

## **INDIA-ARGENTINA BILATERAL RELATIONS**

### **Political Relations**

India and Argentina, the two vibrant democracies separated by two oceans irrespective of the direction one takes, are bound by shared values, mutual respect, understanding and respect for rule of law. The two friendly countries have enjoyed cohesive and strong relations spread across wide spectrum of sectors which have deepened over decades. India-Argentina diplomatic relations were elevated to the level of Strategic Partnership during the State Visit to India of the then President of Argentina, in February 2019. Both countries completed 75 years of their diplomatic relationship on 3 February 2024. Several events were organised during 2024 to commemorate the 75 years of establishment of bilateral relations. It culminated in the launch of a commemorative book titled "India-Argentina: 75 Años de Relaciones Diplomáticas" (India-Argentina: 75 Years of Diplomatic Relations) on 19 December 2024.

2. The multi-faceted relations between the two countries have strengthened over the years with constructive cooperation and engagements in political, economic, defense, mining, agriculture, oil & gas, nuclear energy, cultural and scientific & technological areas. India opened a Trade Commission in Buenos Aires in 1943, which was later converted into one of the first embassies of India in South America, in 1949. Argentina had established a Consulate in Kolkata in the 1920s, which was shifted to Delhi as an embassy in 1950. Argentina has a Consulate General in Mumbai since April 2009.

### **Bilateral Exchanges**

3. There have been exchanges at the highest level between the two countries. Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Hon'ble President Javier Milei on 19 November 2024 during the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. PM Modi was among the first leaders to congratulate President-elect Javier Milei on Twitter following his victory on 19 November 2023. President Milei also tweeted congratulating PM Modi on his victory on 4 June, which was duly reciprocated by the latter. PM Modi and President Alberto Fernandez briefly interacted during G20 Summit in Rome in October 2021 and had their first bilateral meeting on 26 June 2022 on the margins of G7 Summit in Munich, Germany. PM Modi visited Argentina to participate in G20 Summit in November-December 2018. He had interactions with former President Macri on five different occasions during 2017-19 on the sidelines of multilateral summits. Earlier VVIP visits include those of PM PV Narasimha Rao in 1995 for G15 Summit; State Visit of President Gyani Zail Singh in 1984; PM Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1968 and VP Dr S Radhakrishnan in 1954.

5. President Fernandez travelled to India to participate in G20 Summit in September 2023 and also participated in the G20 virtual Summit on 22 November 2023. From Argentina, other State Visits include President Mauricio Macri in February 2019; Private visit of Vice President Ms. Gabriela Michetti in March 2019; State Visit of President Ms. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner in 2009; President Carlos Menem in March 1994 for G15 Summit; President Raul Alfonsín in 1985 as Chief Guest on Republic Day; President Reynaldo Begnone in 1983 to attend NAM Summit and President Arturo Frondizi in December 1961.

6. Hon'ble External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar and Foreign Minister Gerardo Werthein had a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of Munich Security Conference (MSC) on 12 February 2025. Earlier EAM also had a meeting with then Foreign Minister Diana Mondino on the sidelines of Munich Security conference on 16 February 2024. EAM also had meetings with FM Cafiero on 1 March 2023 and 24 April 2022 during latter's visit to Delhi for G20 Ministerial and Raisina Dialogue respectively, besides a telephonic conversation on 14 January 2022. EAM visited Buenos Aires on 25-26 August 2022 for bilateral Joint Commission Meeting with Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero. He also met President Fernandez. EAM had also met the then Foreign Minister Felipe Solá on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Matera, Italy, on 30 June 2021 and the two had a telephonic conversation on 5 May 2020. Minister of State for External Affairs Shri V Muraleedharan paid a bilateral visit and held meetings with the then Argentine Foreign Minister and Vice Foreign Minister in Buenos Aires on 29 August 2019.

7. From Argentina, the then Foreign Minister Diana Mondino visited India on 6-9 October 2024, and held the 7th Joint Commission meeting with EAM on 8 October 2024. During the visit, FM Mondino also met with Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri. Minister of Defence Jorge Taiana visited India in July 2023, the first-ever bilateral visit by a Defence Minister of Argentina. He held talks with Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh on increasing defence cooperation between two countries, including measures to enhance defence industrial partnership. Minister of Science, Technology & Innovation Daniel Filmus paid an official visit to India in February 2023.

8. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, held a video conference (VC) with Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina on 20 November 2020. Delegations led by Dr. VK Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, in October 2019, and Alok Tandon, Secretary Mines, in August-September 2021, visited Buenos Aires and the Provinces of Jujuy and Catamarca, respectively for exploration of partnerships in the mining sector, particularly in lithium. An official and business delegation led by VL Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, visited Buenos Aires in January 2025 for the 1st JWG meeting on Mineral Resources. The delegation also visited the Province of Catamarca to explore opportunities in mining sector.

9. The high-level bilateral visits and interactions intensified during Indian Presidency of G20 in 2023. Economy Minister Sergio Massa visited India in February 2023 for G20 Finance Ministers' Meeting and held bilateral meetings with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. FM Santiago Cafiero visited India in March 2023 for G20 FMM in New Delhi. S&T Minister Daniel Filmus paid another visit, this time for G20 Ministerial Meeting and Sparce Economy Leaders Meeting (SELM), in July 2023. Labour Minister Ms. Raquel Kisser de Olmos attended G20 Ministerial on 20-22 July in Indore and Minister of Women, Genders and Diversity Ms. Ayelén Mazzina participated in G20 Conference for Women Empowerment in Gandhinagar on 1-4 August 2023. Health Minister Ms. Carla Vizzotti participated virtually in the health session during second Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS) on 17 November 2023. Minister of Human Capital Ms. Sandra Pettovello and Energy Secretary Eduardo Chirillo participated virtually in the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August 2024.

10. Various mechanisms of institutional bilateral dialogue have been reinvigorated. The 7th Joint Commission meeting was held on 08 October 2024 in New Delhi. The 7th round of

Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was held in Buenos Aires on 13 September 2024, following the previous meeting on 21 November 2021 in New Delhi. After an interregnum of 29 years, the third meeting of Joint Trade Committee (JTC) took place on 20 October 2020 via video conference. The third meeting of ISRO-CONAE (Argentine Space Agency) Joint Committee, under the Agreement on Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space signed in 2009, was held virtually on 04 October 2024. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agricultural Cooperation was held virtually on 1 July 2020. The second meeting of Joint Coordination Committee under the bilateral Agreement for Cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy was held in Buenos Aires from 1 to 3 August 2023.

11. Indian Army officers / officials participated in the first Joint Mountaineering Expedition to climb Mount Aconcagua, the highest peak in Americas in Andes range on 03-20 January 2025.

## **Economic and Commercial Relations**

12. India-Argentina bilateral trade more than doubled in three years from 2019 to 2022, peaking at USD 6.4 billion in 2022. In both 2021 and 2022, India was Argentina's fourth-largest trading partner. Argentina is one of the primary suppliers of edible oils, especially soybean oil, to India. However, due to the severe drought in Argentina, compounded by the resulting scarcity of foreign exchange, India-Argentina bilateral trade faced significant challenges in 2023 and settled at USD 3.9 billion, a decline of 39%. In 2024, with improved weather conditions and a much more stable economy under the new government, trade regained its momentum, rising by 33% to USD 5.2 billion. Indo-Argentine trade experienced a significant resurgence in bilateral trade and strategic cooperation during the first quadrimester of 2025, registering an impressive growth of 53.9%, with total trade valued at USD 2,055.14 million. India is ranked as Argentina's fourth-largest trading partner and export destination.

13. Major items of India's exports to Argentina include petroleum oils, agro chemicals, yarn-fabric-madeups, organic chemicals, bulk drugs and two-wheelers. Major items of India's imports from Argentina include vegetable oils (soybean and sunflower), finished leather, cereals, residual chemicals and allied products and pulses.

14. Several Indian companies have established presential/ remote operations in Argentina with a total investment of over USD 1.2 billion. These include Mphasis (most recent) , TCS, Comviva, Infosys, AEGIS-Essar, Crisil, UPL, Advanta Seeds, Bajaj Motorcycles, TVS, Royal Enfield, Hero Motors, Glenmark, Godrej and Sri Sri Tattva. Argentina's investment in India stands at approximately USD 120 million with presence of Globant and OLX in IT services and TECHINT in the engineering sector.

15. Agreements to promote cooperation in oil and gas sector was signed between OVL Ltd and YPF (Argentine public sector company) in February 2023. In first ever acquisition of lithium resources abroad, the state-owned KABIL signed an agreement with CAMYEN (public sector undertaking of Province of Catamarca) on 15 January 2024 to lease five lithium blocks for exploration and eventual exploitation. The first ever commercial agreement in defence sector was signed between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Argentine Air Force in February 2023 for supply of helicopters spares and engine maintenance. The two PSUs, HAL and FAdA (Fábrica Argentina de Aviones ), signed a cooperation agreement in June 2023. On 04 November 2024, the Heavy Water Board of

India signed an agreement with the state-owned Nuclear Electric Company of Argentina (NASA) for the supply of heavy water to Argentina for 4 years. Additionally, Argentina's state-owned oil and gas company, YPF, signed an MOU in January 2025 with a consortium of Oil India Limited (OIL), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), and ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) for exploring the cooperation in energy and mining sector.

16. A bilateral business chamber, India-Argentina Business Council (IABC), was formally launched on 14 October 2020 by the then Minister of Productive Development Matias Kulfas and Ambassador Dinesh Bhatia. The Council, a non-profit organization comprising leading industries, exporters and importers in Argentina, is currently composed of over 30 companies. IABC, together with the Embassy, organized the first Business Forum on 25 March 2021. The mission also hosted a business seminar on 26 August 2022, which was attended by more than 60 leading Argentine and Indian companies during EAM's visit to Buenos Aires.

### **Trade and Investment Promotion Events**

17. Mission in collaboration with IABC, organized the India-Argentina Business Summit-2025 (IABS) on 26 March 2025. Vice President Victoria Villaruel graced the event as the Chief Guest. This event saw a participation of CEOs of large businesses, prominent politicians, high-ranking government officials, think tanks, members of mainstream media, and influencers. Mission also hosted a Defence Export Promotion Roadshow on the sidelines of IABS. Earlier, in commemoration of 75 anniversary of diplomatic relations, Embassy in association with IABC, organized IABC Business event on 29th February 2024. The event saw the participation of prominent government officials, respected business leaders, various think tanks.

18. There has been regular exchange of visits between the two countries including participation of government officials and businessmen in focused events by trade and export promotion agencies, delegation level visits in specific sectors, participation in exhibitions, buyer-seller meets (BSM) and B2B meetings. Mission has organized, coordinated and participated in multiple interactions with FICCI, CII, FIEO, Electronics and Software Council of India (ESC), PHDCCI, Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services (CACS), Argentine Chamber of Software Industry (CESSI), Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Exim Bank, various Argentine Banks, Coffee promotion events, besides BSMs for members of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, Electronics & Software Council of India and CESSI and Chemical and Allied Products Export Council (CAPEXIL). Mission has maintained active interactions with representatives of Indian companies in Argentina and Indian companies interested in expanding business in Argentina.

19. Some of the recent endeavors include participation of Indian companies, coordinated by FICCI, in 2023 edition of ExpoMedical, the largest Medical Devices exhibition in LAC region; visit of a 22-member delegation of Solvent Extractors Association (SEA) of India to Argentina from 27 March to 02 April 2023 and their participation in International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference held at Buenos Aires on 29-30 March; Festival of India (FoI) in conjunction with International Day of Yoga in 2024; and buyer-seller meet for 15 Indian companies in basic chemicals, cosmetics and dyes, coordinated by CHEMEXCIL, on 2 October 2023. CHEMEXCIL also signed an MOU for cooperation with its Argentine

counterpart CAPQ. Recently mission also successfully organised another edition of Fol (along with IDY) on 20 June 2025.

20. Mission also hosted a high-level delegation from Uttar Pradesh State Government led by Shri Brajesh Pathak, Deputy Chief Minister and Dr Sanjay Kumar Nishad, Minister of Fisheries to Buenos Aires on 13-15 December 2022 and organized a Roadshow for them.

## **Cultural Relations**

21. The admiration for and impact of Indian culture, yoga, meditation, philosophy, spiritualism, dance and music is very visible. Indian organizations such as Art of Living, Brahmakumari, Rama Krishna Mission, Shri Sathya Sai Baba, Bhakti Marga, Sivananda Yoga and ISKCON among others have extraordinary followings.

22. Foreign Minister Felipe Solá participated in Gandhi@150 celebrations in Buenos Aires on 02 October 2020. Further, President Alberto Fernández addressed a letter to Prime Minister Modi on the occasion. Earlier, on 2 October 2019, the then Vice President Ms. Gabriela Michetti was the Chief Guest at a function held at the Embassy in Buenos Aires to celebrate Gandhi@150.

23. The Embassy has been organizing cultural programs, including 'India Weeks' and 'India Days' in prominent cities and provinces of Argentina. India tourism promotion activities are also held periodically in the capital city and provinces of Argentina. Mission also organized various activities in Buenos Aires to promote Mission LiFE initiative of Prime Minister Modi, including activities like walkathon, beach cleaning and swachhtha campaigns.

24. All eleven editions of International Day of Yoga (IDY) have seen large scale and enthusiastic participation in Buenos Aires as well as in provinces. The 11th IDY celebrations on 20 June 2025. The event was immensely successful witnessing participation of thousands of people. In 2018, an event titled 'Yoga for Peace' organized by Art of Living was attended by PM Modi with participation of over 4000 people and 600 people performing Yoga simultaneously. Mission has successfully conducted Yoga capacitation projects in training academies of Argentine Federal Police as well as those of Buenos Aires City Police and Buenos Aires Provincial Police.

25. The Embassy, in association with CARI, the largest think tank in Argentina, hosted a reception on 24 April 2024 to inaugurate a working group on India. The chief guests of the event were Vice President of the Republic of Argentina Victoria Villaruel and Minister of Justice Mariano Cúneo Libarona. The event also witnessed Secretaries of Ministries, senators and deputies, and prominent businessmen.

26. Ambassador, joined by Demian Reidel, Chief of Advisors to President Milei and Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, DG Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), launched Spanish version of Development Review published by Dakshin / RIS, on 15 November 2024. The Indian Embassy curated an online event titled 'India and Argentina in the New World Order: Dialogue among Indian and Argentine Think Tanks', co-organized with RIS and Center for Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (Spanish acronym: CIPPEC), held on 6 November 2020. EAM and FM Felipe Solá delivered remarks in the Closing Session. Spread across five sessions, the Dialogue witnessed participation

by several distinguished members of the think tank community from India and Argentina. The live streaming across platforms, simultaneously in English and Spanish languages, garnered over 1000 viewers

27. The 9th Ayurveda Day celebrations, jointly hosted by the Mission and Fundacion Ayurveda Prema under the theme "Ayurveda Innovation for Global Health", was inaugurated by the Ambassador and attended by Dr Agustina Bisio, Director of ANMAT on 9 November 2024. More than 250 participants attended the event, including Ayurveda experts, doctors, nutritionists, and influencers, highlighting Ayurveda's holistic approach to well-being. The celebrations of Ayurveda Days in 2022 and 2023, themed "Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda" and 'Ayurveda for One Health" respectively, saw participation of 130 people and 250, respectively.

28. As part of celebrations of 160th birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the Mission published a book titled "Rabindranath Tagore: Visiones desde America Latina" in collaboration with CARI (Argentine Council for International Relations), the largest Argentine think tank. The Book was jointly launched on 16 September 2021 by Ambassador and Jose Octavio Bordon, CARI President. Events to commemorate the birth anniversary of Tagore are hosted by the Mission every year at Tagore's bust, installed in 2019 at Parque Rosedal (Rose Park), Buenos Aires.

29. To celebrate the centennial of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Argentina in 1924, during which he was a guest of the renowned literary figure Victoria Ocampo, the embassy organized a series of events. The first of four monthly online seminar sessions titled "El legado viviente de Rabindranath Tagore" was inaugurated on 20 July 2024. Joined by Secretary of Culture Leonardo Cifelli, Ambassador Bhatia offered floral tributes to bust of Tagore on 6 November 2024, to commemorate Gurudev's arrival in Argentina. Furthermore, embassy organised a seminar on 22 November 2024 at Villa Ocampo, in partnership with Fundación Sur. A joint production feature film, Pensando en el (Thinking of Him) on his visit was the closing film at the International Film Festival of India, Goa in November 2017.

30. Ms. Victoria Ocampo was given an honorary doctorate by the Viswa Bharati University and this was handed over by Prime Minister Smt Indira Gandhi during her visit to Argentina in 1968. Ms Maria Rene Cura, an Argentine writer and close associate of Ms Victoria Ocampo was a renowned Indologist and was awarded the Padma Shri for her Indology work in 1984. Mr Raul Prebisch, the renowned Argentine economist was conferred Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding in 1974.

31. In 2015, at the first World Indologists Conference held in Delhi, 100-year-old Indologist Dr. Fernando Tola represented Argentina and was selected for the Presidential Award of Certificate of Honour in 2016 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the cause of Sanskrit.

## **Technical and Development Cooperation**

32. Mission has made tremendous outreach efforts resulting in visit of eight (8) young politicians from across the political spectrum, to participate in ICCR's Gen-Next Democracy Program in January 2023. Ten (10) journalists from mainstream media under XP Division's familiarization program visited India during 2023 & 2024. Besides, eleven (11) Argentine diplomats have attended Professional Courses for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) and five (5)

Argentine diplomats have attended Annual Disarmament and International Security Affairs Fellowship Program, conducted by SSIFS.

33. India has extended 40-45 slots annually under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) scholarships for capacity building courses to Argentina with total number of ITEC alumni over 300. Four Argentine candidates have attended the fully funded 8-week training program named 'UNNATI (UNIspace Nano-satellite Assembly & Training by ISRO, two from January to March 2019 and another two from October to December 2022. Two officials from CONAE attended Spacecraft Dynamics and Control Course conducted by IIT Kanpur in June 2024.

34. An India-Argentina Center of Excellence (IA-CEIT) in IT was inaugurated by Ambassador Dinesh Bhatia and Education Minister Jaime Perczyk on 18 April 2023 at National University of Hurlingham, Buenos Aires. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), the implementing agency from Indian side, deputed a Technical Adviser to the IA-CEIT in December 2022 for a period of two years for coordination of the Centre and course delivery. After completion of the tenure of the Technical Advisor the IA-CEIT was handed over to National University of Hurlingham in December 2024.

### **Indian Community**

35. There are around 2600 NRIs / PIOs in Argentina. Majority of these live in the capital city of Buenos Aires, including professionals working with Indian companies and multinational corporations such as Cognizant Technologies, IBM, JP Morgan, etc. A large number of earlier migrants who have been in Argentina for 3-4 generations are in provinces of Salta and Jujuy. There are two Gurudwaras in Greater Buenos Aires and one in Rosario de la Frontera, Salta province.

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**JUNE 2025**