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BILATERAL RELATIONS

INDIA - ARGENTINA

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INTRODUCTION

India and Argentina, two vibrant democracies separated by two oceans, share a relationship built on shared values, mutual respect, understanding, and deep adherence to the rule of law. The two countries have maintained warm, friendly, and cohesive relations across a wide spectrum of areas, with bilateral cooperation steadily deepening over the decades. India opened a Trade Commission in Buenos Aires in 1943, which was subsequently converted into one of India's first embassies in South America in 1949. Conversely, Argentina—having established a Consulate in Kolkata back in the 1920s—opened its Embassy in New Delhi in 1950. Over the years, this relationship has matured into a multifaceted partnership encompassing political ties, trade, defence, mining, agriculture, oil and gas, nuclear energy, space, culture, and science and technology. The bond was formally elevated to a Strategic Partnership in February 2019 during the State Visit of the then President of Argentina to India. The two nations celebrated the historic milestone of 75 years of diplomatic relations on 3 February 2024, commemorated by a series of high-profile events throughout the year.

In recent years, the strategic partnership has continued to expand dynamically through active institutional mechanisms, high-level political exchanges, and crucial economic integration. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a landmark bilateral visit to Argentina on 4–5 July 2025, marking the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 57 years. During the visit, Prime Minister Modi held highly productive talks with President Javier Milei at the Casa Rosada, where both leaders committed to diversifying the trade basket and deepening ties in critical minerals (particularly lithium), space collaboration, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture. This political momentum has translated into robust institutional ties, underscored by strategic business joint ventures such as the energy and mining cooperation agreements between Indian energy PSUs and Argentina's YPF. Moving forward, both nations continue to reinforce their strategic alliance through regular Joint Commission meetings and close cooperation in international forums, ensuring a resilient and mutually beneficial future.



HISTORY

India and Argentina have maintained diplomatic relations since 3 February 1949. India had established a Trade Commission in Buenos Aires in 1943, which was later upgraded to an Embassy in 1949. Argentina opened its Embassy in New Delhi in 1950. These early institutional links laid the foundation for the development of friendly bilateral relations between the two countries.

Historical and cultural contacts also contributed to the relationship. Rabindranath Tagore visited Argentina in 1924 and stayed in San Isidro near Buenos Aires, where he developed a close intellectual association with Victoria Ocampo, an influential Argentine writer and cultural figure. Tagore's visit created an enduring cultural connection between India and Argentina and contributed to greater awareness of Indian literature and philosophy in Argentina.

Over the following decades, India–Argentina relations expanded beyond political and cultural contacts into economic, scientific, technological and diplomatic cooperation. The relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership in 2019, providing a broader framework for cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The two countries celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2024, reflecting the longstanding and steadily expanding nature of their bilateral partnership.



ECONOMIC RELATIONS

India and Argentina have developed a dynamic and expanding economic relationship covering trade, investment, mining, agriculture, energy, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing and technology. Bilateral trade more than doubled between 2019 and 2022, reaching US$6.4 billion in 2022. After declining to US$3.9 billion in 2023 because of drought and economic difficulties in Argentina, bilateral trade recovered strongly in 2024, rising by 33% to US$5.2 billion. During the first four months of 2025, trade reached about US$2.06 billion, registering 53.9% growth compared with the corresponding period.

India's major exports to Argentina include petroleum oils, agrochemicals, yarn and fabrics, organic chemicals, bulk drugs and two-wheelers, while major Indian imports from Argentina include soybean and sunflower oils, finished leather, cereals, chemicals and pulses. Argentina is an important supplier of edible oils to India, particularly soybean oil. The two countries are also working to diversify bilateral trade and improve market access by addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers. The India–Mercosur Preferential Trade Agreement provides an existing framework for trade relations, with both sides exploring ways to make it broader and more ambitious.

Investment cooperation is another important component of the economic relationship. Indian companies have invested over US$1.2 billion in Argentina, with Indian businesses active in IT services, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, automobiles, seeds and engineering. Argentine investment in India is approximately US$120 million, with companies such as Globant, OLX and TECHINT having a presence in the Indian market. The two countries are also expanding cooperation in lithium and critical minerals, with state-owned KABIL signing an agreement with CAMYEN in January 2024 to explore five lithium blocks in Argentina's Catamarca province.

Energy, mining and agriculture are emerging as major areas of economic cooperation. India and Argentina have strengthened collaboration in lithium, oil and gas, renewable energy and critical minerals, while Argentina's strengths in agriculture and natural resources complement India's large market, manufacturing capacity, technology and investment potential. In February 2023, OVL and Argentina's YPF signed an agreement to promote cooperation in the oil and gas sector, while in January 2025 YPF signed an MoU with Indian energy companies for cooperation in energy and mining.



TRADE RELATIONS

India and Argentina have developed a significant and expanding trade relationship, with bilateral trade covering petroleum products, agrochemicals, organic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, vegetable oils, cereals, pulses, and leather. Bilateral trade more than doubled between 2019 and 2022, reaching US$6.4 billion. After a brief dip to US$3.9 billion in 2023 due to climatic challenges, commerce strongly rebounded to US$5.2 billion in 2024, and ultimately surged past US$6.5 billion in 2025, registering an annual growth rate of over 17%. India's major exports to Argentina include petroleum oils, agrochemicals, fabrics, organic chemicals, bulk drugs, and two-wheelers. Argentina’s major exports to India center on soybean and sunflower oils, finished leather, cereals, and pulses. Argentina remains a primary supplier of edible oils to the Indian market, while India has successfully solidified its position as Argentina's fifth-largest trading partner.

This expanding trade relationship is underpinned by robust institutional mechanisms, notably the India–Argentina Joint Trade Committee (JTC) and the India–Argentina Business Council (IABC). At the fourth meeting of the JTC held in Buenos Aires on 24 August 2026, co-chaired by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, the two nations achieved major breakthroughs in market access. These included advanced sanitary protocols for Indian agricultural goods and a concrete commitment from Argentina to upgrade India’s pharmaceutical regulatory status to Annex I, effectively dismantling key non-tariff barriers. Furthermore, the India–MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement continues to serve as a vital institutional pillar. Following the 2026 talks, both sides prioritized concluding negotiations to expand the PTA product concessions list within a year while adopting digital certificates of origin. Complemented by growing joint ventures in lithium mining and energy infrastructure, these measures continue to scale bilateral commerce and anchor the broader Strategic Partnership.



SCIENCE & EDUCATION

India and Argentina have developed cooperation in science, technology and innovation as an important component of their Strategic Partnership. The two countries have an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation, covering the exchange of scientific and technical information and personnel, joint research programmes, technological development and scientific facilities. Areas of cooperation include biotechnology, medical sciences, agriculture and food technology, information and communication technology, renewable energy, ocean science and manufacturing technologies.

Space cooperation is another important area. India's ISRO and Argentina's CONAE cooperate under the agreement on the peaceful uses of outer space, with the third meeting of their Joint Committee held in October 2024. Argentine officials have also participated in Indian space-related training programmes, including UNNATI and a spacecraft dynamics and control course conducted by IIT Kanpur.
Education and capacity-building have also expanded through Indian programmes. India provides ITEC scholarships and training opportunities to Argentine participants, with around 40–45 ITEC slots offered annually and more than 300 Argentine ITEC alumni. The India–Argentina Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (IA-CEIT) was inaugurated at the National University of Hurlingham in Buenos Aires in April 2023 to promote technology transfer, knowledge sharing, expert exchanges and training.

The two countries are also exploring greater cooperation in higher education, innovation, startups and advanced technologies. Discussions between Indian and Argentine officials have covered areas such as nuclear energy, space, startups, innovation and Industry 4.0. In 2024, discussions with Argentina's education authorities focused on expanding bilateral educational cooperation and the potential for greater collaboration in higher education.
These initiatives support the broader objective of strengthening scientific research, technological innovation, education and human-resource development between India and Argentina. The partnership is increasingly oriented towards science and technology, space, digital technologies, innovation and education, creating opportunities for universities, research institutions, scientists and students of both countries.



CULTURAL RELATIONS

India and Argentina share growing cultural relations supported by strong interest in Indian culture, yoga, meditation, philosophy, spirituality, dance and music. Indian cultural organisations such as the Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris, Ramakrishna Mission, Sathya Sai Baba, Bhakti Marga, Sivananda Yoga and ISKCON have established significant followings in Argentina. The two countries also promote cultural exchanges through educational, artistic, literary, media and sporting activities under the Cultural Agreement signed in 1974.
Yoga has emerged as an important element of people-to-people relations. The Embassy of India has organised International Day of Yoga celebrations across Buenos Aires and other provinces, with the 11th edition in June 2025 attracting participation from thousands of people. Indian cultural outreach has also included India Weeks, India Days, tourism-promotion programmes, cultural performances and Indian film festivals. The Embassy has also conducted yoga-capacity-building programmes for training academies of the Argentine Federal Police and Buenos Aires City and Provincial Police.

The legacy of Rabindranath Tagore provides a particularly significant historical link between the two societies. Tagore visited Argentina in 1924 as a guest of Argentine writer Victoria Ocampo, creating an important connection between Indian and Argentine literary and intellectual traditions. To mark the centenary of his visit, the Embassy organised seminars and cultural programmes in 2024, including an event at Villa Ocampo in collaboration with Fundación Sur.

Cultural engagement has continued to expand in 2026 through exhibitions, traditional Indian arts workshops, Indian film festivals and cultural performances. The Embassy's exhibition "India: Past, Present and Future" included cultural shows and screenings of Bollywood films with Spanish subtitles, while the Embassy has also highlighted the growing Argentine interest in India's spiritual traditions, holistic way of life and cultural and artistic heritage.

Educational and cultural exchanges are further supported through ICCR scholarships, including opportunities for Argentine students to study in India and scholarships for foreign students to pursue Indian dance, music, theatre, performing arts, sculpture, Indian languages and other aspects of Indian culture. These initiatives contribute to deeper people-to-people connections and mutual understanding between India and Argentina.



INDIAN DIASPORA

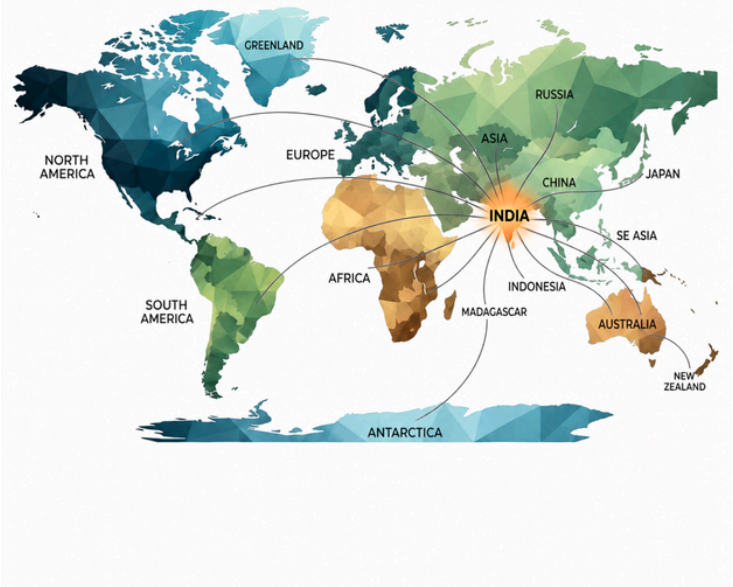
According to the latest data available from the Ministry of External Affairs, there are 2,600 overseas Indians in Argentina, comprising approximately 1,800 Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and 800 Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). The majority of the community is concentrated in Buenos Aires, where many professionals work with Indian companies and multinational corporations.

A significant section of the community also consists of families whose Indian-origin members have lived in Argentina for three or four generations, particularly in the provinces of Salta and Jujuy. The community maintains its cultural and religious traditions, with two Gurudwaras in Greater Buenos Aires and another in Rosario de la Frontera in Salta Province. These institutions and community networks contribute to preserving Indian cultural traditions and strengthening social and cultural links between the two countries.

The Government of India facilitates engagement with the diaspora through initiatives such as the Know India Programme (KIP), which enables young people of Indian origin to visit India and gain an understanding of the country's contemporary development, history, culture, economy, science and technology. The Embassy of India in Buenos Aires also provides consular services for Indian nationals and facilitates matters relating to OCI status and other diaspora-related services.



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