

India-Andorra Bilateral Brief

Ambassador of India to Spain is concurrently accredited to the Principality of Andorra. Diplomatic relations were instituted between Andorra and India in 1994, soon after the proclamation of the Andorran constitution in 1993. Bilateral relations have been cordial and friendly with a special focus on cooperation in international organizations. Both sides have expressed keenness on strengthening bilateral relations on new fronts. Andorra is a parliamentary diarchy / co-principality with the Catholic Bishop of Urgell and the President of France as the two co-princes and joint Heads of State.

High level Visits and Engagements

Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, then Minister of State for Steel, paid a goodwill visit to Andorra during 8-12 April 2018 as part of PM's initiative to reach out to all countries of the world. This was the first visit by an Indian Minister to Andorra. He met Ms Maria Ubach Font, the Andorran Minister of Foreign Affairs and handed over an invitation from EAM Ms Sushma Swaraj for visiting India. He also invited Andorran companies to invest in India and discussed possibilities to strengthen economic relations. MoS addressed a gathering of the Indian community in Andorra.

Political relations

The first round of India – Andorra Foreign Office Consultations was held in Andorra on 31 March 2014 and reviewed all bilateral and multilateral issues. Andorra has generally supported India's candidatures to many international organizations. As proposed during the visit of MoS Steel, a senior Andorran diplomat participated in the 4th Special Course for ASEM Diplomats organised by FSI in New Delhi during 14 – 20 November 2018. A draft Tax Information Exchange Agreement is currently under negotiation.

Economic and commercial relations

Bilateral trade between India and Andorra stood at US\$ 4.31 million in 2018 with nearly all trade being Indian exports to Andorra which included textiles and garments, leather products and footwear, iron and steel and precious and semi-precious stones.

Cultural relations

An Indian classical music concert by Dr Rajnandini was organized as part of the annual *Setmana de la Diversitat* cultural festival in Andorra on 14 May 2019. An ICCR sponsored contemporary dance group from India had earlier visited Andorra in December 2013.

Indian community

Around 140 Indians/PIOs live in Andorra. The Indian community has been in Andorra since 1970s and are mainly in retail business. The Indian community is well-respected for being a peace-loving community which has assimilated well into the Andorran society.