

BRIEF ON 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. Apart from the Embassy in New Delhi, Uruguay has an Honorary Consulate in Mumbai.

Bilateral Interactions

2. The then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi visited Uruguay in 1968. Ministerial level visits between the two countries have taken place from time to time. Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Minister of Women and Child Development visited Uruguay and called on the Vice President Ms. Lucia Topolansky on 16 November 2017.

3. Vice President of Uruguay Dr. Hugo Fernandez Faingold visited India in 1999. Another visit of the Vice President of Uruguay Mr. Danilo Angel Astori Saragosa visited took place in February 2011. Foreign Minister Mr. Rodolfo Nin Novoa visited India in October 2015 with a commercial delegation to participate in the India-LAC Conclave and also met External Affairs Minister and Commerce & Industry Minister.

4. An Uruguayan Parliamentary Delegation visited India in 2010 and an Indian Parliamentary Delegation visited Uruguay in 2012.

5. Foreign Office Consultations have been institutionalized between the two countries through an Agreement signed in 1999. The last round of FOCs was held in April 2014 in Montevideo.

Economic and Commercial Relations

6. For the fiscal year 2018-19, India's exports to Uruguay were valued at USD 181 million, while Uruguay's exports to India were valued at USD 43 million. Main export items of Uruguay to India are wool, ferrous waste, tanned hides and lead waste. Main export items from India to Uruguay include vehicles, pre-fabricated structures, chemicals and machinery.

7. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has established a software development centre and regional training centre in [Montevideo](#) that has over 1600 employees including 475 Indians. This was the first IT Centre opened by TCS in Latin America.

8. Uruguay is a member of MERCOSUR. An India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) was concluded 25 January 2004 and became operational in June 2009. Preferential duty (10-20 % in most cases) is given to certain Indian Products entering MERCOSUR countries and vice versa.

Cultural Relations

9. Yoga and meditation are popular in Uruguay. There are several hundred followers of Sai Baba, ISKCON, Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris and other Indian yoga and spiritual groups. All editions to date of the International Yoga Day in the country have seen enthusiastic participation by Uruguayans in large numbers. A seven-member Kuttiyattam troupe led by Mr. Sooraj Nambiar of SNA Kuttiyattam Kendra gave performances in Uruguay in March 2018. An Odissi performance was organized in Montevideo in March 2015. A mini-Festival of India was organized in Montevideo in 2009. In February 2011, the Uruguayan postal department issued a stamp to commemorate the 150 birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

10. As part of Gandhi@150 celebrations, a commemorative stamp and a philatelic sheet on Mahatma Gandhi was launched in Montevideo on 27 November 2019 at the premises of the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry. The Embassy of India in Buenos Aires organized an event at the premises of TCS Montevideo to commemorate the Constitution Day on 26 November 2019 with members of the Indian diaspora in Uruguay.

Technical and Development Co-operation

11. India offers 5 ITEC scholarships to Uruguay every year. Four (4) diplomats from Uruguay have attended various editions of the Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute, New Delhi. There is a proposal to set up an India-Uruguay Center for Excellence in Information Technology in Montevideo.

Indian Community

12. There are approximately 600 Indians living in Uruguay, out of which roughly 570 are NRIs, most of whom are employees of TCS and reside in Montevideo.

Useful links

Embassy's website: www.indembarg.gov.in
Facebook: www.facebook.com/IndiaInArgentina
Twitter: www.twitter.com/Indembarg
Instagram: www.instagram/indembarg

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