



Argentina's President Visit to India

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President of Argentina Mauricio Macri paid a state visit to India.

2019 is the **70th year of establishment of diplomatic relations** between the two countries.□

India-Argentina Relations

- **Political Ties**

- India opened a trade commission in Buenos Aires in 1943, which was later converted into the embassy of India 1949.
- During the visit, both countries decided to elevate cooperation to a strategic partnership with a focus on key areas for the prosperity of both countries.

- **Counter-Terrorism**

- India and Argentina **issued a separate joint declaration to fight terrorism**.
- Argentina condemned the recent terrorist attack in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir in the strongest terms.
- Both countries reiterated their commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and gave a call that any country must not allow their territory to be used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries.
- India also urged to implement the **11-point agenda of 'Hamburg Statement on countering terrorism'** which was agreed during G-20 Summit in 2018.

- **Economic and Commercial Engagement**

- In the last 10 years, the bilateral trade has more than doubled and is around the US \$ 3 billion.
- There are possibilities for a significant increase in many sectors such as agriculture, metals, and minerals, oils and gas, pharmaceutical, chemicals, motor vehicles and services.
- India and Argentina **decided to work together to further enhance and diversify trade and investment** by eliminating impediments, facilitating greater market access and promoting trade and investment.

- **Agriculture**
 - Argentina is the **powerhouse of agriculture**. India sees it as an important partner for its food security.
 - During the visit, both countries decided to enhance the scope of agricultural cooperation, including the exchange of technology to increase productivity, reduce post-harvest losses and build climate resilience.
- **Mining**
 - Argentina is a part of the **Lithium Triangle**, and it has approximately 54% of the world's lithium reservoir.
 - India's public sector mining company, Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL), has decided to establish a joint venture for the lithium mining in Argentina
- **India-Mercosur**
 - **India was the first country to sign a Preferential Trade Agreement with MERCOSUR in 2004.**
 - Argentina and India agreed to expand the PTA.

MERCOSUR

The **Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR for its Spanish initials)** is a regional integration process, initially established by **Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, and subsequently joined by Venezuela and Bolivia**.

- **International Cooperation**
 - Argentina has played a **major role in India's accession to the various non-proliferation regimes**, including the Missile Treaty Control Regime, Wassenaar Arrangement, and Australia Group.
 - India and Argentina reaffirmed their commitment to globalization and reformed multilateralism.
 - Both sides agreed to work together for **reforms in World Trade Organization (WTO) and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council**.
- **South-South Cooperation**
 - India will be participating in the second high-level conference of the **United Nations on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires in 2019 (BAPA+40)**.
- Other Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) cover the areas like Defence Cooperation, Space Cooperation, Nuclear Energy, Oil and Gas, Renewable Energy, Education, Culture, People to People Exchanges etc.