

Speech by Ambassador on the occasion of 79th Independence Day

15th August, 2025

H.E. Minister Mariano Cúneo Libarona, Hono'ble members of the Congress, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, and dear friends,

Namaste.

I am immensely pleased to welcome you to this evening's reception to celebrate the 79th anniversary of India's Independence Day.

78 years ago, on this day, a new India was born as a free country after over a century of foreign rule. India faced many challenges at the dawn of its independence. Not only did it have to overcome the trauma of partition, but it also had to navigate the difficult process of integrating over 550 princely states, comprehend the diversity of its people and their aspirations, and shape a Constitution that every citizen of India could be proud of. Most importantly, India needed to begin the complex process of rebuilding the nation.

Today, India stands as a proud nation of over 1.4 billion people and a major global player in almost every field of human activity while remaining steadfast to the values that unite us. Over the last 78 years, India has made significant strides in ensuring the economic and social well-being of its people and has contributed to global peace, security, and prosperity.

India's economic growth has been steady. We are now the 4th largest economy in the world, with our nominal GDP tripling over the past decade. During this period, India shifted from chronic high

inflation to a state of pronounced stability by adopting a structured monetary policy, resulting in inflation remaining mostly within the target band of 2-6%. We achieved exemplary success in diverse fields, including agriculture, space, information technology, pharmaceuticals, and the service industry resulting in the country likely to play an important role in driving global economic growth for the next three decades.

However, the most notable achievement of our country is the preservation of democracy, the individual freedoms enshrined in our Constitution, the equality of opportunity for every Indian citizen, the independence of the judiciary, and the truly secular character of our nation. These values are deeply rooted in Indian civilization and form the very basis of India's strategic autonomy to choose and decide what is in the best interest of its nationals.

The last eleven years have been especially remarkable. The Government of India has launched many flagship programs, such as Make in India, Startup India, Digital India, Skill India, Smart Cities, and Clean India, along with various administrative and economic reforms to support India's sustainable growth and development. I request all present here to visit India, if possible with your loved ones, to witness the tremendous changes taking place.

The year 2025 marks the 76th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Argentina. This year is historic as it witnessed a bilateral official visit by Hon'ble Prime Minister to Argentina after 57 years. The visit provided an opportunity to expand our relations, especially in critical sectors such as agriculture, energy (including oil, gas, and lithium for clean energy transition), mining, nuclear cooperation, defense, space technology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and digital public

infrastructure. Moreover, it reinforced our commitment to deepening the strategic partnership between our two pluralistic democracies characterized by goodwill, mutual respect, and understanding.

In addition to this visit, the past year included a visit from the then Foreign and International Trade Minister, H.E. Ms. Diana Mondino, to India; the two countries conducted their 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations, the first Joint Working Group on Mineral Resources, and the second Joint Working Group meeting on Agriculture. In addition, in August 2025, a patrol composed of soldiers from both countries completed an expedition to the Himalayas. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the team of nine soldiers from the Argentine Army who completed this historic mission.

In the first half of 2025, India and Argentina significantly strengthened their trade relations, with bilateral trade reaching USD 3,128.50 million. This marks a substantial increase of 43.54% compared to the corresponding period in 2024, when the total bilateral trade amounted to USD 2,179.51 million. India has become the 5th largest trading partner and export destination for Argentina. This continued upward trajectory underscores a strong resurgence in India-Argentina economic engagement and strategic cooperation.

India has a total cumulative investment of about USD 1.2 billion in Argentina. The last addition in this journey was in June of this year when Mphasis, a global technology services company headquartered in Bangalore, with a net worth exceeding USD 7 billion and a presence in over 20 countries, expanded into Argentina and set up its Centre of Excellence focusing on artificial intelligence solutions, cloud computing, and cognitive technologies applied to the financial sector.

Cultural exchange between India and Argentina has flourished over the past year, marked by significant events such as the International Day of Yoga, celebrated with great enthusiasm. This year, thousands participated in a grand celebration at Parque Olímpico in southern Buenos Aires, emphasizing yoga's deep cultural and spiritual values. The Embassy also hosted vibrant India Day festivities in Escobar and Ayurveda Day events, showcasing a strong interest in Indian traditions.

The Embassy is currently offering free yoga and dance classes, with plans to introduce free Hindi classes soon. Everyone is welcome to take advantage of these opportunities.

I am confident that the friendship between the people of our two countries and the bilateral relations between our governments will continue to flourish and reach new heights.

Finally, I would like to thank my entire team at the Embassy and the hotel staff for organizing the event.

Jai Hind!

Dhanyavaad

Muchas gracias