Embassy of India
Madrid
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India-Spain Bilateral Brief

Relations between India and Spain have been cordial since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956. The year 2026 is being celebrated as the Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence to mark the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

2. The President of Government of Spain, H.E. Mr. Pedro Sánchez, visited India on an official visit from 18–19 February 2026 to attend the AI Impact Summit 2026. He held bilateral talks with the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the functioning of the manufacturing plant of C-295 military aircraft of TATA Advanced Systems Ltd which was jointly inaugurated by them in October 2024 during the first official visit of President Sánchez to India in October 2024. Earlier, PM Modi had paid an official visit to Spain on 30-31 May 2017. PM Modi and President Sánchez also met on the sidelines of G20 Summits in 2018 and 2021.

3. The Foreign Minister of Spain, José Manuel Albares visited India on 21 January 2026 and met with the External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties and jointly inaugurated the logo for the Dual Year. FM Albares also announced that Spain is joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. In January 2025, EAM visited Spain on an official visit and held bilateral meetings with FM Albares and Defence Minister Margarita Robles. EAM also called on His Majesty King Felipe VI and President Sánchez. During the visit, two MoUs viz., on cooperation in the field of sports, and cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development were signed. Earlier, EAM met with Foreign Minister Albares in New York on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2024 where they discussed global issues of mutual concern such as the Ukraine conflict and situation in the Indo-Pacific.

4. The Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry of India, Shri Piyush Goyal, visited Spain on 13 July 2026, the first visit by an Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry to Spain in sixteen years. He held bilateral meetings

with H.E. Mr. Carlos Cuerpo, First Vice-President of the Government and Minister of Economy, Trade and Business, and with H.E. Mr. Jordi Hereu, Minister of Industry and Tourism, and delivered the keynote address at the India-Spain Business Forum organised with the Chamber of Commerce of Spain, CEOE, ICEX, FICCI and CII. Both sides reaffirmed the India-Spain Strategic Partnership and agreed to prepare a joint cooperation roadmap, to institutionalise regular ministerial and business dialogue, to arrange a high-level Spanish ministerial and business delegation to India before the end of the year, and to hold discussions on a bilateral Social Security Agreement. In his keynote address to the India-Spain Business Forum, the Minister set out a "10 by 10 by 10" vision for a tenfold increase in bilateral trade, tourism and investment over the next decade.

5. From 31 May to 2 June 2025, a six-member Parliamentary delegation led by Member of Parliament Smt Kanimozhi Karunanidhi visited Spain in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor. The delegation held meetings with the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and called-on FM Albares. Union Minister for Finance and Minister for Corporate Affairs H.E. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, visited Spain to represent India at the UN's Financing for Development (FFD4) Summit, held from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Seville, Spain. The Union Minister of Culture and Minister of Tourism H.E. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat led the Indian delegation at the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (MONDIACULT) 2025, convened by UNESCO in Barcelona from 29 September to 1 October 2025. The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law & Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, visited Spain from 12-13 November 2025, to participate in the OECD Justice Leaders' Dialogue in Madrid. In March 2026, Hon´ble Union Telecom Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia led the Indian delegation at the Mobile World Congress 2026 in Barcelona.

6. The 8th India-Spain Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi on 13 November 2025 at the level of Secretary (West), India and Secretary of State, Spain. During the discussions, the two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2026 by organizing activities under the framework of the India-Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence.

7. Bilateral partnership in the defence sector has witnessed rapid growth

in recent years. The procurement of 56 C-295 aircraft from Airbus Spain under a $2.5 billion contract, 40 of which will be manufactured in India by Tata Advanced Systems, reflects this deepening cooperation. By August 2025, 16 of these aircraft had already been delivered to the Indian Air Force from Spain in fly-away condition. High-level engagements and joint exercises have reinforced this momentum: the Chief of the Spanish Air Force, Lt. Gen. Francisco Braco Carbó, visited India in August 2024 to participate in Exercise Tarang Shakti, and the 5th India-Spain Defence Joint Working Group met in New Delhi on 6 February 2025. The Indian Air Force took part in Exercise Ocean Sky at Las Palmas, Canary Islands, from 15 to 31 October 2025, while Indian Navy vessels have made frequent Passage Exercises and Port Calls along the Spanish coast, including INS Tabar in August 2024 and INS Sindhuratna, INS Tarkash, INS Chennai and INS Sumedha in 2023. Most recently, on 9 July 2026, the Embassy and CEOE co-organised a workshop on opportunities in the Indian defence industry for Spanish companies, promoting Make in India and drawing over 100 stakeholders from both sides, including a 12-member SIDM delegation. Sessions covered India-Spain defence cooperation, both countries' defence capabilities, investment opportunities in India's defence industrial corridors, and avenues for joint ventures and co-development, with participation from Airbus Defence and Space, Indra and TEDAE.

8. Spain is India’s 6th largest trade partner in Europe. Bilateral trade crossed US$ 11 billion in 2024. India´s exports stood at US$ 7.83 billion while imports stood at US$ 3.29 billion. In 2025, bilateral trade in goods reached USD 9.41 billion of which India’s exports were around USD 7.02 billion. (Source: MINCOTUR, Govt. of Spain). India´s top exports to Spain are mineral fuels, chemical products, iron and steel, textiles, machine and mechanical appliances, seafood, and leather. India´s major imports are mechanical appliances, chemicals, plastic and mineral fuels. Spain is the 16th largest investor in India with cumulative FDI stock of US$ 4.29 billion (April 2000 – March 2025). There are more than 250 Spanish companies in India and more than 90 Indian companies in Spain. With the signing of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, bilateral trade and investment relations are expected to gain fresh momentum in coming years. 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 during the visit of PM Modi in May 2017, the second meeting in Mumbai during the visit of President Sánchez to India in October 2024. In order to give a boost to trade and investment relations, the Indian Chamber of Commerce was established in

October 2023. Relations in the audiovisual sector are also growing rapidly. In April 2025, the Joint Commission on Audiovisual Cooperation between the two countries held its first meeting virtually. India participated with a Country Stand at the Iberseries & Platino Industria audiovisual fair in Madrid from 30 September to 3 October, together with the 3rd Edition of the India-Spain Producers' Meet. MoUs were signed between the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII) and prestigious Spanish film schools ECAM and ESCAC. Mudras, the first jointly produced documentary between Indian and Spanish filmmakers, was screened in New Delhi on 18 February 2026 and at Malaga on 8 March 2026.

9. The Spain-India Council Foundation organized the 5th Spain-India Forum from 5-6 November 2025 in Barcelona, in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF). The previous editions were held in 2014, 2017, 2022 and 2024. Indian delegations regularly participate in major international trade fairs and conferences in Spain viz., FITUR (Tourism), Mobile World Congress (Telecom), Alimentaria (Gastronomy and Hospitality), FEINDEF (Defense), Cevisama (Ceramics), Fruit Attraction (Fruits and Vegetables) , InterGift (Jewellery, Textiles and Gifts) and Smart City Expo World Congress (Smart Cities). Spanish delegates participated in the India-EU Forum in February 2026. Bilateral travel between the two countries has surged to record levels with 225,000 Indian visitors to Spain and over 80,000 Spanish tourists travelling to India in 2024.

10. Cultural exchange is an important component of India-Spain bilateral relations. During the visit of President Sanchez to India in 2024, among others, an agreement on a Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Spain was signed for the period 2024-2028. In July 2024, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral cooperation in the higher education sector. A Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Indian universities and 34 Rectors of Spanish universities was held in New Delhi on 19 February 2026. Casa de la India, established in Valladolid, Spain on 17 March 2003, as a cultural foundation, counts as its founding entities the Government of India, Valladolid City Council and the University of Valladolid. The Casa promotes people-to-people contact by organizing cultural activities, academic events and exchanges. The Twinning of Cities agreement between Ahmedabad and Valladolid, originally signed in 2017, was renewed and expanded in September 2025. Three renowned Indian cultural groups performed at some of Spain's most prestigious festivals as part of India-Spain

Year 2026. The instrumental ensemble led by Pandit Shubhendra Rao and the Bharatanatyam troupe led by Ms. Rama Vaidyanathan paid homage to the legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar through their performance at the International Festival of Music and Dance of Granada, while acclaimed Bharatanatyam exponent Ms. Malavika Sarukkai enthralled audiences with her performance in Veranos de la Villa in Madrid.

11. The 3rd edition of Olé India was enthusiastically celebrated in Madrid on 07 March 2026 featuring over 250 performers and more than 1500 attendees. As part of the celebrations of the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) in 2026, a total of 33 events were organised across Spain and Andorra , covering all 17 Autonomous Communities of Spain, the 02 Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, and the Principality of Andorra. This marked the first time that IDY celebrations reached every Autonomous Community and Autonomous City of Spain, making it the most extensive and geographically widespread observance of International Day of Yoga in Spain to date. In Madrid, the celebrations were held at the iconic Plaza de Oriente, Madrid in front of the Royal Palace.

12. The Indian diaspora in Spain numbers around 75,000 concentrated in Catalonia, Valencia, Madrid and Canary Islands. In view of the growing relationship, the Consulate General of India in Barcelona was opened on 13 August 2024 and has been fully functional since then

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(July 2026)