

India - Spain 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

The first state visit to Spain by an Indian head of state was paid by President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil from 20-23 April, 2009. The then 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. 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.

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. His Majesty had earlier visited India in February 2001 and October 1997 as Crown Prince. The then Spanish PM Jose Rodriguez Zapatero paid an official visit to India on July 3, 2006. The last standalone bilateral visit by an Indian PM to Spain was in 1988 by Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

The then External Affairs Minister Shri S.M. Krishna, visited Spain from 19-23, April, 2012 for the HOMs conference. Other recent high level visitors from India to Spain include: Minister of Communications and IT (27-29 February 2012), MOS (IC), Tourism (January 29 -February 3, 2013), Health Minister (28 October -1 November 2014) and Minister of Urban Development (17-20 November 2014).

There were several visits from Spain to India in the year 2015. The Secretary of State for Trade, Mr. Jaime Garcia Legaz, visited India on 2 February 2015 to attend the 10th session of the India Spain Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ignacio Ybañez Rubio, visited India for Foreign Office Consultations on 2 March 2015. The Spanish Defence Minister visited India on 4-5 March 2015. The Spanish Foreign Minister visited India on 27 April 2015. The Secretary of State for Defence visited India on 27-28 September. This was followed by the first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation in New Delhi in November. From the Indian side, a delegation led by Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs) visited Spain on 21-22 September 2015 for the inaugural Security Policy Dialogue. Commerce Secretary visited Spain from 11-14 October 2015. The Finance Minister of the state of West Bengal was on a visit to Spain from 26 to 28 October 2015.

During the visit by the Spanish Foreign Minister to India in April the two sides also came out with a Joint Communiqué, underlining 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, led by the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain 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.

Economic and Commercial Relations

Bilateral Trade between India and Spain in 2015 (January to May) stood at around \$ 3 billion; Spain's exports to India during the same period stood at \$ 1.0 billion and India's exports to Spain at \$ 2.2 billion. Spain is India's 7th largest trading partner in the European Union.

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.

Spain is the 12th largest investor in India with \$1.8 billion in FDI, mostly in infrastructure (IsoluxCorsan, Grupo San Jose), renewable energy (Gamesa), auto components (Gestamp), water desalination (Abengoa) and single brand retail (Inditex – Zara/Mango) A total of around 200 Spanish companies have subsidiaries, joint ventures, projects or liaison offices and purchase offices in India. There are over 30 Indian companies in Spain, the most significant ones being in the areas of IT (TCS, Tech Mahindra), energy (Avantha) and automobiles (Mahindra). The stock of Indian investment in Spain is approximately 800 million euros.

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 of Spain.

There are several important fairs held in the Spanish cities of Madrid and Barcelona, where Indian companies regularly participate to promote their products and technology. In March 2015, the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) held a Buyer Seller Meet in Madrid. Footwear and leather goods were the focus of the event. The CPhI Worldwide pharma exhibition held on 13-15 October in Madrid saw a wide Indian participation. Dr. Sameer Sharma, Additional Secretary (Smart Cities), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), led a delegation to the Smart City Expo World Congress, held in Barcelona during 17 – 19 November 2015. Finance Minister of West Bengal, Dr Amit Mitra, visited Spain during 26 – 28 October 2015 to encourage Spanish participation in the Bengal Global Business Summit 2016.

Cultural and Academic Relations

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.

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.

During 2015, Indian artists like DrJayanta Kumar Das (RudraVeena), Pt Sandip Chatterjee (Santoor), MsAranyaniBhargav (Bharatanatyam), Gundecha Brothers (Dhrupad vocal) and Ms Jyotsna Jagannathan (Bharatanatyam) performed in various parts of Spain. ICCR sponsored exhibitions 'Religions of India' and 'Streams of India' were also hosted in different Spanish cities in 2015.

The first International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2015 witnessed participation by over 1200 Yoga enthusiasts in a mega Master Class in the iconic Plaza de Colón followed by a Conference on Yoga. Apart from the lead event in Madrid, 17 cities across the country followed the Common Yoga Protocol designed by the Ministry of AYUSH.

The City Council of Valladolid, Calderon Theatre, Teamwork Arts – India, with collaboration of the ICCR and Casa de la India and with support of the Embassy of India, launched an Indo-Spanish theatre co-production titled 'Flamenco India'. Directed by legendary Spanish Director, Mr Carlos Saura, it traces the roots and connections of Flamenco with various musical forms of India and has participation from artists of both the countries. The world premiere of the show was in October, 2015.

The celebrations of the 60th anniversary year of diplomatic relations in 2016 started off with the participation of Dr L Subramaniam and his ensemble in the Extraordinary New Year's Concert with the Symphony Orchestra of Castilla y León on January 9. Also as part of the inaugural Indian cultural activities in different Spanish cities, the 'SubraMania' group led by Ms Bindu Subramaniam presented popular music concerts in Valladolid, Madrid and Bilbao.

University of Valladolid, Spain has an on-going arrangement with the University of Ahmedabad in the areas of heritage conservation and management. An MoU on setting up of a Hindi Chair at the University of Valladolid was signed on 2 October, 2015 between ICCR and the University of Valladolid.

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 Summer Course 2015 was organized in July, 2015 in collaboration with the Embassy. The Spanish Association for Interdisciplinary Indian Studies (AEEII in Spanish) also organizes conferences on India every alternate year at different venues.

Indian Community

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 19th 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 34761 as on 30.06.2015. There are 547 Indian students as on 30.06.2015.

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As on 31 January, 2016

Useful Resources:

- Mission's website: www.embassyindia.es
- Website of Mission's flagship biennial music festival, 'India enConcierto': www.indiaenconcierto.es
- Link to Mission's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInSpain>
- Link to magazine 'Hola Namaste' published by Mission: <http://www.embassyindia.es/archives/documents/holanamaste/HolaNamaste-abril-junio15.pdf>
- Link to AIR FM Gold's India Global Programme on Spain: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOwruToDy4c>

Annex

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).