

## India-Spain Bilateral Brief

India and Spain have enjoyed cordial relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956. A Mission headed by a Chargé d’Affaires opened in Madrid in 1958. The first resident Ambassador of India was appointed in 1965.

### High Level Visits

2. President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was the first Indian Head of State to pay a State Visit in April 2009. The then King, His Majesty King Juan Carlos I, paid a state visit to India in October 2012, accompanied by a high level delegation, including the Spanish Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Industry, Energy and Tourism and Infrastructure and Transport. During the visit, agreements/MOUs were signed in the areas of Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion; Defence Cooperation; Road Transport Sector; Audio-Visual Co-production and Railways.

3. The present King, His Majesty Felipe VI, visited India as Crown Prince on his first official visit in November 2009, during which he inaugurated the Cervantes Institute in New Delhi. King Felipe had earlier visited India in February 2001 and October 1997. The then Spanish Prime Minister José Rodriguez Zapatero paid an official visit to India in July 2006. **The last standalone bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Spain was in 1988 by Shri Rajiv Gandhi.**

4. There were several visits from Spain to India in the year 2015 – former Spanish Defence Minister, Mr. Pedro Morenes visited India in March 2015; the then Foreign Minister Jose Garcia-Margallo visited India in April 2015 and the two sides came out with a Joint Communiqué, underlying major areas of cooperation in future, ranging from defence and nuclear cooperation, to trade and science and technology. To commemorate 60 years of India-Spain Diplomatic Relations in 2016, the Ministers agreed to formulate a programme of activities for the year. The Communiqué highlighted specific points of action to enhance the bilateral relationship, including a Security Policy Dialogue, to assess common strategic security challenges; collaboration of experts in the fields of foreign affairs and security from their respective think tanks and academia; and cooperation between the diplomatic training institutes of the two countries.

5. The political deadlock that emerged in Spain after the December 2015 general elections hampered the momentum built by engagements in 2015. For most part of 2016, the engagement between the two countries remained low-key. A Goodwill Delegation of Indian Parliamentarians led by Union Minister of

Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizer Shri Ananth Kumar and twelve senior parliamentarians visited Madrid and Valladolid in October 2016. The delegation met with the Secretary of State for Parliamentary Relations, Foreign Affairs Secretary, Mayor of Valladolid and held important bilateral discussions with some Spanish business houses. Later in November, Lt. Gen. V G Khandare, DG DIA, visited Spain for a meeting with Centre for Armed Forces Intelligence, the Spanish counterpart of Defence Intelligence Agency, with an aim to enhance the existing relations and mutual understanding between the two countries in the field of Defence Intelligence. In January 2017, Secretary DRDO visited Spain to hold meetings with representatives of Spanish defence industries and Defence Secretary. JS(Navy) visited Madrid in January 2017 for the second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation.

**Economic and Commercial Relations** *(May also see separate Economic & Commercial brief)*

5. Bilateral trade between India and Spain during the year 2016 stood at US\$ 5.22 billion. India's exports to Spain stood at US\$ 3.83 billion and Spain's exports to India at US\$ 1.39 billion, thus resulting in a trade balance of US\$ 2.44 billion in India's favour. Spain is India's 7<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner in the European Union.

6. Indian exports to Spain include organic chemicals, textiles and garments, iron and steel products, automotive components, marine products and leather goods. Indian imports consist largely of machines and mechanical appliances, vehicles and automobiles, plastic manufactures, electrical appliances, rubber and rubber products and olives/olive oil.

7. Spain is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest investor in India with \$2.32 billion in FDI (April 2000 – December 2016), mostly in infrastructure (Isolux Corsan, Grupo San Jose), renewable energy (Gamesa, Acciona), auto components (Gestamp, Antolin), water desalination (Abengoa) and single brand retail (Inditex). A total of around 200 Spanish companies have subsidiaries, joint ventures, projects or liaison offices and purchase offices in India. There are over 40 Indian companies in Spain, the most significant ones being in the areas of IT (TCS, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, NIIT), Energy (Avantha, Suzlon), Automobiles (Mahindra) and Pharmaceuticals (Sun, Ranbaxy, Aurobindo, Dr.Reddy's, Vivimed). The stock of Indian investment in Spain is approximately US\$800 million euros.

8. The India-Spain Joint Economic Commission (JEC) was set up under the 1972 Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement, and has met ten times since

then. The 10th Session of the JEC was held in New Delhi on 2nd February 2015 and was chaired by Shri Rajeev Kher, Commerce Secretary of India and his Spanish counterpart, Mr. Jaime García-Legaz Ponce, Secretary of State for Trade, Government of Spain. The next round of JEC is proposed to be held in Madrid in May 2017.

9. The first informal meeting of the newly constituted India – Spain CEOs Forum was held in Madrid in June 2016. The MoU between the secretariats of the Forum from both sides was formally signed during the meeting. The first formal meeting of the Forum is proposed to be held prior to the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister to Spain.

10. A Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Port Matters between the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Government of Spain was signed in July 2016 in Madrid. Later that year, a MoU on cooperation in High Speed Railways was signed between High Speed Rail Corporation, India and Adif, Spain.

11. India's national carrier, Air India, started its direct, non-stop, thrice-a-week flight service between New Delhi and Madrid on 1 December 2016.

12. Visits: Mr Subhash Desai, Minister for Industries and Mining, Government of Maharashtra, visited Madrid to participate in the FICCI IIFA Global Business Forum in June, 2016. Indian delegations participated in various international trade fairs and conferences held in Spain including FITUR (Tourism, January 2017), Mobile World Congress (Telecom, February 2017), Annual Conference of the International Manganese Institute (June 2016), 70<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Fiscal Association (September, 2016), CPhI Worldwide (Pharmaceuticals, October 2016) and Smart City Expo World Congress (Urban Development, November 2016).

### **Cultural and Academic Relations**

13. Cultural exchange is an important component of India-Spain bilateral relations. ICCR sponsors visits of cultural troupes for performances in various parts of Spain and offers five scholarships to Spanish students every year to study in India. Mission brings out a quarterly publication titled 'Hola Namaste' carrying articles on contemporary events in India.

14. Casa de la India was founded in 2003 as a platform for the promotion of India and Spain and Indo-Spanish relationships in the field of culture, education, cooperation and enterprise. Indian Council for Cultural Relations, City Council of Valladolid, and the Valladolid University are its main patrons.

The Institute of Indology in Madrid is a private initiative of academicians and friends of India in Spain. The Institute conducts regular academic activities focused on India, the most important of these being the Summer Courses and the Autumn Courses on India. The Spanish Association for Interdisciplinary Indian Studies (AEEII in Spanish) also organizes conferences on India biennially at different venues in Spain.

15. A special calendar of Indian cultural events in Spain was put together to celebrate the 60th anniversary year of diplomatic relations in 2016. The year saw as many as 27 Indian musical concerts across major Spanish cities by renowned Indian artistes like Dr L Subramaniam, Ms Bindu Subramaniam, Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Vidhwan 'Vikku' Vinayakram, Shri Amaan Ali Khan and Shri Ayaan Ali Khan, Ms Madhavi Mudgal, Ms. Rani Khannam and Shri Tanmay Bose. The year also celebrated the 2016 edition of the biennial Indian classical music festival in Spain - 'India en Concierto'. The International Indian Film Academy Awards (IFFA) 2016 were held in Madrid in the month of June. ICCR sponsored exhibition 'Women by Women' was hosted in Valladolid and Segovia during the first half of the year. From September 2016 to early January 2017, contemporary art exhibition "Forms of Devotion", supported by ICCR and Museum of Sacred Arts, Belgium, was displayed in Madrid and Valladolid, where it saw a huge footfall.

16. 'Festival of India', sponsored by Ministry of Culture also presented an array of events in Spain during 2016 – ranging from dance and music to literature and theatre. A Food Festival (with special participation of ITDC Chefs) and a Yoga Week were successfully organised in Madrid as part of the Festival in June 2016. The Yoga Week culminated in a grand central celebration of the second International Day of Yoga (IDY) in Madrid on June 25, 2016 with about 1000 participants. Apart from the lead event in Madrid, over 15 cities across the country organised IDY activities based on the Common Yoga Protocol designed by the Ministry of AYUSH. Other components of the Festival included a Kathakali rendition of the Spanish masterpiece "Don Quijote" in July and participation of 5 Indian writers at the literary Hay Festival of Segovia in September, where India was the 'Guest Country'.

17. Visits: The Mayor of Valladolid City and Rector of Valladolid University visited India under the aegis of ICCR's Distinguished Visitors' Programme and Academic Visitors' Programme respectively, in March 2016. DG ICCR visited Valladolid for the Casa de la India Board Meeting in November 2016.

18. A MoU on setting up of a Hindi Chair was signed in 2015 between ICCR and the University of Valladolid. Course on Functional Hindi has started since

June 2016. University of Valladolid also has an on-going arrangement with the University of Ahmedabad in the areas of heritage conservation and management. The text of an Agreement on Twinning of the cities of Valladolid and Ahmedabad has been agreed and is proposed to be signed on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2017, on the sidelines of Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Spain.

19. The year 2017 has been culturally busy so far. Hindi Club "Udaan" was launched in the University of Valladolid to inculcate the interest in study of Hindi among Spanish nationals. Padma Shri Ranjana Gauhar's ICCR sponsored troupe toured Spain in January, as part of the Republic Day celebrations. India was the 'partner country' at the MICE Children Film Festival, one of Spain's most prestigious cinema events that took place in Valencia this February. A meeting of 'Young Indian Professionals' was organized by the Embassy in March 2017. Celebrations to commemorate Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary are planned for early May. Embassy is partnering with Imagine India International Film Festival to showcase a series of Indian cinema in Madrid and Barcelona this May. The third International Day of Yoga is planned to be celebrated in Madrid, Barcelona, Valladolid and Canary Islands, along with several other Spanish cities between 18 to 25 June, together with a seminar series on Ayurveda and Sanskrit. The Summer Course by the Institute of Indology is being organized in July, in collaboration with the Embassy.

**Indian Community** *(May also see separate brief on Indian Community)*

20. The Indian community forms a very small percentage of the immigrant population of Spain. Among the Asian communities, the Indian Diaspora is the third largest group, after Chinese and Pakistanis. The earliest Indian settlers were Sindhis who came from the subcontinent at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and settled in the Canary Islands. Many others travelled to Spain from Africa in the 1950's and 1960's, while others came directly from India. According to Spanish statistics, the resident Indian population in Spain has gone up from 9000 in 2001 to 55308 in 2016. By and large the Indian community is peaceful and well respected. In 2016, the consular wing of the Embassy processed 5380 passports, 1185 OCI and PIO applications and issued 35857 visas.

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*As on 13 April, 2017*

***Annex 'A'***

**Bilateral Agreements**

India has the following treaties/agreements with Spain:

1. Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation (1972)
2. Agreement on Cultural Cooperation (1982). The CEP for the period 2005- 08 was signed in March 2005
3. Civil Aviation Agreement (1986).
4. Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (1993).
5. Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (1997).
6. Extradition Treaty (2002)
7. MoU on Institutionalization of Political Dialogue (2006)
8. Mutual Legal Assistance treaty on Criminal Matters (2006).
9. MoU between Technology Development Board (TDB) and the Centre for Development of Industrial Technology (2006).
10. MoU of cooperation in the field of S&T (2007)
11. MoU on Agriculture and Allied Fields (April 2009)
12. MoU on cooperation in Tourism (April 2009)
13. MoU on Renewable Energy (April 2009)
14. Protocol for amending the Convention and Protocol between India and Spain for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital originally signed in February 1993 in New Delhi (October 2012).
15. Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation (October 2012).
16. Memorandum of Understanding on Roads and Road Transport Sector (October 2012).
17. Agreement between India and Spain in the field of Audio-visual Co-production. (October 2012)
18. Agreement on the Protection of classified information in the field of Defence (March 2015).
19. MoU on setting up of a Hindi Chair at University of Valladolid between ICCR and the University of Valladolid (October, 2015).
20. MoU on Cooperation in Port Matters (July, 2016)