



## 1.Modi-Milei Talks - Strengthening India-Argentina Ties in Critical Minerals, Shale, Defence and Technology

CLAT 2026 | Geopolitics, Bilateral Diplomacy & Strategic Resources | CLAT Gurukul Current Affairs Series

### Introduction

In a significant step forward for India's foreign policy and global strategic alignments, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Argentina** and bilateral talks with **President Javier Milei** marked a critical moment in the **India-Argentina Strategic Partnership**. Held in Buenos Aires on July 5–6, 2025, the discussions touched upon vital sectors such as **critical minerals, shale gas, defence cooperation, telemedicine, digital health, and information technology**, signifying a wide-ranging framework of mutual collaboration.

This meeting is historically important as it is the **first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Argentina in 57 years**, and it comes at a time when both nations are **expanding their global footprints**, especially in areas of **energy security, mineral supply chains, and digital innovation**. With Argentina's vast **reserves of lithium, shale gas**, and other critical materials, and India's growing industrial and defence needs, the partnership holds transformative potential.

For students preparing under the **best online coaching for CLAT** or any **online coaching for CLAT**, this development offers rich insights into **international relations, trade diplomacy, strategic minerals law, and energy policy**—all crucial for the **CLAT Current Affairs 2026** and **Legal Reasoning** sections.

### Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Buenos Aires on July 5, 2025, and held bilateral talks with President Javier Milei of Argentina.
- The two sides explored cooperation in:
  - Critical minerals (lithium, rare earth elements)
  - Shale gas and oil
  - Defence manufacturing
  - Space collaboration
  - Telemedicine and digital healthcare
  - Education, disaster management, agriculture
- The visit marked **75 years of India-Argentina diplomatic ties** and **5 years of Strategic Partnership**.
- The meeting focused on deepening economic cooperation, tech partnerships, and securing supply chains.



## Point-wise Summary

### 1. Diplomatic Milestone

- First Indian bilateral visit to Argentina in 57 years.
- Modi's second visit to Argentina—earlier visit was for the G20 Summit in 2018.
- Commemorates **75 years of diplomatic relations** and marks **5 years of elevated strategic partnership**.

### 2. Geopolitical Significance

- Argentina is undergoing **major economic reforms** and is looking to expand strategic partnerships beyond its traditional allies.
- The visit is seen as timely, as both countries aim to **diversify global alignments** in a **multipolar world order**.

### 3. Critical Minerals Collaboration

- Argentina holds the **world's second-largest shale gas reserves** and the **fourth-largest shale oil reserves**.
- Rich in **lithium, copper, and rare earth elements**—key for clean energy and electronics.
- India seeks stable supply chains to fuel **EV batteries, solar panels, and semiconductor growth**.
- Indian PSU **KABIL** already won two **lithium concessions in Argentina** since 2024.

### 4. Shale Energy & Oil Sector

- Discussions on **joint ventures in shale gas exploration**.
- Argentina's vast conventional and shale reserves make it a **natural energy partner**.
- India exploring access to **Argentina's oil and gas basins** to secure long-term supply needs.

### 5. Defence & Space Cooperation

- Dialogue includes:
  - **Satellite development**
  - **Launch services**
  - **Joint research in defence innovation**
- India expressed interest in **expanding defence manufacturing ties**, particularly in missiles and aviation technologies.

### 6. Telemedicine & Digital Health

- India's **Arogya Setu-style digital platforms** and **low-cost healthcare solutions** were showcased.
- India offered to support **Argentina's healthcare digitization** drive using:
  - **AI-enabled medical diagnostics**
  - **Rural teleconsultation models**



### 7. Education, Agri-tech, Climate Cooperation

- Talks on:
  - **Joint university research**
  - **Digital classroom models**
  - **Smart agriculture**
  - **Climate resilience**
  - **Disaster management systems**
- Technology transfer and training of human resources included in the roadmap.

### 8. Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

- Discussions initiated to **fast-track a Preferential Trade Agreement** to boost:
  - Access to Indian pharmaceuticals in Latin American markets.
  - Faster drug approvals and adoption of **India's UPI payment system**.

### 9. Symbolic Diplomacy

- PM Modi:
  - Paid homage to **General José de San Martín**, a hero of Argentina's independence.
  - Visited **Boca Juniors stadium**, famous for football legend **Diego Maradona**.

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### Explanation of Peculiar Terms (NOTES)

1. **Critical Minerals:** Rare minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earths essential for renewable energy technologies, defence, and electronics.
2. **Shale Gas:** Natural gas trapped within shale formations, extracted using hydraulic fracturing ("fracking").
3. **Strategic Partnership:** A formal bilateral relationship involving economic, defence, technological, and political cooperation.
4. **Telemedicine:** Providing healthcare services remotely using digital technology, especially in rural and underserved areas.
5. **KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Limited):** A joint PSU established to secure strategic mineral supplies from abroad.
6. **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA):** A trade deal where countries reduce tariffs or duties for selected goods/services to promote mutual trade.
7. **UPI (Unified Payments Interface):** India's digital real-time payment system, now being exported to several countries.



### Legal and Strategic Framework

#### A. Bilateral Trade & Investment Law

- PTAs must comply with **World Trade Organization (WTO)** rules.
- India's agreements are governed by:
  - **Foreign Trade Policy**
  - **FTDR Act, 1992**
  - **Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)**

#### B. Minerals Regulation

- India regulates critical minerals through:
  - **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957**
  - **National Mineral Policy, 2019**
- Foreign mineral imports must comply with **strategic resource allocation frameworks**.

#### C. Defence and Space Law

- Technology transfer and joint defence manufacturing require:
  - **MoD clearances**
  - Compliance with **Strategic Partnership Model (SPM)**
  - Oversight under **ISRO and DRDO protocols**

By Ready For Exam



## 2.The 'Big Beautiful Bill Act': US Policy U-turn on Clean Energy as China Surges Ahead

CLAT 2026 | Energy Policy, International Relations, and Environmental Law | CLAT Gurukul Current Affairs Series

### Introduction

In a dramatic shift from the previous Biden administration's green energy agenda, US President **Donald Trump** has signed into law the **'One Big Beautiful Bill' Act (OBBBA)** on July 3, 2025. This legislation reverses key provisions of the **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** and significantly **pulls back on federal support for clean energy technologies**, such as solar, wind, and electric vehicles (EVs). Simultaneously, the OBBBA **doubles down on fossil fuel production**, expands oil and gas drilling, and reduces royalty rates.

This policy reversal has significant **domestic, economic, and global implications**, particularly as the **world races toward green transitions** and nations like **China increase their clean energy investments**. The OBBBA may reshape global energy markets, challenge climate change commitments, and realign geopolitical strategies in energy dominance.

For aspirants enrolled in the **best online coaching for CLAT** or any **online coaching for CLAT**, this development touches upon vital topics such as **environmental law, international energy policy, climate change governance, and legislative process in democracies**, making it crucial for **CLAT Current Affairs 2026** and **Legal Reasoning**.

### Why in News?

- **US President Donald Trump** signed the **'One Big Beautiful Bill' Act (OBBBA)** into law on **July 3, 2025**, marking a significant departure from Biden's green policies.
- The law:
  - Phases out incentives for **solar, wind, and EVs**
  - Slashes support for **clean energy infrastructure**
  - Expands **fossil fuel subsidies and drilling operations**
- Comes at a time when **China is rapidly increasing its solar, wind, and EV investments**, gaining dominance in the global clean energy race.
- The Act is expected to **increase US household energy bills** and reduce America's leadership role in climate mitigation.



## Point-wise Summary

### 1. What is the Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)?

- A legislative act signed by **President Donald Trump** on July 3, 2025.
- Approved by **both the US Senate and House of Representatives**.
- Formally reverses key provisions of the **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** initiated under President Joe Biden.

### 2. Core Provisions of OBBBA

- **Ends federal tax credits** for EV purchases starting **September 30, 2025**.
- Phases out incentives for:
  - **Solar and wind energy projects**
  - **EV battery manufacturing**
- **Expands oil and gas leasing** with reduced royalty rates.
- Supports hydrogen and nuclear research but **cuts support for green technologies**.

### 3. Economic Impact on Households

- According to the **Rhodium Group**, the OBBBA will:
  - Increase US household energy bills by **2–7%**.
  - Cost families an additional **\$95–\$250 annually by 2035**.
- Driven largely by:
  - **Reduced EV adoption** → higher fuel consumption.
  - **Higher demand for fossil fuels** → increased energy prices.

### 4. Fossil Fuel Support and Expansion

- The bill encourages:
  - New **domestic oil exploration**
  - Expanded **fossil fuel infrastructure**
- Reduces regulatory burdens and:
  - Increases drilling rights
  - Slashes royalty rates for fossil energy companies



## 5. Concerns from Environmentalists

- Climate experts warn:
  - OBBBA undermines clean energy momentum.
  - US will lag in global climate leadership.
- The **World Resources Institute** stated:

“Fossil fuels alone won’t meet the energy demands of a modern, electrified economy.”

## 6. Strategic Risk: Losing the Clean Energy Race

- US rollback comes at a time when:
  - **China has surged ahead** in renewable investments.
  - China built **100+ coal plants and 240 GW of solar/wind** in 2024 alone.
- Critics argue the US is giving up its position in the **clean energy supply chain and green manufacturing**.

## 7. Potential Impact on US Industry

- Manufacturing risk:
  - Low demand for solar panels, batteries, EVs → factories may shut down.
- Financial concerns:
  - Previously announced clean-tech investments could be stalled or withdrawn.

## 8. Broader Legislative Themes

- The OBBBA also aims at:
  - **Reducing federal spending**
  - **Shrinking federal deficits**
  - **Focusing on “energy independence” through domestic fossil fuels**

## 9. Global Implications

- Weakens US position in:
  - **Climate change negotiations**
  - **Clean energy trade**
- May lead to:
  - **Rise in global emissions**
  - **Reversal of US-India and US-EU green partnerships**





## Explanation of Peculiar Terms (NOTES)

1. **OBBBA (One Big Beautiful Bill Act):** A US legislation reversing support for clean energy technologies and increasing fossil fuel reliance.
2. **IRA (Inflation Reduction Act):** Biden-era law that invested over \$369 billion in climate and clean energy projects.
3. **Royalty Rates:** Payments made by private companies to the government for extracting natural resources like oil and gas.
4. **EVs (Electric Vehicles):** Battery-powered vehicles that reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to internal combustion engine cars.
5. **Fossil Fuel Subsidies:** Financial incentives provided to oil, gas, and coal producers to lower their production costs.
6. **Rhodium Group:** A policy think tank specializing in climate, economic, and energy analysis.

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## Legal and Policy Implications

### A. Legislative Process

- The Act demonstrates the power of **executive-legislative alignment** in altering federal priorities.
- Reflects **partisan shifts** in US Congress over climate and energy.

### B. International Treaties and Climate Commitments

- Pulling back on clean energy may violate **Paris Agreement obligations**.
- Raises questions on US compliance with **multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)**.

### C. Domestic Environmental Law Reversal

- Undermines progress under:
  - **Clean Air Act**
  - **Energy Policy Act of 2005**
  - State-level Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)