

India-Spain Bilateral Relations

Relations between India and Spain have been cordial since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956. A Mission headed by a Cd'A opened in Madrid in 1958. The first resident Ambassador of India was appointed in 1965.

High Level Visits

2. After a gap of 28 years, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, paid an official bilateral visit to Spain on 30-31 May 2017. During the visit Prime Minister called on His Majesty King Felipe VI and had official talks with Mr Mariano Rajoy, the then President of the Government of Spain. He had a meeting with CEOs of leading Spanish Companies and trade bodies. The co-Chairs and members of the India-Spain CEOs Forum briefed the leaders of both countries on the outcome of their first meeting. A Joint Statement was issued on the conclusion of the Summit entitled "Partnership for Peace, Growth and Innovation between India and Spain. Eight agreements/MOUs were signed during the visit.
3. During the summit meetings, there were in-depth discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues. India and Spain share a strong commitment to principles and values of democracy, freedom, rule of law, respect for human rights and territorial integrity of States. The common responsibility towards ensuring international peace and security, promotion of free trade, open and inclusive international order and environmental sustainability was recognized. During the meeting with Prime Minister Modi, CEOs of Spanish Business and Industry expressed strong support for the economic reforms in India and highlighted their keen interest to participate actively in various flagship programmes including Make in India, Smart Cities, Digital India, Swachh Bharat, Start-Up India, Skill India and other initiatives.
4. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Mr Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires on 1 December 2018. Vice President of India Shri Venkaiah Naidu met the Spanish Prime Minister on the sidelines of the 12th ASEM Summit in Brussels on 19 October 2018. Vice President made a transit halt in Spain on 5-6 May 2018, en route an official visit to Guatemala, Peru and Panama.
5. High Level visits in the last decade include those of President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil from 20-23 April, 2009- the first State Visit to Spain by an Indian head of state. Former King, His Majesty King Juan Carlos I, paid a State Visit to India from 24-27 October 2012, accompanied by a high level delegation, including the Spanish Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Industry, Energy and Tourism and Infrastructure and Transport. The present king, His Majesty Felipe VI, visited India as the Crown Prince on his first official visit from 10-12 November 2009, during which he inaugurated the Cervantes Institute in New Delhi. King Felipe had earlier visited India in February 2001 and October 1997 as Crown Prince. Former Spanish President Jose Rodriguez Zapatero paid an official visit to India on July 3, 2006. Prior to Prime Minister Modi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had paid an official bilateral visit to Spain in 1988.
6. Apart from the visit of PM, there were several other high level bilateral exchanges in 2017 and 2018. From the Indian side, ministerial-level visits included those of Minister of Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal (September, 2018), Shri Manoj Sinha, Minister of State (I/C) for Telecommunications (February 2018 - for Mobile World Congress) and Shri KJ Alfonso, Minister of Tourism (May 2018- for 108th UNWTO Executive Council Meeting). Visits of Ministers from State

governments included those of Shri OP Dhankar, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister of Haryana (April 2018 for World Union of Wholesale Markets Conference), Shri Ghulam Nabi Lone, Minister of Agriculture of Jammu & Kashmir (October 2017) and Shri Rajendra Shukla, Minister for Commerce and Industry of Madhya Pradesh (November 2017).

7. A delegation led by Secretary DRDO visited from 18-20 January 2017. Secretary West visited Spain on 16 May 2017 for the Foreign Office Consultations. Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary of Housing & Urban Affairs visited in September 2017 under a bilateral arrangement between NCRTC and ADIF. Smt Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary visited in January 2018 for the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation. Other important visits were those of a delegation led by JS (Navy) for the second Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation (25 January 2017); Shri Gautambhai Shah, Mayor of Ahmedabad (July 2017 - for signing the Twinning Agreement with Valladolid); Smt. Riva Ganguly Das, DG ICCR (November 2017- Casa de la India Board Meeting); Shri Satyajeet Rajan, DG Tourism (January 2018– for FITUR) and a Defence Industry delegation led by Dr. Sanjay Baru, Secretary General of FICCI (March 2018 – for Defence Industry Conference).
8. On the Spanish side, a delegation led by Political Director of the Spanish Foreign Ministry visited India on 23 May 2017 for participating in the second edition of the Security Policy Dialogue. A DG level delegation from the Spanish Commerce Ministry participated in the CII Partnership Summit in Vishakhapatnam in February 2018. Secretary of State Ildefonso Castro visited India for the Foreign Office Consultations in April 2018 and also called on Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M.J Akbar. He had earlier met with MoS Gen. Dr. V.K. Singh on the margins of ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting in Myanmar on 21 November, 2017.
9. India and Spain collaborate in political, security and defence fields under the institutional frameworks of Foreign Office Consultations, Security Policy Dialogue and JWG on Defence Cooperation. The Joint Statement signed during the visit of PM in May 2017 highlights the main areas of cooperation and draws out a roadmap for the future of bilateral relations. A new Dialogue on the Mediterranean was agreed upon during the Summit meeting.

Economic and Commercial Relations

10. Spain is India's 7th largest trade partner in the European Union. Bilateral trade in 2017-18 stood at US\$ 5.66 billion (Dept. of Commerce), posting a growth of 4.91% over similar period a year ago. India's exports grew 16.65% and stood at US\$ 3.99 billion while imports shrank by 15.51% and stood at US\$1.66 billion. India's top exports to Spain are textiles, organic chemicals, iron & steel, seafood, automobiles and leather. India's major imports are mechanical appliances, electrical machinery, chemicals, plastic and mineral fuels.
11. Spain is the 15th largest investor in India with cumulative FDI stock of US\$ 2.76 billion (April 2000 – June 2018). There are nearly 200 Spanish companies in India mainly in the sectors of metallurgical industries, renewable energy, automotive, ceramics and infrastructure mainly in highways, transmission lines, tunnels and metro stations. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are the major destinations for Spanish investments in India. Indian investment in Spain stood at around US\$ 900 million. There are nearly 40 Indian companies in Spain mainly in software & IT services, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and logistics. India is among the top 30 investors in Spain globally and among the top 5 from Asia. The Spanish Talgo is anticipating entry into the Indian market with supply of high speed coaches.

12. Commerce Secretary led the Indian delegation to the 11th round of India Spain JCEC held in Madrid in January 2018. Under the framework of the JCEC, the India Spain CEOs Forum was constituted in February 2015. The first formal meeting of the CEOs Forum was held in Madrid in May 2017. Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) along with the Spanish Centre for Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) instituted the India-Spain Programme of Cooperation on Industrial Research and Development, a bilateral framework for providing financial support to collaborative R&D ventures between Indian and Spanish industry and academia.
13. India and Spain have an ongoing Joint Programme of Cooperation in S&T, signed in 2009. A Science, Technology and Innovation Steering Committee Meeting was held in September 2017 in Madrid, as highlighted in the Joint Statement during the PM's visit to Spain. There are ongoing innovation driven joint R&D projects in sectors such as biosensors, bio pesticides, bio-economy, waste-to-energy, e-health and flexible electronics. During the PM visit, a MoU on cooperation in Organ transplants was also signed.
14. India Spain bilateral cooperation in Sports has been strengthened by interaction between the sports industries in both countries and participation of leading players and teams in events in India and vice versa especially in football, badminton, hockey and kabaddi. There is potential for having a separate MOU for cooperation in the field of Sports.
15. Recognizing the immense potential for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism, it was agreed to set up an Expert Panel on Tourism during PM's visit. The first India-Spain Expert Panel on Tourism was held in Madrid on May 21, 2018 led by Shri Suman Billa (JS, M/Tourism) on the Indian side and Mr. Manuel Butler (DG, Turespaña) on the Spanish side. Air India launched non-stop, thrice a week, direct flight services between New Delhi and Madrid in December 2016. It is looking to further expand its routes to connect destinations in Latin America and South and South East Asia.
16. India regularly participates in major international trade fairs and conferences in Spain viz. FITUR (Tourism), Mobile World Congress (Telecom), CPhI Worldwide (Pharmaceuticals) and Smart City Expo World Congress (Smart Cities). As agreed in the Joint Statement issued during PM's visit, the II Spain India Forum was jointly organized by CII and Spain India Council Foundation in Madrid in November 2017, in which over 200 companies participated. During 2017, the Embassy, in collaboration with its local chambers of Commerce and Industry associations, organized around 40 commercial events for trade and investment promotion and to present government's flagship initiatives. These events were focused on key sectors like infrastructure, renewals energy, food processing, automotives, defence, IT, smart cities, tourism, agri-food sector, innovation and gastronomy.

Cultural and Academic Relations

17. 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 and Indian events in Spain. A monthly video panorama is also posted in the Embassy website, with continuous updates on twitter handle, Facebook page and YouTube channel. *Casa de la India* was founded in 2003 as a platform for the promotion of India in Spain through activities in the fields of culture, education, cooperation and enterprise.
18. Following Prime Minister Modi's visit to Spain in May 2017, a Twinning Agreement between the cities of Ahmedabad and Valladolid was signed with the visit of the Mayor of Ahmedabad to Valladolid in July 2017. University of Valladolid also has an ongoing arrangement with the University

of Ahmedabad in the areas of heritage conservation and management. After signing of the MoU between ICCR and the University of Valladolid on setting up of a Hindi Chair in 2015, Hindi classes have been held at the University. The classes would continue under the new Hindi ICCR Chair from the academic session starting September 2018. Under ICCR's Teacher of Indian Culture Programme (TIC), Mission has organized the first "Summer Course on Introduction to Hindi" from July- September 2018, which has been widely popular. The possibility of a collaboration agreement between the oldest universities in India and Spain- Nalanda and Salamanca - is being explored.

19. An exhaustive cultural calendar was prepared for 2017-18. Spanish cities enjoyed Odissi, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri and Kathak interpretations by foremost Indian dance troupes such as Kadamb Kathak, Smt Bina Laishram and others; and Classical Hindustani vocal, Dhrupad, Sarod, Baul and Carnatic music by renowned artists such as Partho Sarothy and Vidya Shah amongst others. With the support of ICCR, Embassy organized the 5th edition of the Biennial Classical Indian Festival – India en Concierto- at the iconic Teatros de Canal of Madrid from June-September 2018 with a spectacular line-up of artists including Gundecha Brothers, Ambi Subramaniam Ensemble and Attakalari Dance Company. A concert series of Rabindra Sangeet was organized by the Embassy in Madrid and Valladolid to commemorate Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti in May 2018. Local artists are also often involved for staging Indian dance and music performances.
20. International Yoga Day has seen 4 successful years in Spain. In 2018, apart from the lead event in Madrid at the iconic Conde Duque Cultural Centre that saw over 1000 participants, 15 cities across the country organized IYD activities during the 'Yoga Week'. On the occasion of 4th Yoga Day, an annual programme of free weekly yoga classes was announced by the Mission, in collaboration with Conde Duque Cultural Centre. The week long celebrations included Yoga and Ayurveda related activities including lectures, seminar and Vedic Studies sessions. Another star event this year was the presentation of the book "*Diccionario del Yoga*" (Dictionary of Yoga) by prominent Sanskrit scholar Mr. Oscar Pujol, explaining the meaning of yoga terms in Spanish.
21. The Joint Statement during the visit of Prime Minister Modi announced a Sanskrit Round Table. In October 2017, four renowned Sanskrit scholars from Indian universities participated in the first Round Table Conference at three leading Spanish universities, sponsored by Ministry of Culture. This resulted in an outcome document produced in Sanskrit, the first of its kind. The Joint Statement also announced the installation of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the request of the Indian origin community in Tenerife, Canary Islands. ICCR donated a bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi to the City Council of Adeje, Tenerife in February 2018, for installing at the Peace Park.
22. In the last two years, India was the Guest Country at the prestigious MICE International Children's Film Festival, the San Sebastian Gastronomika and Handicraft Week at Barcelona, amongst others. In collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Embassy participated at the Rio Mundi - World Rivers Festival in the city of Cordoba from 8-10 June. India presented the "Ganges" at the widely attended festival showcasing Indian Tourism, Culture, Music, Dance, Gastronomy, cinema, and workshops; and also portrayed the Namami Gange initiative under the National Mission for Clean Ganga.
23. A Diwali Mela was organized by the Embassy with the support of the Indian Community in Madrid in October 2017 and 2018. This cultural festival celebrated at a prominent promenade of the capital showcased Indian cuisine, handicrafts, workshops and dances; and was attended by over 5000

people. Indian Embassy took part at the prestigious Kermes Diplomatic Charity Bazaar in April 2018, where HM Queen Sofia inaugurated the India stand.

Bilateral Agreements

1. Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation (1972)
2. Agreement on Cultural Cooperation (1982).
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 on Agriculture and Allied Fields (April 2009)
10. 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)
11. Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation. (October 2012)
12. Memorandum of Understanding on Roads and Road Transport Sector. (October 2012)
13. Agreement between India and Spain in the field of Audio-visual Coproduction (October 2012)
14. Agreement on the Protection of classified information in the field of Defence (March 2015).
15. MoU on setting up of a Hindi Chair at University of Valladolid between ICCR and the University of Valladolid (October, 2015)
16. Agreement of Visa Waiver for holders of Diplomatic passport
17. Agreement on remunerated employment for dependents of members of a diplomatic mission or consular post
18. Agreement on the Transfer of Convicted Persons
19. MoU on bilateral co-operation in the field of organ and tissue procurement and transplantation
20. MoU on technical cooperation in the field of civil aviation
21. Agreement on Cyber Security
22. MoU on Renewable Energy
23. MoU on Cooperation between Diplomatic Academies
24. Twinning Agreement between the cities of Ahmedabad and Valladolid

Pending Agreements/ Agreements under negotiation

1. Agreement for cooperation in the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy
2. Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Inter-national Terrorism, Transnational Organized crime and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs, Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Chemicals
3. Additional Agreement on R&D (Cooperation in the field of Defence)
4. Technical Agreement on White Shipping
5. Agreement on Social Security
6. Cooperation in Customs Matters
7. MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sustainable Urban Development
8. MoU on establishment of Chair for Contemporary Indian Studies at the University of Valladolid
9. MoU on Railways
10. MOU on Bilateral Financial Cooperation Investments

AS on 31 October 2018