

INDIA

REPORT



Uruguay XXI
INVESTMENT, EXPORT AND COUNTRY
BRAND PROMOTION AGENCY

July 2025

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INDIA

GENERAL INFORMATION

President	Draupadi Murmu
Prime Minister	Narendra Modi
Type of Government	Federal Parliamentary Republic
Capital	New Delhi
Administrative Division	Twenty-eight states and eight union territories
Geographical Location	South Asia, borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. Bordered by the Indian Ocean to the south.
Official Language	Hindi and English (There are twenty-two officially recognized languages)
Climate	Varies from tropical monsoon in the south to temperate in the north

ECONOMY

Official Currency	Rupee
GDP	US\$ 3,910 billion (2024)
Growth Rate (%)	6.5% (2024)
GDP Composition	Agriculture: 16%, Industry: 25%, Services: 50% (2023)
Employment by Sector	Services 73.3%, Industry 23.7%, Agriculture 3% (2024)
Unemployment Rate	4.2% (2024)

POPULATION

Population	1.450 billion (2024)
Urban Population	36% (2023)
Ethnic Distribution	Indo-Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%, and others 3% (2024)
Life Expectancy	68.2 years (2024)
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.644 (2022)
Gini Index	0.255 (2022, consumption index)
Religion	Hindus 79.8%, Muslims 14.2%, Christians 2.3%, Sikhs 1.7%

Source: Uruguay XXI based on CIA – The World Factbook, World Bank, United Nations, and International Monetary Fund.

The Republic of India, a vast peninsula located on the Indian Ocean, extends across the Indian subcontinent in South Asia, bounded by the Himalayas to the north. It shares land borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, and has an extensive coastline facing the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. With a surface area of over three million square kilometers (the seventh largest in the world), India displays a wide geographic diversity

ranging from high mountain ranges and fertile river plains to desert regions and tropical areas. Its population, the second largest in the world— is concentrated in densely populated urban areas such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata, as well as in the agricultural valleys of the Ganges and other highly productive rural regions.

Politically, India is a federal parliamentary republic, organized into twenty-eight states and eight union territories. Its Constitution, adopted in 1950, establishes a multiparty democracy with a clear separation of powers. The head of state is the president, elected indirectly, while the head of government is the prime minister, who leads the majority party in the Lok Sabha (House of the People). The current president, Droupadi Murmu, holds a ceremonial role, while the head of government is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who took office in 2014 and was re-elected in 2019. The Indian federal system guarantees autonomy to the states, resulting in a very dynamic and complex internal political landscape.

Economically, India has established itself as one of the leading emerging economies of the 21st century, with high growth rates driven by the expansion of the services sector, industry, technological development, and a vast domestic market. In an uncertain and often tense global context, India remains a major economy and the fastest growing in the world, as well as the fifth largest in absolute terms, with an 8.2% growth rate in fiscal year 2023/2024.

During Modi's tenure, key reforms have been implemented, such as the unification of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the promotion of economic digitalization, and programs like *Make in India* and *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-Reliant India) aimed at boosting manufacturing and attracting foreign investment. However, structural challenges remain, including inequality, youth unemployment, and informal labor. In recent years, the government has focused on sustainability, energy transition, and infrastructure investment as pillars of future growth.

The structure of the Gross Domestic Product is composed as follows:

Primary sector (16%): This sector holds significant importance in the Indian economy due to the country's vast agricultural land and the large share of its population engaged in it. About 42% of the labor force is employed in this sector, the highest proportion in the country. India ranks as the fourth-largest agricultural power globally in terms of production value, despite having low productivity levels in recent years. Its main crops include wheat, rice, maize, millet, sugarcane, tea, cotton, and legumes such as chickpeas, along with a prominent production of tropical fruits like mango, banana, papaya, and guava. India's livestock herd is also notably large, and although not all animals are used for meat production, the country is an important

producer and exporter of beef. Additionally, India ranks among the top countries in terms of fish production. The primary sector is also notable for its spice industry, particularly in the production of ginger, chili, and pepper. In terms of Gross Value Added (GVA), cereals together with fruits and vegetables accounted for about 55% of total crop output during the 2022–2023 period.

Secondary sector (25%): Employing around a quarter of the workforce, this sector has played a key role in India's development in recent years. It is primarily led by the manufacturing industry, which alone accounts for 13% of the country's total GDP, followed by construction, mining, and extractive industries. Industrialization efforts have been focused on sectors such as automotive, textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, metallurgy, and electronics. The automotive industry holds a strategic position, contributing 7.1% of total GDP and 49% of the manufacturing GDP. India is currently the fourth-largest vehicle producer in the world and aims to establish itself as a key player in the global value chain. The energy sector is also significant, with coal remaining the main source of power generation, making India the second-largest coal producer in the world. As a result, manufacturing grew by 9.9% in 2023–2024, and the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reached its highest level in 14 months in June 2025.

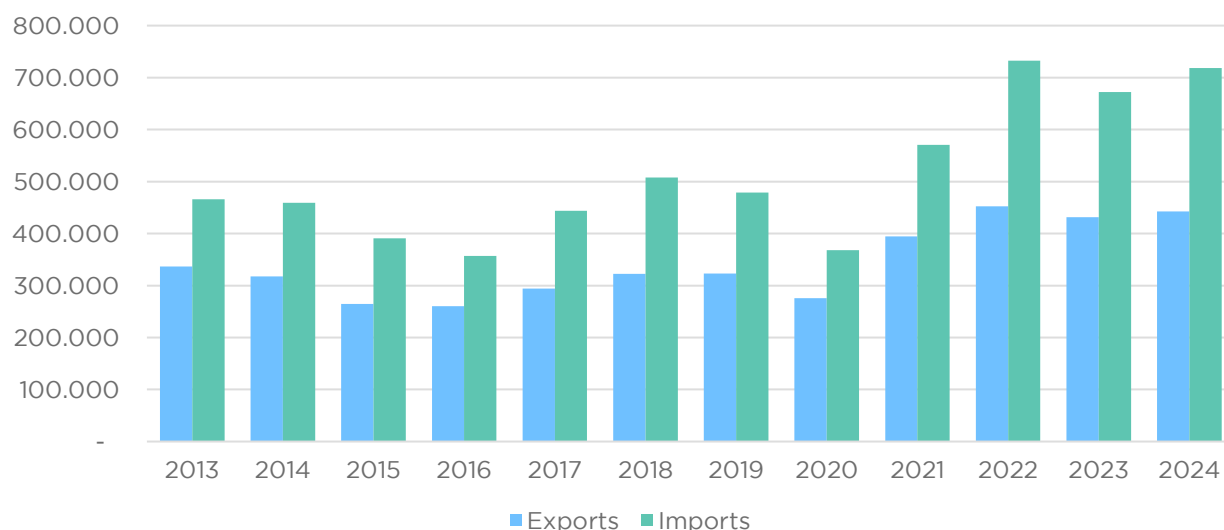
Services sector (50%): The services sector is the most dynamic and largest contributor to India's economy, accounting for 49.6% of GDP, though it employs only 31% of the active population. This growth has been driven primarily by the development of information technology and IT-enabled services (ITES), positioning India as a global technology hub. Cities like Bengaluru (Bangalore) and Hyderabad have become key centers of the sector, attracting foreign investment and multinational companies. The country has leveraged its large, educated, English-speaking population to become one of the world's leading exporters of IT services, business process outsourcing, and software development.

During the first half of fiscal year 2024–2025, the sector expanded by 7.1%, led by activities such as telecommunications, software, financial services, healthcare, education, tourism, and logistics. India hosts 45% of the world's Global Capability Centers (GCCs), reinforcing its strategic role in the international services market. Moreover, tourism made a notable contribution to the sector, with ninety-six million visitors in 2023 generating approximately US\$33 billion in revenue, equivalent to 5% of national GDP.

1. GOODS TRADE

India is a key player in international trade, with sustained growth in recent years. After a decline in 2020, the country reached a historic record in both exports and imports in 2022. This performance reflects a deeper integration of its economy into global trade, driven by strong domestic demand and a well-defined trade structure.

Chart 1
Trade in Goods India - World
 (Million US\$)



Source: Uruguay XXI based on UNCTAD.

1.1 EXPORT

In 2024, India's exports totaled **US\$ 442.7 billion**. The **United States** remained the top destination for Indian exports, with a total of **US\$ 80.7 billion**, accounting for **18%** of total exports and showing **year-on-year growth of 6.8%**. Other major destinations included the **United Arab Emirates (US\$ 37.7 billion, +14.5%)**, the **Netherlands (US\$ 24.8 billion, +7.5%)**, **Singapore (US\$ 15.8 billion, +32%)**, and **China (US\$ 15.1 billion)**, which registered a **6.7% decline** compared to the previous year.

In **Latin America**, the main markets for Indian goods were **Brazil**, with a total of **US\$ 6.5 billion**, followed closely by **Mexico** with a similar figure. Latin America's total purchases from India amounted to **US\$ 14.8 billion**, representing only **3.3%** of India's total exports.

Table 1
Main Export Destinations of India
 Year 2024 (Million US\$)

DESTINATION	AMOUNT	SHARE	VAR% 23-24
TOTAL	442,705	100%	2.62%
United States	80,774	18%	6.77%
United Arab Emirates	37,792	9%	14.49%
Netherlands	24,835	6%	7.47%
Singapore	15,894	4%	32.06%
China	15,141	3%	-6.72%

Source: Uruguay XXI based on data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India.

Five major categories stand out among India's exported products. Mineral fuels and oils — primarily destined for the Netherlands — ranked highest in export value, totaling US\$ 75.850 billion, despite a 15.1% contraction. In contrast, machinery and electrical equipment exports grew by 24.3%, while reactors and industrial machinery increased by 11%. Precious stones and jewelry also remained significant, although they saw a 10.4% decline. Meanwhile, pharmaceutical products, particularly those exported to China, grew by 9.7%.

These figures reflect a versatile and evolving export structure, with high value-added industrial sectors playing an increasingly significant role in India's foreign trade.

Table 2
Main Export Products of India
 Year 2024 (Million US\$)

NCM	PRODUCT	AMOUNT	SHARE	VAR. % 23-24
27	Mineral fuels and oils	75,850	17%	-15.10%
85	Machinery and electrical equipment	40,169	9%	24.30%
84	Reactors, boilers, and industrial machinery	32,525	7%	10.99%
71	Precious stones, metals, and jewelry	29,930	7%	-10.44%
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,367	5%	9.72%

Source: Uruguay XXI based on data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India.

1.2 IMPORT

In 2024, India imported goods totaling US\$ 718 billion, representing a 6.6% increase compared to the previous period. China remained the main country of origin for imports, with US\$ 109 billion (15.2% of the total), showing year-on-year growth of 9.8%. It was followed by Russia

with US\$ 65 billion (9.2%, +8.5%), due to gas imports under Chapter 27. The United Arab Emirates ranked third with US\$ 61 billion (8.5%, +34.1%), followed by the United States with US\$ 44 billion (6.2%, no change), and Saudi Arabia with US\$ 31 billion.

These figures reflect a significant concentration of trade among a small group of strategic partners, particularly Asian and energy-related, with the top five countries accounting for 43% of India's total imports.

Latin America's share, based on data from India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, amounted to US\$ 23 billion in 2024, reflecting a 19.5% increase compared to the previous period. The region's share of India's imports represented 5.4% of the total directed to the Middle East.

Table 3
Main Sources of India's Imports
 Year 2024 (Million US\$)

ORIGIN	AMOUNT	SHARE	VAR. % 23-24
World	718,163	100%	6.6%
China	109,359	15.2%	9.8%
Russia	65,727	9.2%	8.5%
United Arab Emirates	61,015	8.5%	34.1%
United States	44,421	6.2%	0.0%
Saudi Arabia	30,771	4.3%	-8.5%

Source: Uruguay XXI based on data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India.

Regarding the distribution of products, the main categories imported by India were fuels and oils, totaling US\$ 225.391 billion. Within this section, the main imports were fuels, crude oil, and gas (NCM 2709, 2701, and 2711, respectively). These were followed by precious stones and metals (US\$ 90.503 billion, +24.7%), driven by strong demand for gold and jewelry. Electronics and their components also held a prominent position (US\$ 85.216 billion, +12.1%), along with industrial machinery (US\$ 61.845 billion, +8.4%). On the other hand, organic chemicals saw a 4.2% decline, totaling US\$ 26.105 billion.

This pattern reflects an import structure oriented both toward meeting energy needs and supporting high value-added industrial sectors.

Table 4
Main Products Imported by India
 Year 2024 (Million US\$)

NCM	PRODUCT	AMOUNT	SHARE	VAR. 23-24
27	Mineral fuels and oils	225,391	31.4%	2.2%
71	Precious stones and metals	90,503	12.6%	24.7%
85	Electronics and components	85,216	11.9%	12.1%
84	Industrial machinery	61,845	8.6%	8.4%
29	Organic chemicals	26,105	3.6%	-4.2%

Source: Uruguay XXI based on data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India.

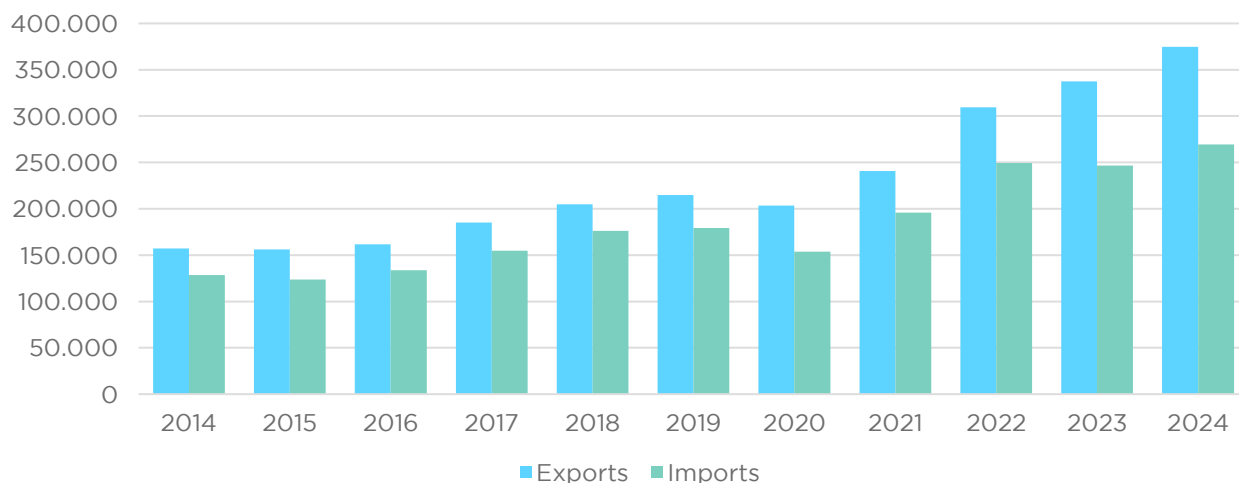
2. SERVICES TRADE

India experienced significant growth in service trade, becoming a key global player in the sector. Starting in 2020, the country saw a remarkable increase in its service exports, rising from US\$ 203 billion in 2020 to US\$ 375 billion in 2024, an increase of over 80% in just four years.

This surge is the result of comprehensive transformations driven by the Indian government. Among the most notable measures was the implementation of the 2023 Foreign Trade Policy, which removed caps on service exports and promoted the digitalization of export procedures. Additionally, digital platforms such as SEZ Online and ICEGATE were consolidated, streamlining processes for service exporters—particularly in technology, finance, and design.

India's strengthened role as a global provider of IT and back-office services was also fundamental to the development of its digital ecosystem. This was driven by a large skilled workforce, competitive costs, and proactive policies like [Digital India](#) and [Startup India](#). The expansion of companies in IT, fintech, and consulting, along with the global trend of service outsourcing, has positioned India as a strategic hub in the international service economy.

Graph two
India - World Trade in Services
 (Million US\$)



Source: Uruguay XXI based on UNCTAD data.

Within India's new export paradigm, the most prominent sectors have been those related to digital and telecommunications services. In this context, during 2024, India exported US\$ 122.879 billion in telecommunications, computer, and digital services—an 8.3% increase compared to 2023, and a 92.2% jump from 2019, the pre-pandemic period.

Despite this impressive performance, the leading category reported by the United Nations Trade & Development was “other business services,” which reached US\$ 155.266 billion in the past year. This sector encompasses a broad range of services essential to the functioning and development of economies, particularly in the context of international trade and investment. It includes technical services, commercial services, and business support services, among others.

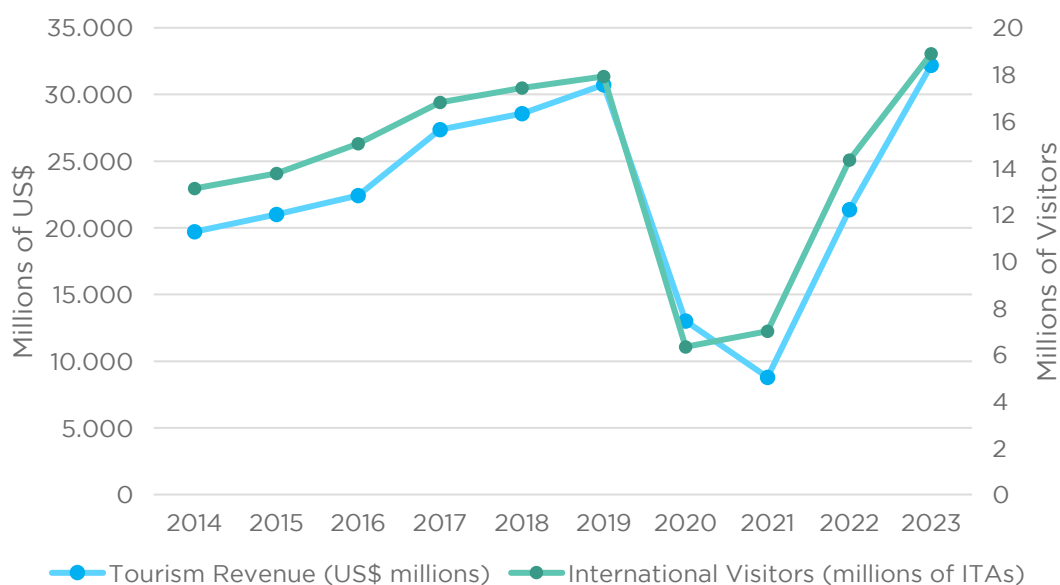
This subsector recorded a 13% year-on-year increase and doubled its export value compared to pre-pandemic levels just five years earlier.

Table 5
India's Service Exports
 (Year 2023, Million US\$)

SERVICE CATEGORY	MILL. US\$
Total services	374,879
Services related to goods	1,448
Transport	33,369
Travel	35,017
Other services	305,045
- Construction	5,445
- Insurance and pension services	3,605
- Financial services	8,091
- Intellectual property use (patents, licenses, royalties)	1,729
- Telecommunications, IT, and digital services	122,879
- Other business services	155,266
- Personal, cultural, and recreational services	4,682
- Government services not elsewhere classified	605

Source: Uruguay XXI based on UNCTAD data.

Chart 3
Inbound Tourism - India



Source: Uruguay XXI based on data from UNCTAD and the Ministry of Tourism of India.

In 2023, India received 18.89 million international tourists and generated US\$ 32.189 billion in revenue, consolidating the sector's recovery after the sharp decline caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020–2021. This positioned India as the 14th highest-earning country in the world

in terms of tourism revenue.¹ Tourist arrivals were concentrated in the northern region (33.1%), followed by the south (24.8%), east (20.7%), and west-central region (19.4%). Among the main nationalities of visitors were Bangladesh (20.2%), the United States (15.1%), and the United Kingdom (9.1%), reflecting a sizable proportion of tourists from neighboring countries, but also from more distant regions such as Canada, Australia, and Russia.

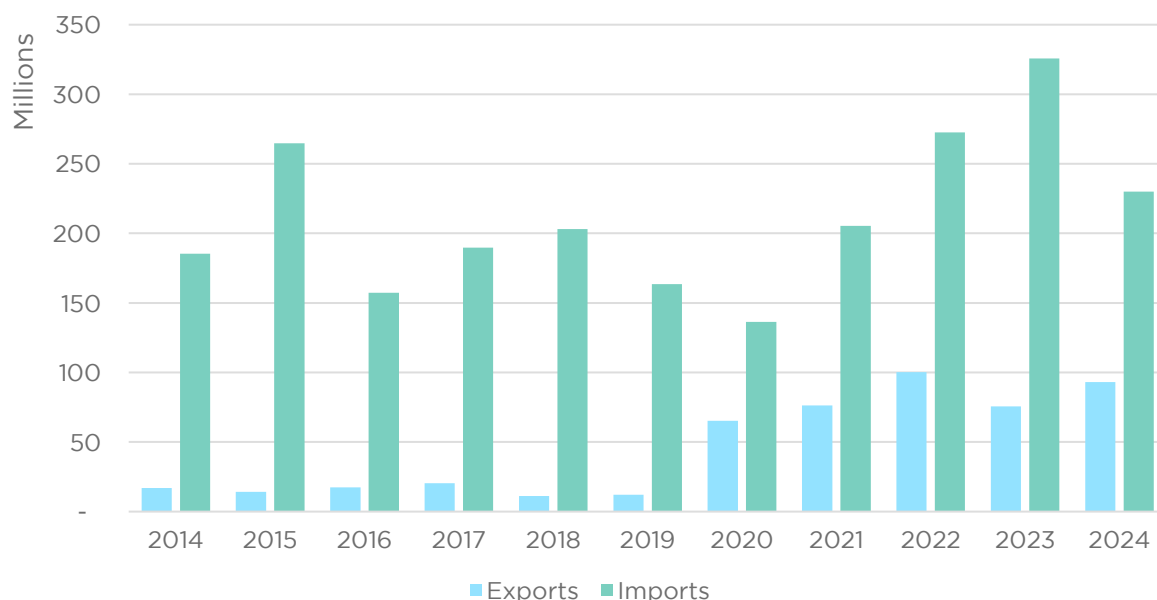
3. BILATERAL COMMERCE WITH URUGUAY

Over the past decade, India has been one of the main countries of origin for many of the products imported by Uruguay. Its specialization in certain goods and the ease of access to the Uruguayan market helped imports remain around US\$ 200 million until the disruption caused by the pandemic. After COVID-19, trade between the two countries continued to grow, with a greater share of Indian imports, but also a higher volume of Uruguayan exports to the South Asian country, opening a new market for Uruguay's productive matrix.

In 2024, Uruguayan exports totaled US\$ 93 million, marking a sixfold increase compared to pre-pandemic levels. This surge in exports since 2020 was driven by a combination of increased post-COVID demand for key Uruguayan products, enhanced bilateral economic diplomacy, and improvements in trade and logistics procedures. Imports from India stood at approximately US\$ 230 million in 2024, a figure that remained consistent with the average of the past ten years of commercial relations.

¹ [India Tourism Data Compendium 2024](#)

Chart 4
Uruguay-India Trade Exchange
 (Million US\$)



Uruguay XXI based on data from the National Customs Directorate.

In 2024, Uruguay's exports to India were heavily concentrated in forestry products, with wood and its derivatives accounting for 79% of total exports. This dominance highlights the importance of the sector in the bilateral relationship, supported by sustained demand from India's industrial and construction sectors. Within this category, the main subproduct was code 4403, referring to raw wood.

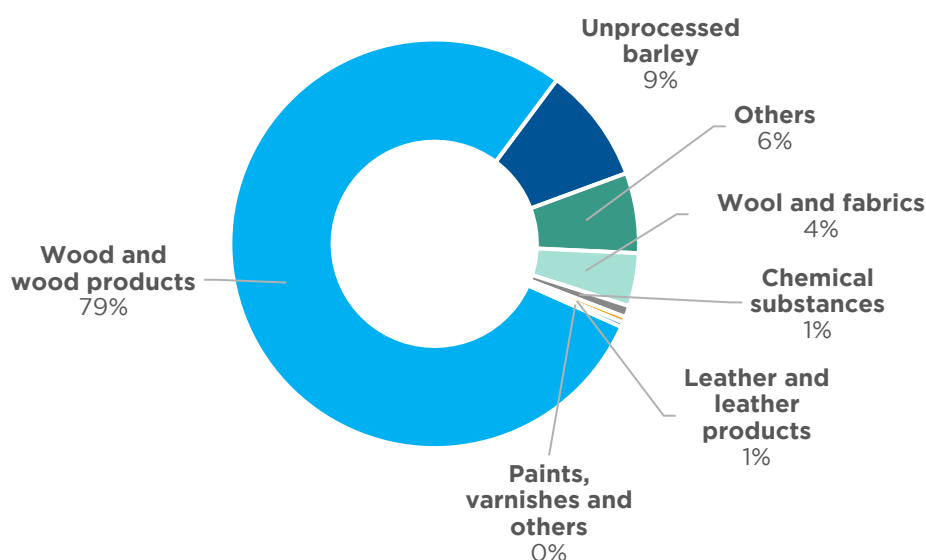
The second most important export was unprocessed barley, which made up 9% of the total. This growth is linked to increased demand from India's brewing and animal feed industries. According to the portal *LiveMint*, India saw a rise in domestic barley consumption during 2024 due to the post-pandemic recovery of the beer industry.

Other products with smaller but notable shares included wool and textiles (4%), chemical substances (1%), and leather and leather goods (1%). While marginal in percentage terms, these products reflect a budding diversification of trade with India. Wool, for instance, is a key input for the Indian textile industry, especially in the northern states.

The group of companies exporting to India consists of wood sellers. Of the top five exporters in 2024, the first four were linked to the forestry sector. Companies such as Idalen S.A., TGL Uruguay S.A., and Latam Forest Group S.A. stood out as leading exporters in this category,

accounting for 60% of exports to India between them. On the other hand, companies related to barley production also participated in the trade, such as COFCO International Uruguay S.A.

Chart 5
Main Products Exported to India
 (Share %. 2024)



Uruguay XXI based on data from the National Customs Directorate.

In 2024, Uruguay's imports from India were led by mineral fuels, which accounted for 29.8% of the total (US\$ 68.5 million), followed by vehicles and auto parts (17%) and organic chemical products (10.9%). Machinery and technological equipment—such as recording devices and mechanical instruments—also stood out.

This structure reflects a diversified profile, with India positioning itself as a key supplier of energy, industrial goods, and technology for Uruguay. In addition, textile products such as clothing and fabrics represented a smaller share of Uruguay's imports, totaling around US\$ 7.5 million in the most recently closed year.

4. ENTRY TARRIFS²

India has liberalized its tariff and import policies in recent years. The process began in the 1990s, and although the country has achieved a notable degree of openness, certain barriers to international trade remain.

For example, in April 2001, quantitative restrictions were eliminated, and the Special Import License (SIL) was replaced with the Restricted Item Licence (RIL) for specific cases. Tariffs were also reduced. Nevertheless, import duties in India remain high compared to international standards, and many quantitative restrictions on imports are still in place.

4.1 CUSTOMS TARRIFS

Currently, India's tariff rates vary significantly depending on the sector. While the average tariff is estimated to be around 20%, this figure is not informative, as the differences between sectors and products are substantial. Agricultural products tend to face much higher tariffs, ranging from 10% to as high as 300%—the country's "peak tariff"—compared to a range of 0–150% for non-agricultural goods.

Examples include tariffs between 70% and 100% for pepper and rice; between 50% and 70% for peas, powdered milk, corn, certain nuts, and apples; and between 30% and 40% for oranges, lemons, grapes, and pears.

In most cases, tariff rates are calculated based on a taxable value referred to in India as the "Assessable Value." This is composed of the CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) value of the imported goods at customs, plus an additional fee of about 1% under the concept of "Landing Charges."

Many imported products in India are also subject to distinct types of priority tariffs and indirect import taxes.

- **Basic Customs Duty (BCD):** This is the standard import tariff applied to goods entering India.
- **Additional Customs Duty**, also known as **Countervailing Duty (CVD):** This duty is equivalent to the domestic tax levied on similar goods produced within India. It ranges

² Instituto Superior de Procedimientos Aduaneros y Fiscales. Por más información ver [aquí](#).

between 0% and 15%, though by 2016, rates had been significantly reduced for most products.

- **Special Countervailing Duty (SAD) or Special Additional Duty:** Typically set at 4%, which is the maximum rate except in rare cases. The list of applicable products has recently been expanded.
- **Educational Cess (EC):** This indirect tax has been in effect since July 9, 2004. It is fixed at 3% and is calculated on the total customs duties applied, excluding SAD.

Most non-tariff measures are concentrated on sanitary and phytosanitary requirements and those related to technical barriers to trade. To a lesser extent, there are measures involving import licensing and quotas. For more detailed information on special regimes and non-tariff measures, see [Annex 2](#).

5. PAID TARIFFS OF URUGUAYAN EXPORTS

In 2023, Uruguay paid US\$ 387 million in tariffs related to goods exports. In India, tariff payments amounted to US\$ 3.9 million, almost entirely linked to exports of raw wood and related by-products.

Table 6
Tariffs Paid on Uruguayan Exports to India - 2023

PRODUCT	US\$
Wood and wood products	3,252,200
Fish and seafood products	252,642
Others	139,483
Leather and leather products	94,120
Wool and fabrics	83,185
Chemical substances	45,921
Total	3,904,483

Source: Uruguay XXI and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), based on data from the National Customs Directorate (DNA), MacMap and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

6. INDIAN INVESTMENT IN URUGUAY

In 2024, India experienced significant growth in its outward investment. According to UNCTAD data, the accumulated stock of outward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI outflow stock) reached US\$ 260.275 billion, representing a 10.3% increase compared to the previous year. Annual FDI outflows also rose sharply, climbing from US\$ 13.341 billion in 2023 to US\$ 23.782 billion in 2024—an interannual increase of 78.2%.

This remarkable growth is part of a more aggressive expansion strategy by Indian companies, particularly in sectors such as technology, pharmaceuticals, digital services, and advanced manufacturing. The UNCTAD report highlights that the rebound was driven by a global recovery in investment, greater financial liquidity among Indian multinationals, and a more favorable regulatory environment for capital internationalization from India.

Indian companies have had a notable impact in Uruguay, particularly in technology and telecommunications services, providing both technical support for businesses and customer service for other regions.

Table 7
Companies of Indian origin installed in Uruguay.

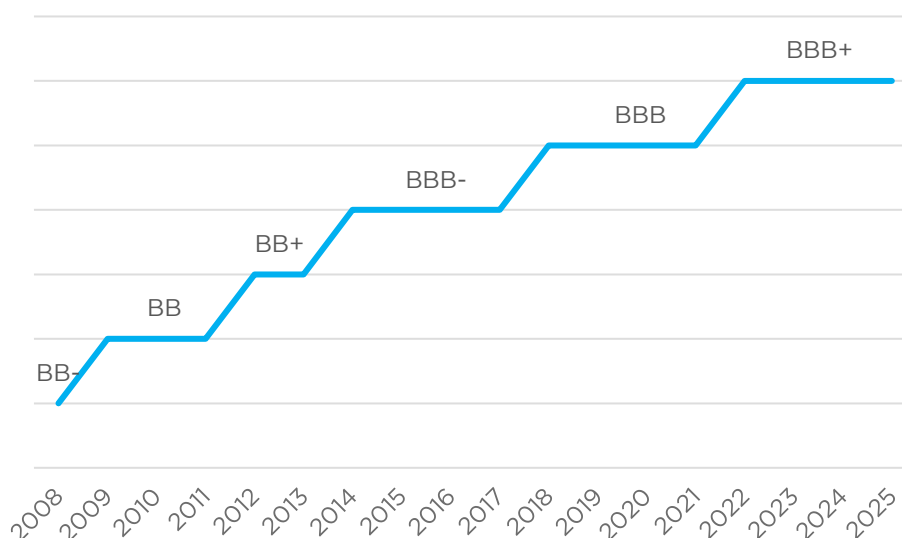
COMPANIES	INTERNATIONAL GROUP	SECTOR
DECIRAL SA	ISSUE GROUP	Wholesale of pharmaceutical, veterinary, personal care, and cosmetic products
DEOLIX SA	Avvashya Group	Maritime transport agents
INFOGAIN LATAM SA		Information technology programming activities
OLIVA GARDEN SA	PLASTENE INDIA LIMITED	Manufacture of textile articles (excluding garments)
SUZLON WIND ENERGY URUGUAY S.A.		Installation of industrial machinery and equipment
TCS SOLUTION CENTER SA	TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES LTD. / Subsidiary of TATA Group	Information technology programming activities
TCS URUGUAY SA	TATA FAMILY TRUST	Information technology programming activities

Source: Uruguay XXI.

Being an investment-grade country is a key asset when it comes to ensuring smooth access to financing in both local and international capital markets. It allows for lower borrowing costs, longer repayment terms, and a more diversified investor base, among other advantages.

In this regard, Uruguay holds an investment-grade credit rating from all five major international agencies that assess its sovereign credit risk.³

Chart 6
Uruguay's Credit Rating - R&I Agency



Source: Uruguay XXI based on data from the Public Debt Management Unit of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF).

In its latest report (January 2025), the rating agency R&I emphasized that Uruguay is a high-income country that stands out among South American nations for its institutional and political stability. Based on this assessment, R&I confirmed Uruguay's foreign currency issuer rating at BBB+. The agency stated that if fiscal discipline is maintained and the economy remains on a solid growth path—even amid growing concerns about the international economic environment, such as escalating trade tensions between the United States and China—the country's credit rating could be upgraded.

³ ["Rendición de cuentas - Exposición de motivos"](#) - Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas.

7. RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR THE ECONOMY AND COMMERCIAL SECTOR⁴

The following agreements currently in force between Uruguay and India stand out:

- **Bilateral Investment Agreement:** This type of agreement establishes standards of protection for foreign investors in order to encourage their establishment in the host country. It was approved on February 11, 2008, through Law 18,873. Uruguay is currently in the initial stages of renegotiating this investment agreement with India.
- **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement:** The main objective of this agreement is to prevent double taxation on income earned in either of the two countries. It was approved on September 8, 2011, through Law 18,972, and is a standard DTA (Double Taxation Agreement).
- **Fixed Preferences Agreement** between MERCOSUR and India, in force since 2009: This agreement grants preferential tariff access for a limited list of products originating from both parties, through tariff reductions ranging from 10% to 100%, depending on the product. It covers sectors such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastics, machinery, food products, and textiles. Although its scope is limited compared to a Free Trade Agreement, it has served as an initial step in deepening trade relations between India and MERCOSUR countries, including Uruguay. In recent years, both parties have expressed interest in moving toward a broader and more ambitious agreement.

⁴ [Base pública de información sobre Acuerdos Internacionales suscritos por Uruguay](#) - Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores.

8. MAIN MILESTONES IN THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN URUGUAY AND INDIA

- 1948 – Diplomatic relations are established between India and Uruguay.
- 1960 – Uruguay opens its embassy in New Delhi; at the same time, India is represented in Montevideo through its embassy in Buenos Aires and an Honorary Consulate.
- 1968 – Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi visits Uruguay during her Latin American tour, marking a significant recognition of strengthened bilateral ties.
- 2002–2009 – Indian tech companies begin to establish a presence in Uruguay: Tata Consultancy Services opens its first Latin American center (Zonamerica, Montevideo) in 2002, and Geodesic Ltd acquires a Uruguayan software company in 2009.
- 2007 – A Memorandum of Understanding is signed to establish the Uruguay–India Joint Commission, aimed at promoting dialogue on trade, culture, and cooperation.
- 2008 – The Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) between the two countries moves forward.
- 2011 – Agreements are signed to avoid double taxation and to cooperate on renewable energy.
- 2017 – India’s cabinet approves a customs agreement with Uruguay to facilitate the exchange of information and intelligence between authorities.
- 2021 – In November, a round of bilateral consultations is held between the foreign ministries in Montevideo, focusing on strengthening trade and attracting investment, particularly in technology, pharmaceuticals, and agribusiness.

- 2023-2024 – Foreign Office consultations are institutionalized: the fifth round takes place in March 2023 in New Delhi, and the sixth in September 2024 in Montevideo.
- 2023 – Indian parliamentary delegations visit Uruguay (June) and participate in events such as the World Summit of Committees of the Future (September).
- 2024 – The Secretary (East) of India's Ministry of External Affairs, Ambassador Mazumdar, led the Indian delegation at the 7th Political Consultations Meeting held in Montevideo.
- 2025 – Minister Pabitra Margherita represented Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration ceremony of Yamandú Orsi as President of the Republic on March 1st.
- 2025 – During the BRICS Summit held in July in Rio de Janeiro, President Yamandú Orsi held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.

Despite India's engagement with the Mercosur bloc in trade matters, a growing direct relationship has also developed between India and Uruguay. This is reflected in the consistent bilateral relationship, marked by key phases of diplomatic institutionalization, technical and technological cooperation, and increasing trade and cultural exchanges.

The possibility of advancing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India is feasible, as the country does not require prior approval from Mercosur to enter negotiations. This allows Uruguay to explore a bilateral agreement independently of bloc restrictions, presenting a concrete opportunity to strengthen its global integration and diversify its markets.

9. INTERESTING WEBPAGES

Institutions

- [Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India \(MoCI\)](#)
- [Export-Import Bank of India \(EXIM Bank\)](#)
- [India Brand Equity Foundation \(IBEF\)](#)
- [WTO](#)
- [Uruguayan Embassy in India](#)

Other

- [India Investment Grid \(IIG\)](#)
- [Ministry of Tourism – India](#)
- [Invest India](#)

Trade Fairs

Exhibition calendar listing 453 fairs in India scheduled for July 2025, sorted by date. Most fairs take place in Mumbai (124). The three most common industries represented are industry, machinery construction, and suppliers.

For more information click [here](#).

Official Representation Abroad

- [Embassies and Consulates.](#)
- [Uruguayan consular Map.](#)

Foreign presence in Uruguay

[Foreign Representations in Uruguay](#) | Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.gub.uy)

10. ANNEXES

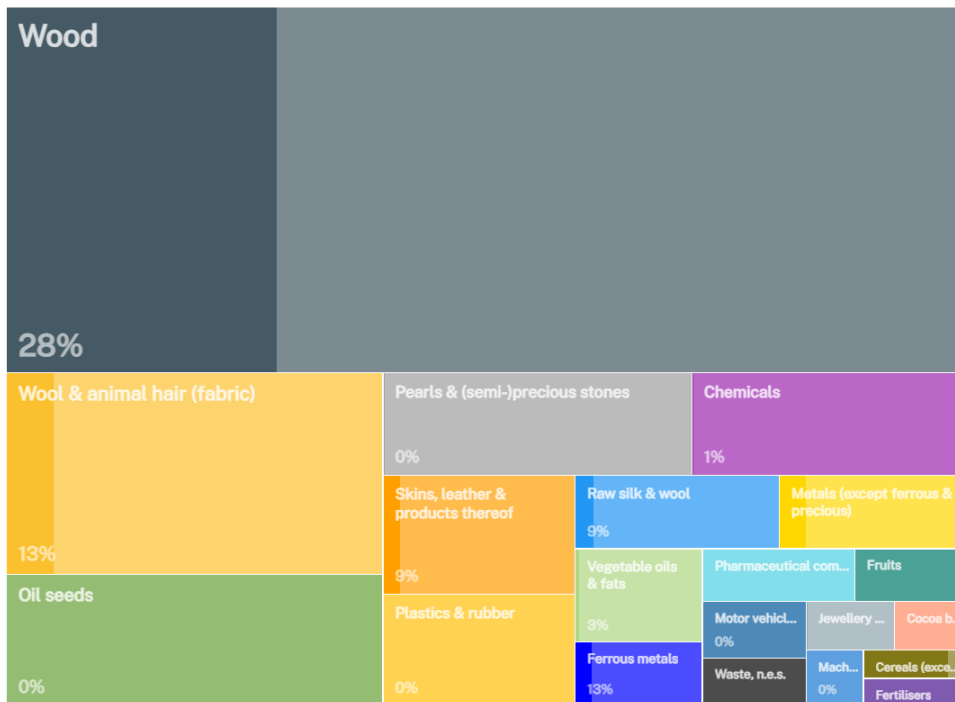
ANNEX 1 – EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES FROM URUGUAY TO INDIA

Uruguay's trade opportunities with India show significant growth potential, according to the ITC Export Potential Map analysis. The first visualization highlights that products such as raw wood have not yet reached their full export potential, although they already have a solid presence in the Indian market. Meanwhile, there are products with high unrealized potential—such as scoured wool, semi-precious stones, aluminum waste, and leather—that could grow with the right commercial insertion strategies. This reveals a clear opportunity for expansion in sectors where Uruguay already possesses productive capacity and export experience.

The site emphasizes that the products with the highest export potential from Uruguay to India are raw wood, sheep wool, and soybeans. Raw wood shows the largest gap between potential and actual exports, with an additional export opportunity valued at US\$ 86 million, representing 39% of the unrealized export potential. This highlights the relevance of Uruguay's forestry sector as one of the main drivers of growth in the bilateral trade relationship.

The second image, focused on diversification, highlights new products with high potential demand in India that are not yet significantly exported from Uruguay. These include vegetable oils (sunflower, safflower, and palm), metal waste and scrap, fertilizers such as potassium chloride, and chemicals. High-potential niches have also been identified in the metallurgical sector (copper cathodes, unrefined copper, ferronickel), powered aircraft, paper, and wood-derived products. These findings reflect the untapped potential that still exists in the bilateral trade between the two countries.

Products with Export Potential from Uruguay



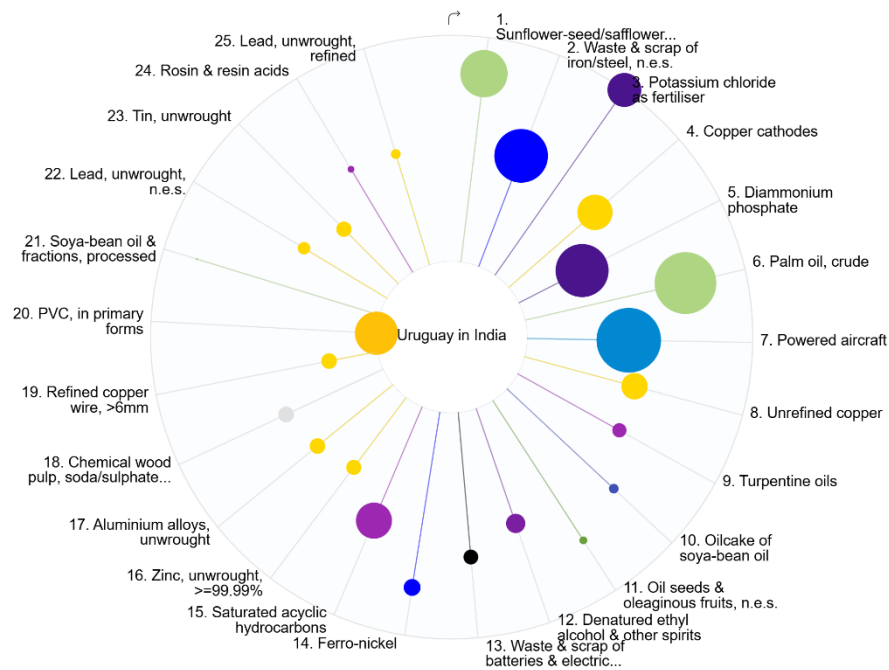
Uruguay's products with potential to India

Legend

- Export potential
- Realized potential

ITC Export Potential Map
exportpotential.intracen.org

Products with Export Potential from Uruguay



Uruguay's diversification products for export to India

Legend

- Product diversification rank
- Demand
- Supply
- Vegetable oils & fats
- Metals (except ferrous & precious)
- Fertilisers
- Ferrous metals
- Chemicals
- Aircrafts, spacecrafts & parts
- Vegetal residues & animal feed
- Oil seeds
- Beverages (alcoholic)
- Waste, n.e.s.
- Paper products
- Plastics & rubber

ITC Export Potential Map
exportpotential.intracen.org

To explore the trade opportunities for each Uruguayan product in the Indian market, consult the Trade Opportunities Application⁵.

ANNEX 2 – EXEMPTIONS, CONCESSIONAL TARIFFS, AND SPECIAL REGIMES

1. **Regional preferential tariffs:** India maintains preferential trade agreements with the countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) – Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, India, Bangladesh, Union of Myanmar, and Pakistan, Indo-Afghanistan Preferential Trading Arrangement (IAPTA), Indo-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement, Indo-Thailand Free Trade Agreement, Indo-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, Asia Pacific Trade Agreement, Indo-Korea Free Trade Agreement, Chile PTA, Least Developed Countries Concessions, India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade, as well as special tariffs with Tonga, Seychelles, and Mauritius.
2. **Exemptions:** The Indian government has broad authority to grant exemptions from customs duties through public notifications in the official gazette. These exemptions are not incorporated into the Customs Tariff at the tariff line level but are listed as “general exemptions” in the heading or under the heading “exemption notifications” at the end of each chapter.
3. **Special regimes:** Export Oriented Units (companies with production aimed at foreign markets) enjoy special regimes that allow the import of raw materials, components, capital goods, etc., with reduced or zero tariffs, for those companies located in Export Processing Zones (which operate similarly to free zones) and companies that manufacture or export the so-called Export Promotion Capital Goods.

4.1 Non-tariff barriers. Quotas and import licenses Import regimes.

1. **Freely importable products (Imports free unless regulated):** In principle, all products may be freely imported, unless the “Foreign Trade Policy 2009-14” or another law in force at the time of the import activity specifies otherwise. The import and export policy specified per item must be notified by the “Director General of Foreign Trade,” and any changes must be updated in the so-called “ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items.”

⁵ [Commercial Opportunities](#) – Uruguay XXI.

In 2001, products restricted for Balance of Payments reasons were liberalized. However, restrictions based on other reasons (security, trade policy, sector protection, etc.) remain. Nevertheless, thanks to complaints and procedures initiated by the WTO, more products are being included in the free import policy. Sometimes, freely imported products require sanitary or agricultural permits (or face other technical or non-tariff barriers) but are still considered under the free import regime.

2. **Restricted products:** There are products whose importation is prohibited unless a specific import license is obtained from the “Director General of Foreign Trade.” Importers of products classified as “restricted” must therefore request a license or import permit from the relevant authorities. This restriction makes the entry of certain products into India extremely difficult.



Uruguay XXI
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