Embassy of India
Madrid
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India-Spain Economic and Commercial Relations Brief

The economic and commercial relations are an important component of India's bilateral relations with Spain.

Overall Trade

2. Spain is India's 6th largest trade partner in Europe. In FY 2025-26, bilateral trade in goods reached USD 9.5 billion of which India's exports were around USD 7.1 billion. India´s top exports to Spain are organic chemical products, mineral fuels, electrical products, textiles, iron and steel, machine and mechanical appliances, automotive components, seafood, leather and pharmaceutical products. India's major imports are mechanical appliances, chemicals, aircrafts and components, aluminium products, and electrical products. With the signing of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, bilateral trade and investment relations are expected to gain fresh momentum in coming years.

3. Trade in services represents a vital and increasingly balanced dimension of the bilateral economic partnership, with the exchange reaching USD 1.84 billion in 2024, nearly equally split between Indian exports to Spain (USD 916 million) and Spanish exports to India (USD 911 million). While India remains a dominant provider of Telecommunications and IT services, and other business management services through its firms in Spain, Spanish companies provide essential technical services for India's infrastructure, including air traffic control and renewable energy management.

4. The political leadership of Spain welcomed the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement. President Sánchez described the agreement as "a decisive step in strengthening Europe's global partnerships and defending multilateral, rules-based trade" and the Economy Minister of Spain, Mr. Carlos Cuerpo stated, "the agreement opens a market of extraordinary scale and dynamism for Spanish companies". Foreign Minister Mr. Albares also welcomed the FTA as a strategic pillar of India-EU relations, noting that "trade is a central element of a broader partnership with India that also includes

climate action, digital transformation and security cooperation." He underlined that "Spain strongly supports the EU's engagement with India as a key partner in a multipolar world.

5. 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. During the visit, the Minister 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. Both sides reaffirmed the India-Spain multifaceted partnership and agreed to prepare a joint cooperation roadmap, to institutionalise regular ministerial and business dialogue, and to organise a high-level Spanish ministerial and business delegation to India before the end of the year. The discussions covered trade and investment, artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, automobiles, tourism, education, and collaboration in third markets, particularly Latin America. It was agreed to facilitate an engagement between the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Spanish financial institutions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), to hold discussions on a bilateral Social Security Agreement, and to address outstanding market-access issues through established institutional mechanisms.

6. On the same day, the Minister delivered the keynote address at the India-Spain Business Forum, held at the Chamber of Commerce of Spain and jointly organised with CEOE and ICEX on the Spanish side and FICCI and CII on the Indian side, alongside a large accompanying Indian business delegation. In his address, the Minister articulated a "10 by 10 by 10" vision, aiming for a tenfold increase in bilateral trade, two-way tourism and mutual investment over the next decade, and highlighted the opportunities arising from the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.

Investment

7. Spain is the 16th largest investor in India with cumulative FDI stock of US$ 4.3 billion (April 2000 – June 2025). There are more than 250 Spanish companies in India and more than 90 Indian companies in Spain. During the visit of President Sanchez to India in October 2024, an Agreement on Setting up of Fast Track Mechanism in DPIIT India and in Directorate General of

International Trade and Investment, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business in Spain, was signed for facilitating mutual investments in India and Spain. Building on this, commercial engagement between India and Spain intensified through strategic market entries.

8. The past year has seen a marked intensification of two-way investment. On the Spanish side, Submer, a specialist in data-centre and liquid-cooling technology, is establishing a manufacturing facility in India with an estimated investment of around €150 million, alongside an agreement with the Government of Madhya Pradesh to develop data-centre capacity of up to one gigawatt; Acciona Energía has commissioned its first solar plant in India, in Rajasthan; and the SSG Group secured a healthcare-emergency services contract worth around €1.3 billion in Maharashtra. On the Indian side, Bajaj opened its first European store in Barcelona; Bharat Forge, through its subsidiary Kalyani Strategic Systems, established a defence-technology joint venture (Aegis Advanced Systems) with Spain's Duma Engineering; and Captain Fresh entered the Spanish market by acquiring the Catalan seafood company Frime. In the agri-food sector, the Indian dairy major Amul made its European market entry in June 2025 in partnership with the Spanish cooperative COVAP. Haldiram is in the process of marking its presence by joining hands with already existing company Nippon, owned by an Indian.

Institutional Mechanisms

9. In order to give an impetus to trade and investment relations, India-Spain Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was set up under the 1972 Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement and has since met twelve times. The 12th round of the JCEC meeting was held in New Delhi in April 2023 at the Secretary level. Both sides took stock of the growing bilateral commercial relations and identified 7 sectors for deeper cooperation. The 13th round of the JCEC has been proposed to be held in Madrid towards the end of 2026.

10. 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 H.E. the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi in May 2017. The second meeting of the India-Spain CEOs Forum was held in Mumbai during the visit of H.E. the President Pedro Sánchez to India in October 2024.

11. The Economic and Commercial Office of Spain in New Delhi held the first meeting of the Fast-Track Mechanism (FTM) between Spain and India on 9 December, 2025. This initiative was signed in October 2024 during President Pedro Sánchez's visit to India. Its objective is to identify and resolve the problems faced by Spanish companies investing in India and vice versa. In this first edition, nine Spanish companies from various sectors participated, and their representatives had the opportunity to present their main challenges to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) of India's Ministry of Commerce, Invest India, and other stakeholders involved. The session was co-chaired by the Secretary of DPIIT and the Ambassador of Spain to India.

12. During President Sánchez's visit to India in 2024, both leaders welcomed the establishment of a 'Fast Track Mechanism' to facilitate mutual investments in India and Spain, expansion of consular footprints in Barcelona and Bengaluru, and the decision to designate 2026 as the "India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence." This thematic initiative is designed to catalyze joint AI applications in the productive economy and elevate people-to-people ties.

13. Also, during the visit, President Sanchez along with the Honorable Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari attended the India-Spain Business Summit, organized by CII and DPIIT along with ICEX Exportación e Inversiones (Spain's trade and investment body) to promote trade and investment cooperation between the two countries.

14. The 8th India-Spain Foreign Office Consultations, held in New Delhi on November 13, 2025, focused on operationalizing the strategic momentum from the 2024 Presidential visit. The consultations confirmed the 2026 rollout of the first "Make in India" C-295 aircraft from the Airbus-Tata Vadodara plant and reiterated the celebration of 2026 as the "India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism, and AI" to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

15. Innovation and technology collaboration between the two countries is also growing. The Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) and the Spanish Centre for Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) have established the India-Spain Program of Cooperation on Industrial Research and Development, which provides financial support for joint R&D projects between Indian and Spanish industries and academic institutions.

16. The Spain-India Council Foundation (a private non-profit organization that functions in coordination with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs) organized the 5th Spain-India Forum from 5 - 6 November 2025 in Barcelona, in collaboration with Observer Research Foundation (ORF). This forum serves as a crucial tool for promoting bilateral relations between India and Spain and is endorsed by the Spanish Foreign Office, and the Instituto Cervantes. The previous editions were held in Spain in 2014 and 2017, in New Delhi in 2023, and in Mumbai in 2024.

Make in India

17. Under the rubric of Make in India on 27 January 2026, the India-Spain AI Conference was organised in Madrid as a curtain raiser to the global India AI Impact Summit to be held in New Delhi in February 2026. The Minister for Digital Transformation and Civil Services of Spain, Mr. Oscar López Agueda also participated in the event and delivered substantive remarks that brought together more than 100 AI leaders from India and Spain. Shri Abhishek Singh, CEO IndiaAI Mission also virtually joined the event.

18. The Embassy, in collaboration with CEOE, the counterpart of CII, organised a workshop on "The Indian Defence Industry II: Opportunities for Spanish Companies" on 9 July 2026, promoting Make in India in the defence sector. The event brought together more than 100 stakeholders from Government, industry associations and companies of both sides. The Indian side was represented by a 12-member delegation of the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM). The sessions covered India-Spain defence cooperation, the defence capabilities of both countries, 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. The Embassy intends to organise similar activities in other sectors, such as infrastructure and pharmaceuticals.

Trade Fairs

19. India actively participates with high level delegations and India pavilions in major international trade fairs and conferences in Spain. Notable events include FITUR (Tourism), Mobile World Congress (Telecom), Smart City Expo World Congress (Smart Cities), Intergift (Decoration and Gift), Seafood Expo Global, FIMA Agricola (Agricultural Machinery), Hispack (Packaging), Alimentaria (Food, beverage and gastronomy), Cevisama (Ceramic tiles),

Barcelona Textile Expo, BIEMH (Machine-tools), Fruit Attraction (fresh fruits and vegetable), Vitafoods Europe (neutraceuticals) and ARCO (Contemporary Art).

20. India participated in the International Tourism Fair (FITUR) in Madrid from 21 to 25 January 2026 with the "Incredible India" Pavilion and several state pavilions, including Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Gujarat. Engagements with State delegations and tour operators focused on promoting India as a destination and strengthening tourism-sector collaboration, in line with the objectives of the India-Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence.

21. In March 2026, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, led the Indian delegation to the Mobile World Congress 2026 in Barcelona, one of the world's foremost telecommunications and technology events, where he inaugurated the "Bharat Pavilion", organised by the Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) with the support of the Department of Telecommunications. The Pavilion showcased Indian telecom manufacturers and start-ups presenting advances in 5G, artificial intelligence and next-generation mobile technologies, and the Minister also unveiled the curtain raiser for the India Mobile Congress 2026.

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