INDIA-SPAIN

NEWSLETTER
EMBASSY OF INDIA, MADRID
June 2026









Index

1	India Joins Madrid's Flagship Summer Festival, Veranos de la Villa 2026 (June 2, 2026).
2	An Evening of Culture, Cinema and Community (June 5, 2026).
3	Exploring Collaboration with the City of Córdoba (June 6, 2026).
4	Ambassador Attends Welcome Ceremony for Pope Leo XIV in Madrid (June 6, 2026).
5	India at the 126th UN Tourism Executive Council Meeting in Toledo (June 9-10, 2026).
6	Ambassador Opens the 4th Jaipur Literature Festival Valladolid (June 11, 2026).
7	Welcoming Young Indian Students on a Football and Cultural Tour to Spain (June 16, 2026).
8	Promoting India as a Tourism Destination in Spain (June 19, 2026).
9	An Evening of Indian Classical Music and Dance in Madrid (June 19, 2026).
10	A New Chapter in India–Spain Food Sector Collaboration (June 20, 2026).
11	A Nationwide Celebration of the 12th International Day of Yoga (June, 2026).
12	"The Dream of Sitar" Lights Up the Granada Festival (June 28, 2026).
13	Mann Ki Baat: Highlights of the Prime Minister's Address (June 2026).
14	Key Activities and Events Organised by Casa de la India (June 2026).
15	Key India–EU Diplomatic and Economic Engagements (June 2026).

India Joins Madrid's Flagship Summer Festival, Veranos de la Villa 2026





The Ambassador attended the presentation event of Veranos de la Villa 2026 alongside the Mayor of Madrid, Mr. José Luis Martínez-Almeida. As part of the India–Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and AI, the Embassy's collaboration with Veranos de la Villa will bring distinguished Indian artistic performances to this edition of Madrid's flagship summer festival. The partnership offers a wonderful platform to showcase the richness and diversity of India's cultural traditions to Madrid audiences, further enriching the vibrant cultural exchange between the two countries under the special year.

***

An Evening of Culture, Cinema and Community









The Embassy hosted a vibrant Cultural and Community Meet, bringing together members of the Indian diaspora and friends of India for an evening celebrating culture, cinema and community. The highlight of the evening was the presence of renowned Marathi actor Mr. Subodh Bhave, whose remarkable contributions to Indian regional cinema were showcased through a special presentation of his work. In his remarks, the Ambassador underscored the growing role of Indian cinema in promoting India's rich cultural heritage and creative excellence, followed by a captivating Q&A session between the Ambassador and Mr. Bhave that traced the evolution of Marathi cinema and theatre. The evening concluded on a festive note with vibrant dance performances, serving as an excellent platform for fostering cultural exchange and further strengthening community bonds.

***

Exploring Collaboration with the City of Córdoba





The Ambassador met with the Mayor of Córdoba, Mr. José María Bellido, to explore avenues for collaboration under the India–Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and AI. The discussions covered ongoing partnerships with the University of Córdoba, the opportunities arising from the recently concluded India–EU FTA, and preparations for the upcoming 12th International Day of Yoga celebrations. The engagement reflected the breadth of the India–Spain relationship at the regional level, spanning cultural, academic and economic ties, and underscored the shared interest in deepening cooperation across these complementary areas.

***

Ambassador Attends Welcome Ceremony for Pope Leo XIV in Madrid





The Ambassador attended the Welcome Ceremony for His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at the Royal Palace in Madrid, held on the occasion of His Holiness's visit to Spain. In his address, His Holiness underscored the importance of including the most vulnerable, advancing digital literacy, and ensuring that research and industry serve the cause of justice and peace. He also highlighted the need for a renewed commitment to international law and multilateralism in the pursuit of peace and solidarity among nations. The occasion resonated with the spirit of the India–Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and AI, reflecting a shared conviction — echoed by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and His Holiness alike — that artificial intelligence must remain human-centric, ethical and directed towards the welfare of all.

***

India at the 126th UN Tourism Executive Council Meeting in Toledo









The Indian delegation, led by the Ambassador, attended the Welcome Event of the 126th Executive Council Meeting of UN Tourism in Toledo, Spain. On the sidelines, brief interactions were held with Spain's Minister of Industry and Tourism, H.E. Mr. Jordi Hereu, and the UN Tourism Secretary-General, H.E. Ms. Shaikha Al Nowais. Minister Hereu emphasised that diversity is a key strength in attracting tourism worldwide. As a member of UN Tourism, India has played an important role in advancing global tourism cooperation and sustainable tourism, guided by the spirit captured in the Hon'ble Prime Minister's words: "Our approach to tourism is based on the ancient saying 'Atithi Devo Bhavah' — the guest is God."

***

Ambassador Opens the 4th Jaipur Literature Festival Valladolid









The Ambassador delivered the opening address at the 4th Jaipur Literature Festival Valladolid, which began at IE University, Madrid, with an interaction with Nobel Laureate Dr. Kailash Satyarthi. In his address, the Ambassador reflected on India's rich tradition of social movements — from the era of the Buddha to the Bhakti saints and social reformers — underscoring the enduring values of compassion that have made Indian society resilient. Shri Sanjoy Roy, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts, and representatives of the Valladolid City Council were also present. The festival offered a vibrant platform for literary and cultural exchange, further enriching the deepening ties between India and Spain under the special year of cultural celebration.

***

Welcoming Young Indian Students on a Football and Cultural Tour to Spain









The Ambassador interacted with the talented students of Good Shepherd International School, Ooty, Tamil Nadu, during their educational and football immersion tour to Spain, organised by the MAMS Football Academy, Railwala, Uttarakhand. The students' enthusiasm for sports, learning and cultural exchange was truly inspiring, reflecting the growing bonds of friendship between India and Spain. The Embassy extended its best wishes to them for a rewarding and memorable experience in Spain. Such youth exchanges play a valuable role in nurturing people-to-people ties and fostering lasting connections between the two countries.

***

Promoting India as a Tourism Destination in Spain









The Embassy of India hosted a promotional event on Indian tourism, organised by Travel Life in collaboration with Politours, one of Spain's leading travel agencies. The event brought together around 100 Spanish tour operators, travel agents and airline representatives for a presentation of India as a destination, featuring a welcome address by the Ambassador, curated India itineraries, insights from partners including Etihad, and an Indian culinary tasting. Showcasing the breadth of India's tourism offerings to the Spanish travel trade, the event marked another step in strengthening India–Spain tourism ties, in the spirit of the India–Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and AI 2026.

***

An Evening of Indian Classical Music and Dance in Madrid









A packed hall at the Círculo de Bellas Artes witnessed an unforgettable evening as Pandit Shubhendra Rao and Ms. Rama Vaidyanathan captivated audiences with their extraordinary performances of Indian classical music and dance. Their artistry and grace brought alive the rich cultural heritage of India, leaving the audience spellbound and earning resounding appreciation throughout the evening. Setting the performance in the context of the India–Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence, the Ambassador reflected that in an age transformed by technology, the two countries have wisely chosen to place culture alongside innovation — recognising that while artificial intelligence may shape the future, it is art and human creativity that give meaning to our existence. The evening served as a vibrant celebration of the deep cultural ties between India and Spain.

***

A New Chapter in India–Spain Food Sector Collaboration









The Ambassador jointly inaugurated the new manufacturing facility of La Madrileña in Madrid, alongside Shri Manohar Lal Aggarwal, Chairman of Haldiram Group; Shri Amit Sawhney, Chairman of Nippon Group; and Mr. Diego Pomares, CEO of La Madrileña. The venture brings together Haldiram Group, Nippon Group and Indian Food Group to open a new chapter in India–Spain collaboration in the food sector. Built around the iconic Spanish potato chips brand La Madrileña, the facility symbolises the coming together of Indian and Spanish food heritage and innovation. The Ambassador expressed his confidence that the partnership would inspire more Indian companies to explore opportunities and collaborations within Spain's food industry, and further strengthening the economic ties between the two countries.

***

A Nationwide Celebration of the 12th International Day of Yoga









The Embassy of India marked the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 with a vibrant series of celebrations across Spain and Andorra, embracing this year's global theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." A total of 33 events were organised, spanning all 17 Autonomous Communities of Spain, the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, and the Principality of Andorra, featuring a rich variety of practices — from Common Yoga Protocol sessions, Hatha Yoga and meditation to yoga for women, youth and healthy ageing, and inclusive sessions for people with hearing impairments.

The flagship celebration took place on 21 June at the historic Plaza de Oriente in Madrid, as part of the Spain–India Dual Year 2026, drawing nearly 1,000 participants including members of the diplomatic corps, Spanish institutions, the Indian diaspora and the general public. In his address, the Ambassador highlighted yoga as India's timeless gift to humanity — not merely a system of physical exercise but a holistic way of life promoting physical health, mental well-being and inner harmony — and noted its remarkable growth in Spain, now home to over 1,500 yoga centres and studios. The event was graced by Mr. Luis Martín Izquierdo, Vice Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport of the Community of Madrid, who underscored the importance of yoga in promoting healthy lifestyles and social well-being.

***

"The Dream of Sitar" Lights Up the Granada Festival









Indian classical music and dance took centre stage at the prestigious International Festival of Music and Dance of Granada. The renowned instrumental ensemble led by Pandit Shubhendra Rao on the sitar and the acclaimed Bharatanatyam troupe led by Ms. Rama Vaidyanathan, joined by the Granada Philharmonic Orchestra and Spanish flamenco dancers, staged "The Dream of Sitar," a performance paying homage to Pandit Ravi Shankar. Presented as part of the India–Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and AI, this proud collaboration with one of Spain's most prestigious cultural festivals brought together the artistic traditions of both countries in a memorable celebration, highlighting the growing cultural partnership between India and Spain.

***

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



In the latest episode of his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat," Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reflected on a range of achievements from across the country, with a special emphasis on national security, self-reliance and the power of public participation. He celebrated milestones in India's defence journey, including the induction of the indigenously built INS Dunagiri, INS Sanshodhak and INS Agray into the Indian Navy, the maiden flight of the Made-in-India C-295 aircraft, and the DRDO's successful test of an indigenous Long-Range Land-Attack Cruise Missile. Turning to the International Day of Yoga, celebrated at over 2,500 locations worldwide, he congratulated India's athletes for topping the medal tally at the World Yogasana Championship in Ahmedabad with 114 medals, including 102 gold.

The Prime Minister also highlighted heartening stories of public participation and social welfare, from a family in Nanded insuring thousands of fellow villagers to Assam's "Hargila Army" of rural women protecting a rare bird, alongside sporting initiatives in Nagaland. He reflected on the meeting of heritage and technology through Nalanda University's revival of Shaastraarth and the Central Sanskrit University's new AI programme, celebrated the global embrace of Indian culture and Meghalaya's living root bridges now proposed for UNESCO recognition, and closed with a call to environmental responsibility ahead of Ganesh Utsav and through the "Catch the Rain" campaign.

To listen to the full address, please click here.

***

Key Activities and Events Organised by Casa de la India in June 2026.











EU and India Host First Tech Business Forum in New Delhi





The European Union and India held the first EU–India Tech Business Forum in New Delhi on 4 June 2026, a key step in deepening digital and trade ties under the Trade and Technology Council (TTC). Building on the Comprehensive Strategic Agenda Towards 2030 agreed by EU and Indian leaders earlier this year, the forum brought together businesses, policymakers, researchers, think tanks and civil society to strengthen private sector collaboration and identify opportunities for joint innovation and growth. Organised by the EU Delegation to India and Bhutan and India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), it was supported by key industry partners including the Federation of European Business in India (FEBI) and NASSCOM, with the EU Ambassador H.E. Mr. Hervé Delphin and ambassadors and representatives of several EU member states, including Spain, taking part.

More than 100 European and Indian technology companies joined discussions on advanced technologies such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, data governance and digital public infrastructure, exploring ways to strengthen interoperability, cooperate on standards and facilitate market access. The forum also served to operationalise the recently concluded EU–India Free Trade Agreement and the Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals signed under the TTC in January 2026, marking the beginning of a more action-driven phase of cooperation. Highlighting the value of moving the partnership from policy to co-creation, co-investment and the mobility of talent and data, the event underscored the shared commitment of the two sides to harness their complementary strengths, together representing a quarter of the world's population and a quarter of global GDP.

***

A New Chapter in Assam–Europe Cooperation: The Blue Valley Cluster









A high-level "Team Europe" delegation of the European Union, led by the EU Ambassador to India and Bhutan, H.E. Mr. Hervé Delphin, visited Guwahati, Assam, on 8–9 June 2026 to advance collaboration between Europe and India's North-Eastern States, in line with the Comprehensive Strategic Agenda agreed at the EU–India Summit in January. The delegation held a bilateral meeting with Assam's Chief Minister, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, while a business delegation led by the Federation of European Businesses in India (FEBI) explored trade and investment opportunities with State officials.

The centrepiece of the visit was the launch of Assam's first Blue Valley Cluster, a new industrial hub focused on flavours, fragrances, AYUSH and food processing. Aligned with the Blue Valleys initiative introduced at the 2026 EU–India Summit, the cluster aims to connect Assam's natural resources and farming communities with European businesses, investment and markets. An MoU between the Assam Industrial Development Corporation and FEBI was also signed to strengthen investment promotion, marking a new chapter in EU–India collaboration to unlock the North-East's economic potential.

***

12th EU–India Human Rights Dialogue Held in New Delhi





The 12th European Union–India Human Rights Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 24 June 2026, co-chaired by Mr. Piyush Srivastava, Additional Secretary (Europe West), and Mr. Hervé Delphin, Ambassador of the European Union to India. The two sides welcomed the meaningful, free and frank discussions under the framework of the Dialogue and concurred on the value of its regularity, outlining their respective approaches, achievements and challenges in advancing the shared goal of promoting all human rights, and exchanging views on developments in the EU, in India, and at the regional and international levels since the last Dialogue.

Recalling the historic 16th EU–India Summit of January 2026, at which leaders committed to raising the Strategic Partnership to a higher level based on shared values including democracy, human rights, pluralism and the rule of law, the two sides reiterated their commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights. As major democracies and diverse societies together home to nearly a fourth of the world's population, they exchanged views across a broad range of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights, and reaffirmed their commitment to developing trustworthy, sustainable and human-centric AI, as conveyed during the AI Impact Summit 2026 hosted by India. Recognising the importance of national and international human rights institutions and of a free and diverse civil society, both sides looked forward to continuing the constructive dialogue at the next Human Rights Dialogue in 2027.

***