredited to Paraguay and had an Honorary Consul General in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay. The Republic of Paraguay opened its Embassy in India in March 2006 and now has Honorary Consulates in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

Pahalgam Terrorist Attack

Post Pahalgam terrorist attack on 22 April 2025, Paraguayan MoFA issued a tweet expressing its Government's 'firm condemnation of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, extended sincere condolences and expressed solidarity with the people and government of India'.

Bilateral Interactions

2. External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India, Dr S. Jaishankar, paid an official visit to Paraguay from 21 to 22 August 2022 to inaugurate the newly opened Indian Embassy in Asuncion. EAM and Foreign Minister (FM) of Paraguay, H.E. Amb Julio Cesar Arriola, jointly inaugurated the Embassy of India in Asuncion. EAM also met H.E. Mr. Mario Abdo Benitez, President of Paraguay.
3. Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, paid an official visit to Paraguay from 5-7 March 2019. The Vice President was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including the Minister of State for Tourism, Shri K.J. Alphons; Member of Parliament, Shri R. K. Kashyap and senior Government officials.
4. The then President of Paraguay, Mr. Fernando Lugo, visited India in May 2012, accompanied by Paraguayan Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture & Animal Husbandry and Commerce, besides senior officials.
5. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar held telephonic conversations with his Paraguayan counterparts during the COVID-19 pandemic, first with FM Antonio Rivas Palacios on 30 April 2020, when India offered medicines and protective gear, formally handed over in a virtual ceremony on 25 August; and later with FM Euclides Acevedo Candia on 11 March 2021, after which India gifted 200,000 doses of Covaxin in two batches, followed by a commercial delivery of 400,000 doses in November 2021.
7. EAM met the then-Paraguayan FM on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA on 26 September 2019 and on the sidelines of the UNGA 2022 in New York.
8. Ministerial-level visits between the two countries have taken place from time to time. Paraguayan Minister of Tourism, Ms Sofia Montiel de Afara, visited India to attend the World Tourism Day celebrations on 30 September 2019 and met the Vice President of India and Minister of Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

9. A Paraguayan Parliamentary Delegation visited India in 2010, and an Indian Parliamentary Delegation visited Paraguay in 2012.

10. Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between the two countries have been institutionalized by signing an MOU in 2002. The first round of Foreign Office Consultations was held in Asuncion in October 2010, the second in New Delhi in August 2015, and the third in December 2021 in Asuncion.

11. Paraguayan Vice Minister of Armed Forces, H.E. General (R) Angel Javier Cristaldo Navarro, led a four-person delegation to participate in Aero-India 2023 from 13-18 February 2023. Earlier, Vice-Minister of Defence of Paraguay, Colonel Dr Gladys Arsenia Ruiz Laconich, visited India in October 2022 to participate in DefExpo 2022.

12. Mrs. Meenakshi Lekhi, MOS visited Paraguay from 2-4 November, 2023 and met the Vice FM, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Minister of Culture and Vice Minister of Economic Relations and Integration in the MFA.

Development Partnership

Under **India-UNDP Projects**, following projects have been taken up in Paraguay:

- I. A project under India-UN Fund “Prevention of teenage pregnancy and violence/sexual abuse in girls and adolescents from an inter-sectoral approach” concluded successfully in September 2022 through the United Nations Population Fund with support of US\$ 1 million from Government of India.
- II. A project under India-UN Fund “Maternal and Child healthcare” with US\$ 1.49 million support from India to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) through India-UNDP, is under implementation in the departments of Alto Paraguay, Boqueron and Presidente Hayes.

13. Paraguay officially became the 100th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on 26th June 2024. Ambassador of Paraguay to India, H.E. Mr. Fleming Raul Duarte, handed over the Instrument of Ratification during a meeting with Shri Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary (ED & MER) and Head of Repository, in New Delhi.

14. Paraguay became a Full Founding Member of the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) on 22nd January 2025. Ambassador of Paraguay to India Fleming Raúl Duarte Ramos signed the document, along with the organization's acting director general, Panjak Jain, of India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Economic and Commercial Relations

Bilateral Trade

15. For the fiscal year 2024–25 the India–Paraguay bilateral trade stood at approximately USD 168.01 million (Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India). India’s exports to Paraguay were valued at USD 142.99 million, while Paraguay’s exports to India reached USD 25.02 million. (data available till December 2025). The main export items of Paraguay to India are soya oil and

related products, iron and steel, aluminium, and animal products. Main export items from India to Paraguay include motor vehicles, agrochemicals, auto parts and pharmaceutical products.

Investments and Joint Ventures

16. Several Indian companies have established a presence in Paraguay across diverse sectors. UPL sells agrochemicals, while Praj Industries has set up two ethanol plants in Paraguari and Canindeyu. The Aditya Birla Group operates a trade office under Swiss Singapore Overseas Limited. Tata and Mahindra vehicles have made a mark in the pick-up segment, and Royal Enfield and Bajaj motorcycles have distributorships in the country. Vemarcop, owned by a PIO, is the first steelmaker in Paraguay to produce recycled steel. Crompton Greaves has been supplying electrical equipment to the national utility ANDE and Vemarcop through local partners for over a decade. Additionally, Carmenta, a joint venture between Grupo Barr and Alok Masterbatches, has been producing masterbatches since 2011.

17. Paraguay has joined the ISA as its 100th member. India and Paraguay are working together in establishing 500 MW solar power parks by NTPC along with ISA and Paraguayan counterpart ANDE (National Electricity Administration of Paraguay) (NTPC would only assist in preparing the tender documents). Preliminary studies by NTPC, ANDE and ISA are underway.

Cultural Relations

18. There is a significant following of Indian arts, culture and heritage among Paraguayans. Indian Food Festivals and all editions of the International Yoga Day have seen enthusiastic participation from Paraguayans.

19. As part of the celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, commemorative stamps were launched by Vice President Shri Venkaiah Naidu and his counterpart Mr Hugo Velázquez in Asuncion in March 2019.

20. IDY 2024 was celebrated in six cities in Paraguay (Asuncion, Ciudad del Este, Encarnacion, Salto del Guaira, San Bernadino and Concepcion).

Technical and Development Cooperation

21. Under the ITEC program India offered 50 scholarship slots to Paraguay in 2024

22. Seven (07) Paraguayans participated in the “Gen-Next Democracy Programme” organized by ICCR in India from 08-17 August, 2022.

23. An MoU was signed between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), New Delhi and Foreign Service Institute of Paraguay in March 2019. A total Ten (10) diplomats from Paraguay have attended past editions of the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats at the SSIFS. Participants from Paraguay have also attended special courses for Global South Young Diplomats and Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship programmes.

24. Dean of Diplomatic and Consular Academy “Carlos Antonio Lopez” of Paraguay, Ambassador Juan Andres Cardozo, visited India to participate in the 48th International Forum for Diplomatic Training (IFDT) in November 2022, organized by Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi. One

(01) diplomat from Paraguay attended the 1st Global South Young Diplomat Forum, 20 Nov-01 Dec 2023 organized SSIFS.

25. ICCR annulay offers one slot under Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme to Paraguay.

Indian Community

26. Around 600 Indians live in Paraguay, mainly in Ciudad del Este, a city in the southeast of Paraguay on the border with Brazil and Argentina. Approximately 400 are NRIs, and the remaining are PIOs involved in trading, wholesale and retail business.

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