INDIA-SPAIN

NEWSLETTER
EMBASSY OF INDIA, MADRID
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Index

1	Embassy Celebrates 77th ICCR Foundation Day (April 9, 2026).
2	Launch of India–Spain Science & Technology Collaboration Report (April 13, 2026).
3	Ambassador Visits Valencia Institute of Modern Art (April 15, 2026).
4	India–EU FTA: A New Opportunity for Spanish Companies (April 17 2026).
5	Agriculture and Global Growth: Ambassador Meets WAF Leadership (April 20, 2026).
6	India and Guadalajara: Exploring Avenues for Cooperation (April 21, 2026)
7	Launch of the Indian Women's Association of Madrid (April 22, 2026)
8	India's Growing Seafood Partnership at Seafood Expo Global, Barcelona (April 23, 2026).
9	India Studies Gains Ground in Europe (April 24, 2026).
10	Countdown to International Day of Yoga 2026 Begins (April 24, 2026).
11	Strengthening Cultural and Community Bonds (April 25, 2026).
12	India–Spain Cinema Ties: "Stories That Travel" Returns for a Third Edition (April 26, 2026).
13	INS Sudarshini Charts a Course in India–Spain Maritime Diplomacy (April 26, 2026).
14	Weaving New Opportunities in India–Spain Textile Cooperation (April 27, 2026).
15	Mann Ki Baat: Highlights of the Prime Minister's April Address (April 2026).
16	Key Activities and Events Organised by Casa de la India (April 2026).
17	Key India–EU Diplomatic and Economic Engagements (April 2026).

Embassy Celebrates 77th ICCR Foundation Day









The Embassy celebrated the 77th Foundation Day of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) with a vibrant event that offered participants insights into ICCR's role in advancing India's cultural diplomacy and civilizational outreach. ICCR scholarship alumni shared their experiences of studying in India and engaging with its rich traditions, while a captivating Bharatnatyam performance provided a cultural highlight.

In his remarks, the Ambassador underlined the importance of mutual cultural understanding and ICCR's contribution to sharing India's culture and heritage globally. The celebration carried added significance as 2026 is being observed as the India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and AI.

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Launch of India–Spain Science & Technology Collaboration Report





The Ambassador took part in the release of the Report on India–Spain Collaboration in Science, Technology & Innovation, held at Spain's Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation. The launch was joined by the Secretary General of Innovation, Ms. Teresa Riesgo Alcaide, and the President of the Spain-India Council Foundation, Mr. Juan Ignacio Entrecanales, reflecting the shared institutional commitment of both countries to deepening their partnership in these strategic sectors. Covering developments up to 2025, the Report takes stock of the progress achieved across science, technology and innovation, and serves as a valuable reference point for charting the way forward. Its release formed part of the India–Spain Dual Year 2026 on Culture, Tourism & Artificial Intelligence, a landmark initiative that underscores the growing breadth of bilateral engagement between the two nations. The meeting further provided an opportunity to discuss potential areas of future collaboration across these fields, signalling a shared ambition to expand cooperation in science, technology and innovation in the years ahead.

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Ambassador Visits Valencia Institute of Modern Art





The Ambassador visited the Valencia Institute of Modern Art (IVAM) in Valencia and held a meeting with the Director of the Museum, Ms. Blanca De La Torre. The discussions centred on possible areas of cooperation between India and Spain in the field of visual arts, exploring how the two countries might build closer ties in this domain. The visit was particularly timely in the context of the India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence, which continues to open new avenues for cultural exchange and collaboration across a range of artistic and creative spheres.

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India–EU FTA: A New Opportunity for Spanish Companies









The Ambassador delivered the welcome address at the conference "India–EU FTA: A New Opportunity for Spanish Companies," organized by the Madrid Chamber of Commerce, offering a broader perspective on the state and prospects of India-Spain relations. Dr. Eva Serrano, Vice President of the Chamber, highlighted India's growth story, its young and qualified workforce, and its dynamic middle class, while presenting in detail the sector-specific opportunities available to Spanish companies in India. The sectors identified included agriculture, infrastructure, the automobile industry, tourism, aeronautics, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy.

An Indian law firm briefed participants on the relevant regulatory framework, providing practical insight into the business environment. The discussion underscored the significant potential to further strengthen India–Spain trade and investment ties once the FTA comes into force, pointing to a promising horizon for deeper economic engagement between the two countries.

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Agriculture and Global Growth: Ambassador Meets WAF Leadership



The Ambassador held a meeting with Dr. M.J. Khan, Executive Director and CEO of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF), during which they discussed the growth of India's agriculture sector in the global context as well as the broader vision of WAF. The conversation offered an opportunity to reflect on the evolving role of agriculture in addressing shared global challenges and to explore avenues for closer engagement. Dr. Khan was accompanied by Ms. Sofia Forkajm, Collaborator at CEIGRAM (Centro de Estudios e Investigación para la Gestión de Riesgos Agrarios y Medioambientales), and Prof. Fernando Escribano of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) and CEIGRAM, both of whom contributed valuable perspectives to the discussion and shared insights into their innovative projects being undertaken outside Spain.

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India and Guadalajara: Exploring Avenues for Cooperation









The Ambassador met with the Mayor of Guadalajara, H.E. Ms. Ana Guarinos, for a discussion on possible areas of cooperation and collaboration between India and Guadalajara across the fields of culture, business and trade. The exchange reflected a shared interest in building closer ties and identifying opportunities of mutual benefit. The Ambassador thanked the Mayor for the city's enthusiastic celebration of the International Day of Yoga each year and expressed hope for its continued support for this year's edition. During the visit, the Ambassador was also accompanied by the Mayor to the Antonio Buero Vallejo theatre-auditorium, rounding off a warm and constructive engagement.

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Launch of the Indian Women's Association of Madrid









The Embassy organised a "Meet, Greet & Connect" session for diaspora women, building on the success of the earlier event held on 14th March to mark International Women's Day. The occasion also marked the launch of the first-ever Indian Women's Association (IWA) of Madrid, an initiative spearheaded by Dr. Priya Jayant. The morning brought together inspiring addresses, cultural performances and engaging interactions among the women of the Indian diaspora, fostering a sense of connection and helping nurture a vibrant and supportive community. The gathering reflected the Embassy's continued commitment to strengthening diaspora engagement and creating spaces for meaningful exchange.

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India's Growing Seafood Partnership at Seafood Expo Global, Barcelona









At Seafood Expo Global in Barcelona, the Ambassador joined the Indian delegation led by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), a substantial presence featuring 48 co-exhibiting companies and 210 delegates. The strong turnout reflected the depth and dynamism of India's marine products sector and its growing engagement with international markets. India's seafood exports to Spain have continued on an upward trajectory, rising from $187.18 million in 2024 to $219.22 million in 2025 — a clear marker of a flourishing partnership and of the considerable potential that lies ahead for deeper trade ties between the two countries.

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India Studies Gains Ground in Europe









The Ambassador interacted with distinguished scholars and Indologists from the ESIND COST Action and the Spanish Association for Interdisciplinary India Studies (AEEII). ESIND (Europe's Representations of India), an EU-funded initiative, fosters collaborative research on India across the continent, bringing together academic expertise from a range of institutions. The discussions focused on the deepening interest in India and the growing popularity of India Studies as an academic discipline across Europe, reflecting the rich and expanding intellectual engagement with the country's history, culture and contemporary significance.

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Countdown to International Day of Yoga 2026 Begins





The Embassy, in collaboration with the Indian Women's Association (IWA), has launched a series of yoga sessions, drawing an enthusiastic response — particularly from younger participants. An ancient practice rooted in India's rich philosophical and cultural heritage, yoga has come to be embraced across the world as a path to physical wellbeing, mental balance and inner harmony, transcending borders and bringing people together in a shared pursuit of health and mindfulness. The session marks the beginning of the celebrations leading up to the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2026 in Spain, setting an energetic and welcoming tone for the weeks of activities ahead. With growing interest and participation, the initiative promises to carry forward the spirit of the Day and its universal message of harmony and wellbeing.

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Strengthening Cultural and Community Bonds





The Ambassador held a fruitful meeting with Pandit Krishna Kripa Dasa (Mr. JC Ramchandani), President of the Hindu Federation of Spain. The discussions centred on expanding cultural outreach and strengthening community welfare initiatives, reflecting a shared commitment to nurturing the bonds between India and the Indian community in Spain. The engagement underscored the valuable role played by community organisations in fostering cultural connection and supporting the wellbeing of the diaspora.

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India–Spain Cinema Ties: "Stories That Travel" Returns for a Third Edition









The Ambassador inaugurated the 3rd edition of the "Stories That Travel" Scriptwriting Workshop in Barcelona. Organised in collaboration with the Spain Film Commission, ESCAC (Film and Audiovisual School of Catalonia) and Casa Asia, the initiative continues to strengthen India–Spain collaboration in the fields of filming, scriptwriting and co-productions, offering a creative platform for storytellers from both countries to come together. Building on the success of its earlier editions, the workshop has already borne fruit: the two films Mudras: Dancing to Invisible Strings and Lala & Poppy have premiered, with two further projects currently in production. The growing body of work stands as a testament to the rich creative synergy between the two countries and the promise of deeper cultural and cinematic exchange in the years to come.

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INS Sudarshini Charts a Course in India–Spain Maritime Diplomacy









INS Sudarshini, having set sail from India in January 2026 and traversed multiple ports on her way to the United States, made an important port call at Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, from 23–26 April 2026 — marking a significant chapter in maritime diplomacy between India and Spain. During the visit, the Commanding Officer of INS Sudarshini, Commander Ravikanth Nandoori, made an official call on Rear Admiral Santiago de Colsa Trueba, Chief of the Spanish Forces at the Canary Islands. This high-level interaction focused on shared interests in maritime security and the long-standing tradition of naval cooperation between the two countries. The ship's stay drew the Indian diaspora in large numbers, a turnout that reflected the pride of the local community and the growing warmth of bilateral ties. Visitors were offered the unique opportunity to tour the sail training vessel, interact with the crew and gain a glimpse into life at sea. On her return voyage, INS Sudarshini is set to make a further port call at Barcelona in September 2026, carrying forward the spirit of friendship and cooperation that has come to define the maritime partnership between India and Spain.

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Weaving New Opportunities in India–Spain Textile Cooperation



The Ambassador called on the Secretary (Textiles), Ms. Neelam Shami Rao, for discussions on expanding cooperation between India and Spain in the fields of apparel, textiles and handicrafts — spanning design, manufacturing, innovation and sustainable practices. The conversation reflected the breadth of the sector and the scope for the two countries to draw on each other's strengths across the value chain. With the India–EU FTA text now concluded, fresh opportunities are opening up for trade, investment and "Make in India" initiatives with Spain within the global textile value chain, pointing to a promising avenue for deeper economic partnership in the period ahead.

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



In the latest episode of his monthly radio programme "Mann Ki Baat," Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi touched upon a wide array of subjects spanning science, culture, conservation and citizen achievement. He opened by celebrating a landmark in India's Civil Nuclear Program — the Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, achieving Criticality using entirely indigenous technology — and went on to highlight India's progress in wind energy, with generation capacity now exceeding 56 gigawatts, placing the country fourth in the world.

Marking the approach of Buddha Purnima, the Prime Minister reflected on the enduring relevance of Bhagwan Buddha's message of peace and compassion, citing efforts to carry forward Buddhist teachings and nature conservation both in India and abroad. He also spoke of the Beating Retreat ceremony, now made available on the WAVES OTT platform, and shared several inspiring stories of wildlife and environmental conservation from across the country — from the flamingos of the Rann of Kutch to the revival of the Blackbuck and the Great Indian Bustard.

The address further celebrated the flourishing bamboo sector of the Northeast and its contribution to employment and innovation, the digitisation of over 20 crore historical documents by the National Archives of India, and the outstanding performance of India's young women at the European Girls Mathematical Olympiad in France. The Prime Minister also encouraged participation in the digital Census 2027 and spoke of the growing global recognition of Indian cheese, before concluding with tributes to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on his birth anniversary and to the brave hearts of the First War of Independence of 1857.

To listen to the full address, please click here.

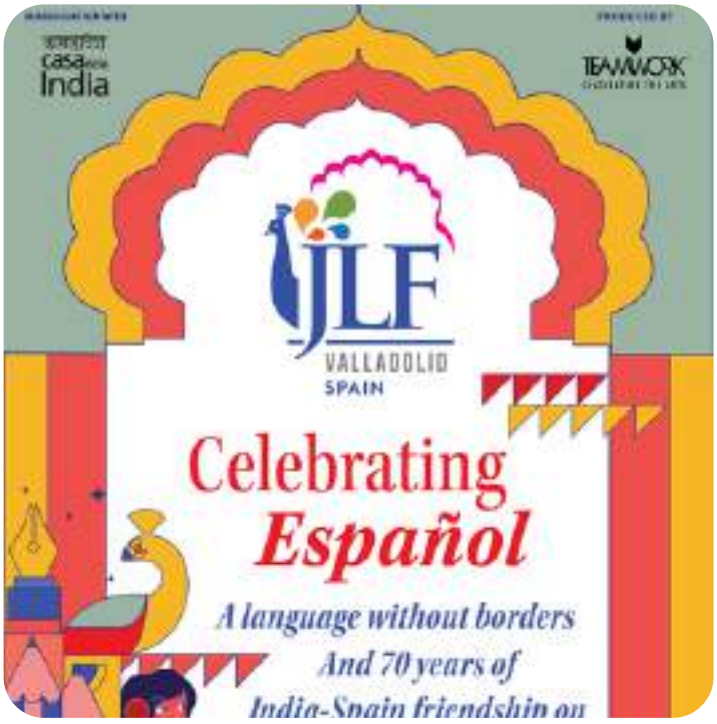
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Key Activities and Events Organised by Casa de la India in April 2026.











EU Parliament Delegation Visits India Amid FTA Momentum









The Federation of European Business in India (FEBI) hosted a distinguished delegation of Members of the European Parliament during their recent visit to India, led by Angelika Niebler and Niels Flemming Hansen, and including Younous Omarjee, Vladimir Prebilič, Kathleen Van Brempt, Mario Mantovani, Morten Løkkegaard and Kai Tegethoff. The visit featured a FEBI Breakfast Meeting with EU businesses operating in Karnataka, providing a dynamic platform for exchange at a pivotal moment in EU–India economic relations.

Following the conclusion of the EU–India FTA negotiations, discussions centred on translating the agreement into meaningful outcomes on the ground, identifying fresh avenues for collaboration and building on the strong momentum in bilateral ties. The conversations highlighted Karnataka, and Bengaluru in particular, as a key hub for European businesses — driven by its robust innovation ecosystem, skilled talent pool and leadership in technology, manufacturing and R&D. The delegation also visited leading European businesses in India, including Airbus, Schneider Electric and Bosch, underscoring the depth and diversity of EU industry engagement and the shared commitment to advancing an ambitious, future-oriented EU–India partnership.

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