INDIA-SPAIN

NEWSLETTER
EMBASSY OF INDIA, MADRID
August 2026









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Madrid Celebrates India's 80th Independence Day









The Embassy of India marked India's 80th Independence Day with a vibrant celebration bringing together the Indian community and Friends of India. The programme opened with a collective rendition of Vande Mataram, followed by the hoisting of the Tricolour by the Ambassador and the singing of the National Anthem. The Ambassador read the Hon'ble President of India's Address to the Nation and, in his remarks, highlighted the growing momentum in India–Spain relations, including through the India–Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and AI.

The celebrations came alive with patriotic performances by members of the Indian community, including children and students, creating a spirited and joyful atmosphere. The Embassy also felicitated the winners of the Bharat Ko Janiye (BKJ) Quiz, Independence Day Special Edition, along with the winners of the special photography and painting contests. The enthusiastic participation was a reflection of the special place that India's Independence Day holds in the hearts of Indians, wherever they may be.

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Bringing Indian Seafood to Conxemar in Vigo





The Ambassador met with Ms. Yobana Bermúdez Rodríguez, General Manager of Conxemar, organisers of Spain's leading international frozen seafood exhibition. The discussions focused on the participation of Indian exporters under MPEDA through an India Pavilion at Conxemar in Vigo this October, and on increasing Indian marine products exports to Spain in the context of the forthcoming India–EU FTA. In the last financial year (2025-26), India's exports of marine products to Spain were worth around US$215 million, underlining the strong and growing trade in this sector and the scope for deeper engagement in the years ahead.

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Deepening Trade Ties with Galicia's A Coruña Chamber



The Ambassador met with Mr. Manuel Galdo Pérez, Director General of the Chamber of Commerce of A Coruña, for discussions on increasing bilateral trade between India and the Galician region, particularly in light of the forthcoming entry into force of the India–EU FTA. The conversation highlighted opportunities across sectors including textiles, marine products, automobiles and tourism. The Chamber also expressed its interest in visiting India with key industry leaders from the Galician region, a prospect that would offer a valuable opportunity to build direct business links and take the partnership forward.

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A Coruña and India Explore Closer Cooperation





The Ambassador met with H.E. Mrs. Inés Rey García, Mayor of A Coruña, and briefed her on the growing India–Spain relationship. The discussions explored ways to promote trade and investment opportunities with A Coruña and to expand institutional and people-to-people ties, along with the city's participation in the India–Spain Dual Year 2026 of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence. The engagement reflected the increasing interest among Spain's regional and municipal authorities in building closer links with India across economic, cultural and civic spheres.

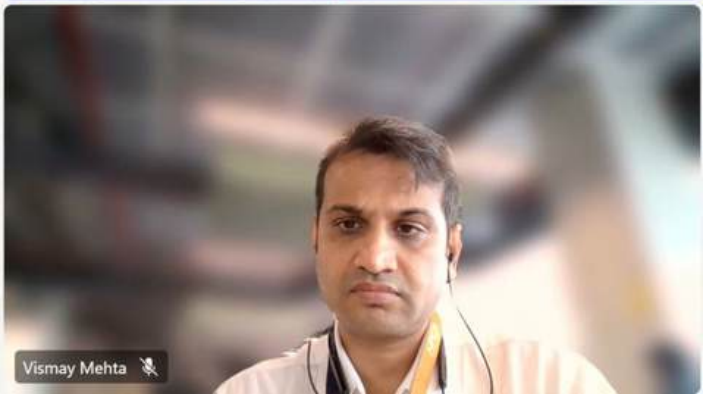
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Exploring UPI–Bizum Interoperability between India and Spain









The Ambassador held a meeting with representatives of NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) to discuss opportunities for expanding India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Spain and strengthening bilateral cooperation in digital payments. The discussions explored the potential for interoperability between UPI and Bizum, Spain's widely used bank-backed instant payment platform, which has over 30 million users and is supported by almost all major Spanish banks. Such an initiative could further strengthen India–Spain cooperation in fintech and Digital Public Infrastructure, while supporting growing tourism, business and people-to-people exchanges. Spain could also offer a potential gateway for wider UPI connectivity in Southern Europe, particularly given Bizum's participation in the EuroPA framework, which connects payment systems in Spain, Portugal, Italy and Andorra.

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Bringing the Amul Model to Spain



The Ambassador met with Mr. Sagar Pandit, Managing Director of Avexo Food. Drawing on India's successful Amul cooperative model, a cooperative has been established in Córdoba, with Amul steadily gaining popularity in Spain. The discussions focused on strategies to further widen its reach across the Spanish market. The initiative reflects the growing footprint of Indian brands and business models in Spain, offering a promising avenue to deepen commercial ties and bring a taste of India to Spanish consumers.

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Engaging with the Madrid Malayali Community



The Ambassador met with representatives of the Indian Madrid Malayali Association (IMMA), Mr. Prajeesh Francis, President; Mrs. Rubin Ajan, Secretary; and Mr. Ajan Yogi, former Patron. They invited the Ambassador to the upcoming Onam celebrations and discussed community welfare, engagement and possible joint activities between the Indian community and the Embassy. The meeting reflected the Embassy's continued commitment to staying closely connected with the diaspora and supporting the vibrant cultural life of the Indian community in Spain.

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Celebrating the Spirit of Raksha Bandhan in Madrid









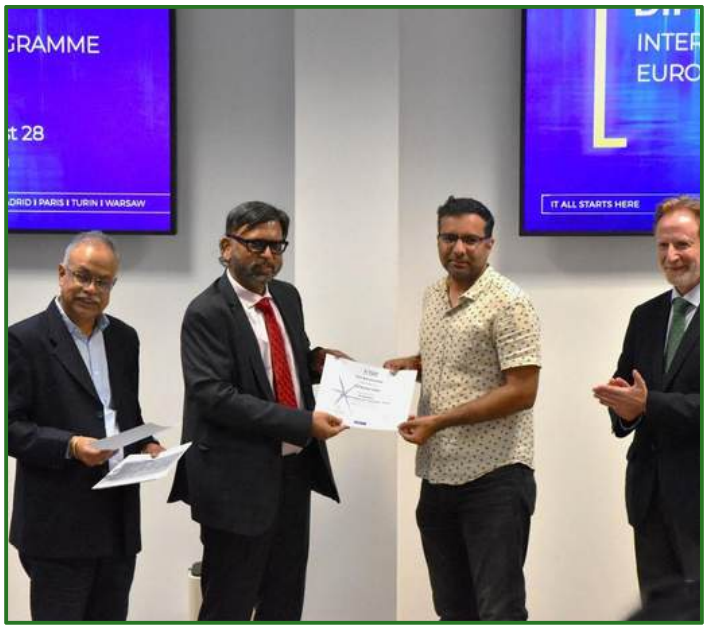
The Embassy of India in Madrid celebrated Raksha Bandhan, highlighting its spirit beyond the traditional bond between brothers and sisters, as a symbol of friendship, unity and mutual respect across communities and borders. In his remarks, the Ambassador reflected on how this ancient festival has come to connect people in new ways, echoing the theme, promoted by the ICCR, of Raksha Bandhan beyond borders. Members of Sahaja Yoga, ISKCON and the wider diaspora tied rakhis to the Ambassador and to one another, in a warm celebration of togetherness that captured the festival's enduring message of harmony and goodwill.

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Meeting IIM Bangalore Students at ESCP Business School, Madrid









The Ambassador interacted with a group of 40 MBA students from the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) during their international seminar at ESCP Business School, Madrid. Organised as part of the academic collaboration between IIM Bangalore and ESCP, the programme gave students an opportunity to engage with institutions, businesses and experts in Europe. Addressing the group, the Ambassador described today's young Indians as the "Gen VB, the Viksit Bharat Generation," highlighting their role in India's journey towards becoming a developed country by 2047, and encouraged them to view their careers in the wider context of India's growth story, follow their passion, and continuously upgrade their skills in a rapidly changing technological environment.

He also spoke about India's civilisational heritage, Atmanirbharta, strategic autonomy and the importance of research, innovation and emerging technologies. Emphasising the growing India–Spain partnership, particularly during the India–Spain Dual Year 2026, he encouraged the students to combine personal growth with contributing to India's development and expanding India's engagement with the world.

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Onam Celebrations Bring Kerala's Traditions to Madrid









The Ambassador attended the Onam celebrations organised by the Malayali community in Madrid as the Chief Guest, conveying his best wishes to the community, including greetings in Malayalam. Joined by many Spanish friends, the community came together to celebrate the festival through food, dance and culture. The festivities began in the morning with Onam sports, including the traditional tug of war, Vadam Vali, which brought together community members of all ages. The official ceremony commenced with the lighting of the lamp by the Ambassador, followed by a felicitation honouring community members who have completed 25 years in Spain. The highlight of the day was the Onam Sadhya, Kerala's elaborate festive feast featuring a variety of traditional dishes, and the celebrations concluded with colourful cultural performances, including the group dance Thiruvathira, bringing the rich traditions of Kerala vividly to life in Madrid.

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Bringing the Flavours of India to Madrid

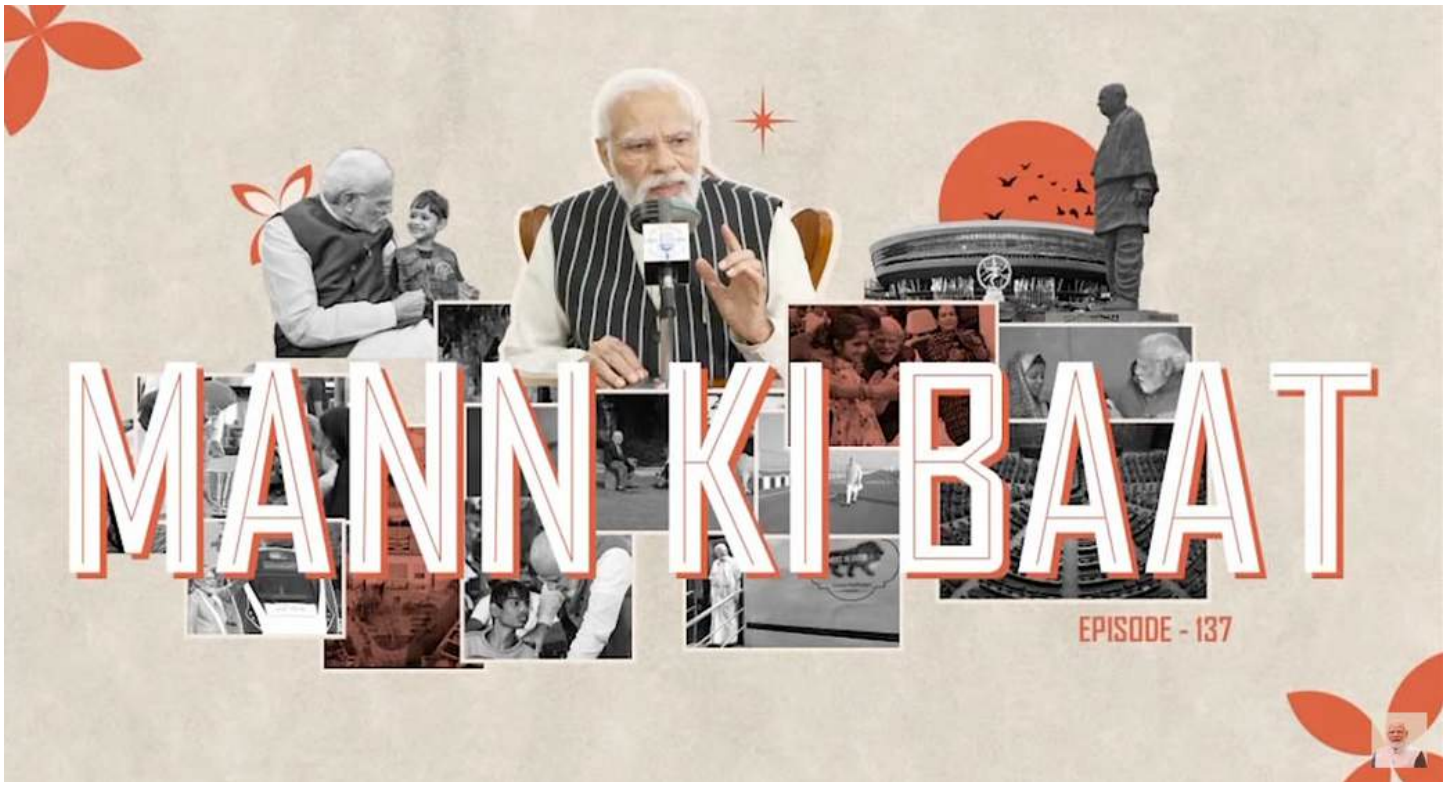




The Ambassador visited Namo Mart, an Indian grocery store in Madrid, to congratulate the owners, Mr. Nitin and Ms. Poonam, on the store's first anniversary. Offering a wide range of Indian products, from everyday staples and spices to familiar treats, Namo Mart helps the Indian community in Madrid stay connected with the flavours of home. Small enterprises such as these play a valuable role in nurturing a sense of community among the diaspora and in sharing India's rich culinary heritage with a wider Spanish audience. The Ambassador congratulated the owners on their first year and wished them continued success in the years ahead.

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Mann Ki Baat: Highlights of the Prime Minister's August Address



In the latest episode of his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat," Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi celebrated the innovation, enterprise and civic spirit of citizens across the country. He opened with a conversation with Shri Krishna Seshadri of Mumbai, creator of a website that makes Indian history engaging by letting users explore which dynasties ruled different regions over time, drawing attention to lesser-known empires such as the Cholas, the Pallavas and the Ahoms. Reflecting on the patriotic spirit of the month of August, the Prime Minister noted the many occasions it holds, from National Handloom Day and Independence Day to National Space Day, and highlighted the 150th anniversary of "Vande Mataram" and the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, including the "Suryapath Tiranga" initiative that saw the Tricolour hoisted at Indian Missions across the world as the sun moved from Fiji to San Francisco. He also encouraged citizens to support the "Nasha-mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat" campaign for a drug-free India.

The Prime Minister shared a series of inspiring stories of empowerment and enterprise, highlighting the reach of the PM SVANidhi Yojana among women street vendors, with examples such as Babita Sharma of Ghaziabad and T.S. Ningamma of Bengaluru, and the "Mission ShaktiSAT" initiative bringing together 12,000 girl students from 108 countries to learn satellite technology. He celebrated grassroots efforts in cleanliness and conservation, from the "Clean-up Patwai" youth team in Uttar Pradesh and the sanitation drive during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra to Vesalu Puro's flower cultivation in Nagaland and women-led forest conservation through eco-tourism in Debrigarh, Odisha. He also noted the growing success of Indian avocado farmers, paid tribute to the legendary actor Uttam Kumar ahead of his birth centenary, and, with several festivals approaching, renewed his call to citizens to be "Vocal for Local" and take pride in products made in India.

To listen to the full address, please click here.

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