



Confederation of Indian Industry

Session on

India's relations with Mercosur and Economic Relations with Latin America

EVENT DETAILS

DATE Thursday, July 25, 2019

TIME 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm (Registration: 5:30 PM)

LOCATION Seminar Room 1 & 2 , Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre, Kamaladevi Complex, India International, New Delhi, India

SPEAKERS **Mr. Shyamal Misra**, *Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India*
Dr. Ignacio Bartesaghi, *Dean, Faculty of Business Studies & Director, Department of International Business and Integration, Catholic University, Uruguay*

CHAIR **Ambassador Deepak Bhojwani**, *Former Ambassador of India to Colombia, Venezuela and Cuba and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre*

ABOUT THE EVENT

Trade relations between India and Latin American countries has deepened. Despite this improvement, India is far from being a key player in Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) countries. By sector, LAC exports to India are largely focused on natural resources and primary products, including crude oil and biofuels, copper and other minerals, sugar, soy, and vegetable oil. Meanwhile, Indian exports to the LAC region are comprised largely of engineering goods (including auto parts), chemicals,

pharmaceuticals, textiles and refined oil products. Although India-LAC trade is concentrated in the three largest economies in the region (Argentina, Brazil and Mexico), India has made significant advances with subregional blocs, as well as with individual countries. India has entered into preferential trade agreements with Mercosur and with Chile, and it is negotiating free-trade agreement with Peru. Given this context and the economic changes in China that is showing lower growth rates, trade relations are far from their potential and if more trade agreements are signed, trade ties could be strengthened.

India and the Mercosur signed a trade agreement in 2004 that is in force since 2009. Recently, there were several rounds of negotiations, which aimed at amplifying this agreement, but they failed. This negotiation confronted the difficulties that involve two actors who have applied very protectionist policies and have negotiated few trade agreements. However, we argued that India has a huge potential role at the global market based on recent economic and political change. India may gain ground where China is losing it. Some reforms, which were implemented in India, contributed not only to economic growth but also to improve the middle-class standard of living. Even when tariffs continues to be higher than other middle income countries, India has had the fastest fall in average tariffs of most major economies.

If the Mercosur and India will negotiate a deeper trade agreement, Mercosur countries have the potential to expand trade in processed foods, which now face high tariff levels and non-tariff barriers. On the other hand, India enjoys advantages in industrial goods, many of which are not produced within Uruguay but by its main partners in Mercosur. This reality implies that negotiations between the two actors will not be without difficulties.

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Prior registration is Mandatory

Seating on first come - first served basis

SPEAKERS

Mr. Shyamal Misra, *Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India*

Shyamal Misra is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of 1996 batch of Haryana cadre. He is a B.Tech (Electrical Engineer) IIT, Kanpur and M.P.A. from Harvard University Kennedy School of Govt.

Shyamal Misra joined as Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce Government of India on 31st July, 2017, and currently looks after FT (LAC) Division, EP (CAP) Division (under its fold, namely Plexcouncil, Chemexcil, Capexcil and Shefexil), EP (Pharma) Division, CVO and also looked after Tea Board of India as Deputy Chairman, (Additional Charge).

Prior to joining in Department of Commerce, Mr. Misra worked as Excise and Taxation Commissioner in Haryana for more than 2 years, and his responsibilities included implementation of GST in the State

Dr. Ignacio Bartesaghi, *Dean, Faculty of Business Studies & Director, Department of International Business and Integration, Catholic University, Uruguay*

He is PhD in International Relations, has a Master's Degree in Integration and International Trade and a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations, Posgraduate Degree in International Business and Integration, Posgraduate Degree in Management of the Commercial Company and Foreign Trade.

In addition to his current role as Dean of the Faculty of Business Studies at the Catholic University of Uruguay, he is the Director of the Department of International Business and Integration at the same university, the most recognized center of studies in Uruguay in the field of Asia Pacific studies. He was Coordinator of the Latin America - Asia Pacific Observatory of ALADI, CAF and ECLAC for five years, where he promoted research studies between Latin America and Asia Pacific. For more than 10 years, he worked at the Industry Chamber of Uruguay, which allowed him to be close to the business world and its trends. Is specialized in international trade, integration processes and international relations, in which areas he has published an important number of papers and books. He makes up the National System of Researchers of the National Agency of Innovation and Research of Uruguay and the Uruguayan Association of International Studies as the Secretary. Bartesaghi has a vast amount of experience assessing the relationship between Latin America and Asia Pacific, with a special emphasis on the economic and commercial ties between Latin America and China, India and the ASEAN countries. He has visited Asia Pacific several times, and has a deep knowledge of the region. He is also in contact with business chambers, universities and

specialized academics worldwide. A large number of articles that focused on this region have been published by Ignacio and most of them were exposed in international events on the subject. He has become an opinion leader who is frequently consulted not only by the local and international media but also by international organizations such as IDB, SELA, ALADI, among others.

CHAIR

Ambassador Deepak Bhojwani, *Former Ambassador of India to Colombia, Venezuela and Cuba and Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Centre*

Ambassador Deepak Bhojwani joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1978. He retired in February 2012. During his career, he was accredited as Ambassador in seven Latin American countries, resident in Colombia, Venezuela and Cuba, concurrent in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, and was Consul General in Sao Paulo.

He served abroad in three Continents – Asia (Indonesia and Malaysia), Europe (Spain and Czech Republic) and Latin America. In the Ministry of External Affairs, he served in the Divisions dealing with Administration; West Asia and North Africa; US and Canada; and had a brief stint at the United Nations. He writes extensively on Latin America and its relations with India. He has written a book published in 2015 titled 'Latin America, the Caribbean and India: Promise and Challenge'. He is currently a Consultant for Latin America and the Caribbean through his firm LATINDIA

(www.latindia.in)

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