

## **India-Argentina Bilateral Relations**

### **Political Relations**

India-Argentina relations are cordial and encompass political, economic, scientific and technological cooperation including Antarctic research and cultural cooperation.

India opened a Trade Commission in Buenos Aires in 1943 and later converted it into its one of the first Embassies in South America in 1949. Argentina had established a Consulate in Calcutta in the 1920s, which was transferred to Delhi as an Embassy in 1950. Argentina opened a Consulate General in Mumbai in April 2009. Mr. Sergio Lais-Suárez has been appointed Honorary Consul General of India in the Argentine province of Córdoba.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the President of Argentina Mr. Mauricio Macri on the sidelines of G-20 Summit in Hangzhou, China on 5 September 2016. Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State (IC) for Chemical and Fertilizers visited Argentina from 16-17 April 2017 and held discussions with Argentine authorities, Chambers of Commerce etc. Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M. J. Akbar met the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, Ms. Susana Malcorra, on the sidelines of the Meeting of Ministers of G-20 Countries in Bonn in February 2017. The two Ministers also met on the sidelines of Nuclear Security Summit in Vienna in December 2016. Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman met the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina on the sidelines of the Ministerial meeting of Trade Ministers of WTO in Oslo, Norway on 22 October 2016. Shri Ashok Das, Joint Secretary (LAC) visited Argentina from 2-4 December 2016 and met the Vice Foreign Minister and other Argentine dignitaries. The 4th India- Argentina Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held in New Delhi in June 2013, and the 4th Foreign Office Consultation was held in Buenos Aires in April 2014. President of Argentina, Mr. Mauricio Macri and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, Ms. Susana Malcorra are expected to visit India in 2017-18.

**Visits:****Important Visits from Argentina to India:**

- 2009 Ms. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President  
2013 Mr. Héctor Timmerman, Foreign Minister  
2013 Mr. Francisco Perez, Governor of Province of Mendoza  
2014 Mr. Antonio Bonfatti, Governor of Province of Santa Fe  
2014 Dr Lino Barañao, Minister of Science and Technology  
2014 Mr. Claudio Poggi, Governor of Province of San Luis  
2014 Mr. Carlos Bianco, Deputy Foreign Minister  
2015 Mr. Eduardo Zuain, Vice Foreign Minister  
2015 Mr. Jorge Mayoral, Secretary, Mining  
2016 Mr. Gustavo Canteros, Vice Governor of the Province of Corrientes

**Important Visits from India to Argentina:**

- 2010 Smt. Preneet Kaur  
2013 Shri Salman Khurshid, EAM  
2014 Shri DinkarKhullar, Secretary (West), MEA  
2014 Shri Santosh Gangwar, MoS (IC)  
2014 Justice Swatantra Kumar, Chief of National Green Tribunal  
2017 Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State (IC) for Chemical and Fertilizers

**Bilateral Agreements:**

<b>Agreement/MoU/Treaty</b>	<b>Status</b>
MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Research and Education in Homeopathic Medicine	2016
MoU on Establishment of an "Academic Chair" in Ayurveda between Central Council on Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of AYUSH and Fundacion de Salud Ayurveda Prema	2016
Agreement on Exchange of Information and Assistance on Tax Issues	2011
Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance on Customs Matters	2011
Agreement for cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy	2010
MoU for Cooperation in Agriculture and Allied Sectors	2010

Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.	2009
MOU between SEGEMAR of Argentina and Geological Survey of India.	2009
Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology	2009
MOU on Sports Cooperation	2009
MOU Trade Promotion	2009
MOU between INTI of Argentina and National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi	2009
Cooperation Agreement between the Argentine Council on Scientific and Technical Research [CONICET] and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research of India (CSIR)	2009
Agreement on Providing 5-year Multiple Entry Free Business visas	2009
MoU between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI)	2009
MoU for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Education	2006
Agreement between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Foreign Service Institute of Argentina	2000
Agreement for Exemption of Visas for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	1994
MOU on Foreign Office Consultations	1994
Agreement on Technical and Scientific Cooperation	1985
Cultural Agreement	1974
Agreement for Waiver of Fee for Tourist and Transit visas	1968

### **Technical Co-operation and Training:**

India extends 35 ITEC scholarships to working professionals from Argentina every year. In 2015-16, out of 35 slots allotted for Argentina, 25 were utilized. Argentine diplomats attend training courses in the Foreign Service Institute of India from time to time.

### **Support in Multilateral Fora:**

India and Argentina have supported each other on major international issues as well as each other's candidatures to various UN and multilateral bodies. India has always extended support to Argentina on the sovereignty issue of Malvinas Islands and on the issue of sovereign debt servicing and holdout creditors.

## Commercial Relations

### **Bilateral Trade (US \$ million):**

<b>Year</b>	<b>India's Imports</b>	<b>Growth</b>	<b>India's Exports</b>	<b>Growth</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>Growth</b>
2010	2033	-	496	-	2529	
2011	1214	-40%	561	13%	1174	-30%
2012	1264	4%	573	2%	1837	4%
2013	1105	-13%	695	21%	1801	-2%
2014	2032	84%	602	-13%	2633	46%
2015	2276	13%	659	-9%	2935	11%
2016	2186	-4%	596	-9%	2782	5%

*(Source: MERCOSURonline)*

### **India's Exports to Argentina:**

Major items of exports include organic chemicals, vehicles and auto-parts, lubricants, machinery, sound and image devices and garments.

### **India's Imports from Argentina:**

Major items of imports are soybean oil, petroleum, copper, sunflower oil, leather, wool and ferroalloys.

### **Investments, Joint Ventures and Business Delegations:**

Several Indian Companies have established operations in Argentina with investment of approximately USD 1 billion. These include TCS, CRISIL, Bajaj, Hero, Cellent, United Phosphorus Ltd (UPL), SintesisQuimica, Glenmark, Godrej etc. Argentinian investment in India stands at US\$ 120 million.

Sonalika Pvt. Ltd. has signed a joint venture with Argentine company Apache of Santa Fe for manufacturing tractors and Bajaj Auto have signed a joint venture with Corven Argentina to produce and sell motorbikes in the local market. In 2014, IMPLANTEC Argentina developed a strategic alliance with the Indian company APPASAMY ASSOCIATES, a global leader in the ophthalmological market and both companies have inaugurated the first producing plant of intraocular lenses in Argentina with a manufacturing capacity of 20,000 lenses monthly. Ishka Renewable Farms Private Lt, Kerala signed a joint venture with Cooperative AlcaparrasArgentinas to cultivate 1000 acres of capers in the next 10 years in the Argentine province of Santiago del Estero Argentina.

Argentine Minister of Science, Technology and Innovative Production, Mr. Lino Barañaoparticipated in BIO ASIA in Hyderabad in February 2014 and met his counterpart in Delhi. Governor of Santa Fe, Antonio Bonfatti led a Ministerial delegation for the BIOASIA 2014 International Fair in Hyderabad in February 2014 and had an interactive session with FICCI. He also called on Union Minister for Renewable Energy, Shri Farooq Abdullah. Mr. Hernan Lamberti, Secretary of Production of Almirante Brown, Province of Buenos Aires participated in a Buyer – Seller meet in Delhi from 12 - 22 September 2014. They met representatives from various sectors such as jewelry, textiles among others and interacted with IMC, FIEO, EPC etc. An Argentine delegation participated in the India-LAC Investment Conclave held on 7 - 8 October 2015 in New Delhi. Several Indian companies participated in the Argentina Business and Investment Forum that was held in Buenos Aires in September 2016. Two export promotion council delegations viz., Capexcil and Chemexcil visited Argentina in September and October 2016 and organized B2B exhibitions in Buenos Aires. In September 2016, an Argentine delegation led by Mr. Jesus Silveyra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agribusiness, Government of Argentina participated in Globoil Conference 2016 held in Goa, India. In January 2017, India's Hero Motocorp launched five models of motorcycles in Argentina. A delegation from the Solvent Extractors' Association of India, an importers association, visited Argentina in January 2017 at the invitation of the Ministry of Agroindustry of Argentina. Delegation of Indian Cereals and Pulses organization visited Argentina in April 2017.

### **Cultural Relations**

The Embassy has been organizing cultural programmes and visits of Indian troupes in several cities including San Salvador de Jujuy, Almirante Brown, Tandil, Parana, Rio Cuarto and Buenos Aires. In 2015 several Indian classical dancers visited and performed in various parts of Argentina and conducted workshops. In addition, India weeks and days were organized in Lanus and Corrientes in 2015.

The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21 June 2015 in all the 23 provinces of Argentina and the capital city of Buenos Aires, in collaboration with the provincial and municipal governments, as well as 72 Universities and 200 yoga schools. The second International Yoga day was celebrated on 20 June 2016 in all

provinces of Argentina. The event was attended by local dignitaries in Buenos Aires including the Secretary of Human Rights and the Minister for Environment participated in the closing ceremony. The third International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay with more than 14,000 people taking part in total.

At the first World Indologists Conference in Delhi in 2015, 100 year old Indologist, Dr. Fernando Tola represented Argentina. Dr. Fernando Tola was selected for the Presidential Award of Certificate of Honour for the year 2016 in recognition of his outstanding contribution for the cause of Sanskrit. Professor Carlos Moneta a renowned Argentine academic visited India under Indian Council of Cultural Relation's Academic Visitors Programme.

Four Argentine films participated in the International Film Festival of India, 2015. India tourism promotion activities were held in the capital city and provinces of Argentina in collaboration with India Tourism Office, New York. A well-attended Indian food festival was organized on 22-23 April 2015 in Buenos Aires to showcase cuisine from various parts of the country.

An Indian poetry festival was organized on June 10, 2016 with distinguished poet and translator Yuyutsu RD Sharma and diplomat Abhay Kumar which was followed by performance by Odisi dancer Anandita Dasi. A feature film – Thinking of Him – is being jointly produced on the life of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Presently, the film is in post-production phase and is scheduled to be released in 2017. An event promoting tourism with focus on Punjab was held in Province of Salta in March 2017. Festival of India events were organized in the province of Salta and Municipality of Almirante Brown along with Bharatanatyam performances by dancer Kirti Ramgopal in Buenos Aires to commemorate the celebrations of 70 years of India's Independence

### **Indian Community**

There are around 2400 overseas Indians living in Argentina. Most of the Non Resident Indians live in the capital city of Buenos Aires, some having lived here for over thirty years. Majority of them are from the Sindhi community. Others are professionals working with Indian companies and multinational corporations such as TCS, Cognizant Technologies etc. About 300 Sikhs from Punjab had settled down in

Salta province in the course of the early and mid-twentieth century. Over time, they have assimilated in the local population and become Argentine citizens. Most of them are in retail and wholesale trade. The first generation immigrants speak Punjabi. A Gurudwara has been established in the town Rosario de la Frontera, where Guru Nanak Day is celebrated every year.

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**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](#)