

India - Uruguay Relations

Political Relations

The Embassy of India in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is concurrently accredited to Uruguay. Mr. Rubén Azar has been appointed as India's Honorary Consul. Relations between India and Uruguay are cordial and friendly. There are no outstanding disputes between India and Uruguay.

Three rounds of Foreign Office Consultations have been held between the two countries. The last round was held in April 2014. Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West) led the delegation.

Visits:

Foreign Minister of Uruguay, Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa visited India on October 8 and 9, 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.

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

In February 2013, during the visit of Union Minister of Steel Shri Beni Prasad Verma and 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.

During January 2012, Smt Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Uruguay. During 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	PM Smt. Indira Gandhi
2002	Shri Digvijay Singh, MOS, MEA
2008	Shri Anand Sharma, MOS, MEA
2011	Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, MOS (Commerce)

Agreements and MoUs between India and Uruguay:

The agreements and MoUs between India and Uruguay are as follows:

1. Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation - September 2011

2. Agreement for cooperation in renewable energy 2011
3. MOU establishing Joint Commission – January 2007
4. MOU on Foreign Office Consultations- 1999
5. BIPPA (February 2008)
6. Agreement between the Uruguayan Diplomatic Academy and the Foreign Service Institute of India- 1999
7. Agreement on long-term visa for businessmen- 1999
8. Agreement on Exemption of Visa for holders of Diplomatic and Official passports- 1994

Technical Co-operation and Training:

India gives ITEC scholarships to working professionals from Uruguay every year and is willing to increase the number of slots. Uruguayan diplomats attend training courses in the Foreign Service Institute of India from time to time.

Support in Multilateral Fora:

India and Uruguay have always supported each other on major international issues as well as India's candidature to various UN and multilateral bodies. Uruguay recently supported India's candidature for elections to the UN Human Rights Council for the term 2015-17.

Commercial Relations

Bilateral Trade(US \$ million):

Bilateral trade for 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%

(Source: MERCOSURonline)

India's Exports to Uruguay:

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

India's Imports from Uruguay:

Wool, leather and timber

Investments and Joint Ventures:

Uruguay is one of the more stable and transparent markets in Latin America with an investor friendly policy environment.

TCS has established a Global Delivery Centre in Montevideo employing 800 local staff besides about 60 Indians. This was the first IT Centre opened by TCS in

Latin America in 2002. Tata Motors has also started its operations recently 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. Zamin Resources, an NRI company promoted by Mr. Pramod Agarwal has entered into an iron ore mining project. The total cost of the project is over a billion dollars. The company has already spent several million dollars in the preparatory stage and has an office in Montevideo. 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. A consortium of Indian vegetable oil companies is exploring opportunities for investment in agribusiness in Uruguay. Olam, a NRI company based out of Singapore has acquired a Dairy farm in Uruguay for over 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.

A number of Indian companies, including Reliance and Sakti pumps, use the bonded warehouse facilities of 'Grupo Ras', which is keen to provide the facility to other Indian companies as well as marketing support. Carlos Ott, the famous architect of Uruguay worked for the 250 million dollar IT park of TCS in Chennai, the largest software development center in the world, employing 24000 professionals. This was inaugurated by the Uruguayan Vice President in February 2011.

Business Delegations:

The Embassy organized business seminars in Uruguay in June 2009 and in May 2011. The Vice President Danilo Astori addressed the latter. A number of Indian business delegations visit Uruguay from time to time. A Buyer Seller Meet of Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) Delegation consisting of 14 companies visited Uruguay in August 2013. In May 2013, Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry delegation visited Uruguay in which 12 delegates from the Chamber participated. In Sep 2012, a CII delegation visited Uruguay. A six member CII delegation visited Montevideo during September 2012 to explore opportunities for Indian business and investment in Uruguay. Most recently, in March 2014, a delegation from Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) visited Montevideo for a Buyer Seller Meet.

Cultural Relations

Yoga and meditation are popular in Uruguay. There are several hundred followers of Sai Baba, Hare Krishna and other spiritual groups. The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21 June 2015 in collaboration with ten Yoga Schools and Tata Motors. An Odissi performance attended in high numbers by Indians as well as Uruguayans alike was also organized in Montevideo in March, 2015. A mini-Festival of India was organized in Montevideo in 2009 by the Embassy of India, Buenos Aires. Diego Forlan, the most famous football player of Uruguay visited Kolkata for a TV show in July 2010. The Uruguayan postal department issued a stamp in February 2011 to commemorate the 150 birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Indian Community

There are about 83 Indians with permanent resident status in Uruguay while 733 Indians with long term visa, most of who 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.

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](#)

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