# INDIA-SPAIN

## NEWSLETTER
## EMBASSY OF INDIA, MADRID
## January 2026



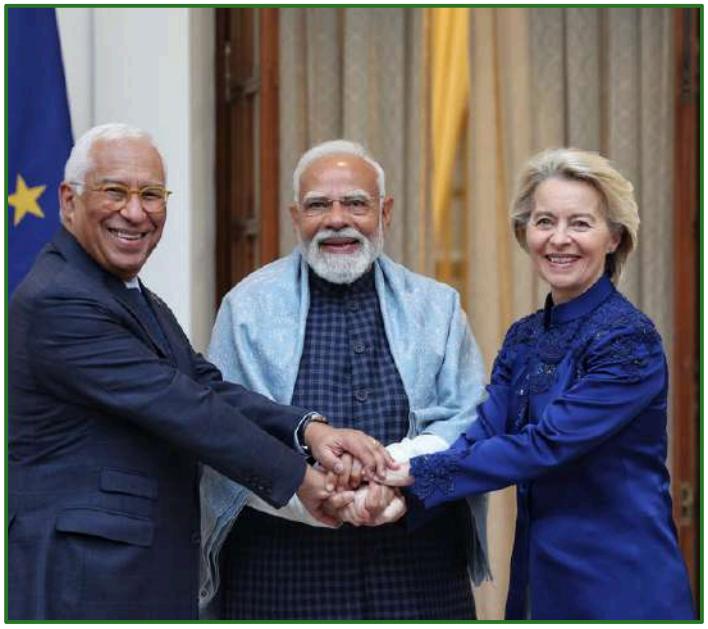




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# The 16th India-EU Summit and Adoption of the "Towards 2030" Strategic Agenda





On January 27, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi co-chaired the 16th India-EU Summit in New Delhi alongside the President of the European Council, H.E. Mr. António Costa, and the President of the European Commission, H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen. This historic summit served as a comprehensive review of the bilateral partnership, focusing on critical sectors including trade, clean energy, climate action, and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

The summit yielded four landmark outcomes that define the trajectory of the partnership for the next decade:

- Conclusion of the India-EU FTA: Finalizing negotiations for a monumental trade agreement.
- "Towards 2030" Strategic Agenda: Adopting a Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda to guide cooperation over the next five years.
- Mobility MoU: Signing a Memorandum of Understanding on a Comprehensive Framework for Cooperation on Mobility to facilitate the movement of students, researchers, and professionals.
- Security and Defence Partnership: Concluding a formal partnership to enhance cooperation in maritime security, cyber-defence, and counter-terrorism.

These agreements are designed to strengthen national security, catalyze investment, and foster shared prosperity, reaffirming the India-EU partnership as a cornerstone for global stability and economic growth.

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## Historic Conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).





At the 16th India-EU Summit held in New Delhi on January 27, 2026, India and the European Union successfully concluded negotiations for a landmark Free Trade Agreement. Representing a partnership between the world's 4th and 2nd largest economies, collectively accounting for 25% of global GDP, this comprehensive pact is set to redefine bilateral trade and economic integration. The FTA provides unprecedented market access, with 99% of Indian exports receiving preferential entry into the EU, benefiting labor-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, marine products, and gems and jewellery.

Beyond goods, the agreement establishes a future-ready mobility framework for Indian professionals, grants access for practitioners of Indian Traditional Medicine to operate within the EU, and includes significant liberalisation in the automotive sector to propel the "Make in India" initiative. While ensuring safeguards for sensitive agricultural and dairy sectors, the deal is expected to catalyze job creation for youth and professionals, empower MSMEs, and integrate Indian businesses more deeply into global value chains, ushering in an era of shared prosperity for nearly two billion people

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## Inaugural Meeting of the India-EU Joint Steering Committee for Trilateral Cooperation.





On January 21, 2026, the first meeting of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for India-EU Trilateral Cooperation was convened in New Delhi. Co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Hervé Delphin, Ambassador of the European Union to India, and Ms. Priyanka Chauhan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, the meeting marked a significant step in the India-EU Partnership. The committee established formal modalities to jointly implement development projects in third countries, particularly across Africa, Latin America, and the Indo-Pacific. By focusing on priority sectors such as clean energy, green mobility, and digitalization, the framework aims to address global development challenges through a collaborative approach rooted in shared values and mutual interests.

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## Visit of Foreign Minister of Spain H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares' to India.







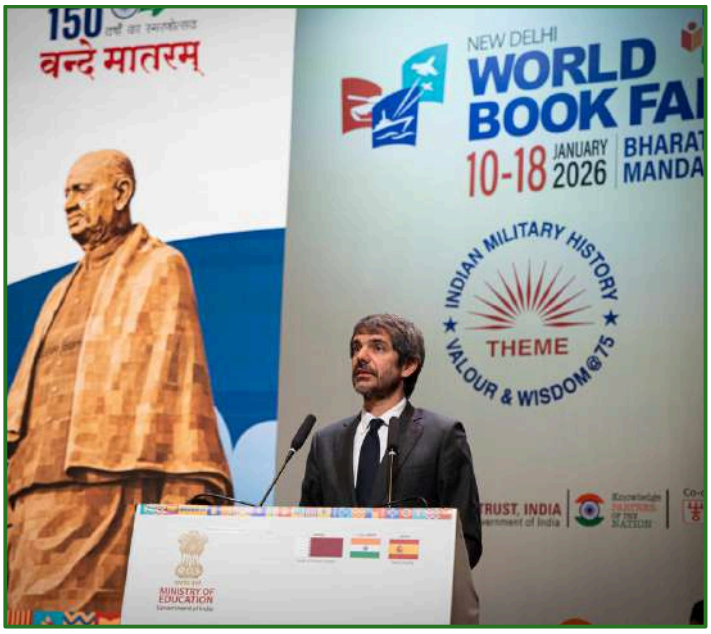



On January 20-21, 2026, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, H.E. Mr. José Manuel Albares, conducted a high-level official visit to New Delhi at the invitation of External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. A cornerstone of the visit was the joint unveiling of the official logo for the "India-Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence," a landmark initiative commemorating the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations. During delegation-level talks, both ministers reviewed the comprehensive gamut of bilateral cooperation, spanning trade, investment, defense, technology, and education, and reaffirmed their strong political dialogue. In a significant development, Minister Albares formally handed over Spain's Declaration of Accession to the India-led Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

The visit also included a formal call on the Honorable President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President expressed her profound satisfaction with the launch of the Dual Year, noting its potential to further showcase the cultural affinity, tourism prospects, and deepening technological collaborations that define the modern partnership between India and Spain.

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## Visit of Culture Minister of Spain H.E. Mr. Ernest Urtasun to India.










On January 10, Culture Minister of Spain H.E. Mr. Urtasun and Education Minister of India Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the New Delhi World Book Fair at Bharat Mandapam, where Spain featured as the "Focus Country." The Spanish program, which centered on poetry and multilingualism, highlighted shared cultural values and provided a platform for Spanish publishers to expand into the Indian market.

Key bilateral outcomes included an agreement to designate Spain as the "Guest of Honour" at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa in November 2026. Minister Urtasun also held a meeting with Minister of Culture and Tourism of India Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to finalize the 2026 cultural roadmap, featuring photography exhibitions like "7x7" and joint theater productions. The visit concluded with an engagement at the Instituto Cervantes, reaffirming the role of linguistic and artistic exchange in deepening the India-Spain partnership.

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## National Day Reception to Commemorate the 77th Republic Day.










The Embassy of India in Madrid hosted a National Day Reception to mark the 77th Republic Day, attended by members of the diplomatic corps, senior Spanish government officials, and distinguished representatives from academia and the arts. The Guest of Honour was H.E. Mr. Fernando Mariano Sampedro Marcos, State Secretary for the European Union.

In his keynote address, the Ambassador highlighted India's robust economic trajectory and the historic signing of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA). He noted the deepening bilateral ties and the significance of the External Affairs Minister's 2025 visit to Spain. The State Secretary reciprocated these sentiments, recalling the high-level visits of President Pedro Sánchez and Foreign Minister José Manuel Albares to India. Both dignitaries reaffirmed their commitment to the "India-Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence," celebrating the partnership through a showcase of diverse cultural performances by Indian and Spanish artists.

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## Commemoration of the 77th Republic Day of India.










The Embassy of India in Madrid celebrated the 77th Republic Day with a formal ceremony characterized by the enthusiastic participation of the Indian diaspora and friends of India. The proceedings commenced with the ceremonial unfurling of the National Flag by the Ambassador, followed by a collective rendition of the National Anthem. During the event, the Ambassador read the Address to the Nation by the Honorable President of India, emphasizing the core messages of national progress, unity, and the responsibilities of citizens. The celebration was further enriched by the performance of patriotic songs, including the National Song, Vande Mataram, fostering a profound sense of pride and community among those in attendance.

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## India’s Participation in FITUR Madrid 2026.












During the International Tourism Fair (FITUR) held in Madrid from January 21 to 25, 2026, the Ambassador visited the "Incredible India" Pavilion and several state-specific pavilions, including those representing Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Gujarat. The Ambassador engaged in productive dialogues with various Indian state delegations and tour operators to promote India’s diverse cultural heritage and iconic landmarks to the global travel industry. These interactions focused on strategic initiatives to enhance the influx of international tourists to India and strengthening collaborations within the tourism sector, aligning with the objectives of the newly launched India-Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence.

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## India-Spain AI Conference in Madrid.











On January 27, 2026, the Embassy of India organized the India-Spain AI Conference in Madrid, serving as a prestigious curtain-raiser for the upcoming global India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi and formally initiating the celebrations for the India-Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence. The conference was inaugurated by the Ambassador and featured a significant closing address by H.E. Mr. Óscar López, Spain's Minister for Digital Transformation and Civil Services.

The event, which coincided with the signing of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, brought together over 100 prominent AI leaders and stakeholders from both nations. Discussions focused on the synergy between the AI ecosystems of India and Spain, exploring pathways for deepened bilateral technological collaboration. A dedicated session was also held for the IndiaAI Impact Summit, with virtual participation from the CEO of IndiaAI and leading Indian academic and research institutions.

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## Celebration of World Hindi Day 2026 in Madrid and Valencia.






The Embassy of India, Madrid, commemorated Vishwa Hindi Diwas 2026 with vibrant literary and cultural programs held on January 16 at the Embassy premises in Madrid. The event was centered on promoting the richness of the Hindi language through competitive engagements, including Quizzes, Hindi poetry recitations and Calligraphy competitions that drew enthusiastic participation from the local community. A significant highlight was a scholarly presentation by Professor Enrique Gallud on the deep-rooted cultural and spiritual connections between India and Spain. The program concluded with traditional cultural performances and interactive activities all of which showcased Hindi's growing global stature as the world's third most spoken language.

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In Valencia, the celebrations continued with a dedicated program designed to strengthen people-to-people ties through linguistic heritage. Similar to the Madrid festivities, the Valencia event featured a diverse showcase of Hindi literature and arts, providing a platform for students of the language and members of the Indian diaspora to express their creative talents. By bringing these celebrations to Valencia, the Embassy highlighted the widespread interest in Indian culture across Spain and fostered a deeper appreciation for Hindi as a vital tool for cultural diplomacy and bilateral friendship.

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## Consular Outreach and Diaspora Engagement in Tenerife.






A consular team led by Cherakung Zeliang , Counsellor (Cons, PIC & HoC) visited Tenerife (Canary Islands) from 13-15 January 2026. During the visit, the team met the family members of Late Gope Mahtani, Honorary Consul General who had recently passed away. The services rendered by Late Mahtani for the Embassy were duly acknowledged. A meeting with members of Indian diaspora was also held in the office premises of the Hon'CG. Useful discussions were held including clarifications on various matters of concern for the community like OCI, Passport, Visa etc as also other consular matters related to the welfare of Indian citizens in the Canary Islands. The team also visited the centre of the Outsourced Service Provider (M/s BLS International) located in Tenerife and reviewed its operations for efficient service delivery to the applicants.

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## Consular Outreach and Consular Camp in Valencia.



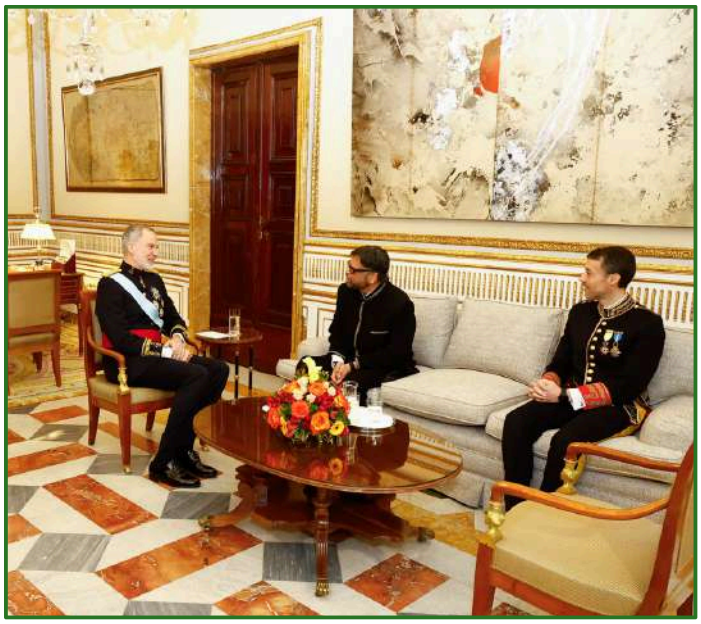


On January 17–18, 2026, a consular team led by the Counsellor (Visa and Community Affairs) visited Valencia to engage with the Indian diaspora and conduct a Consular Camp. Held at the Shri Guru Ravidas Guru Ghar, the camp provided on-the-spot services, including passport renewals, OCI applications, and birth registrations, to approximately 100 individuals. The team also visited Gurudwara Sikh Sangat Valencia for community interactions, addressing welfare concerns and encouraging residents to register on the Embassy's website for better coordination. The community expressed profound gratitude for the Mission's proactive outreach and the efficient delivery of essential services.

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## Presentation of Credentials by the Ambassador to His Majesty King Felipe VI.





On January 12, 2026, the Ambassador formally presented his Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Felipe VI at the Royal Palace in Madrid, officially accrediting him as the Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Kingdom of Spain. The ceremony, conducted in accordance with historical Spanish diplomatic traditions, was followed by a private audience with His Majesty. Discussions focused on the further strengthening of bilateral relations, the advancement of India-EU ties, and potential cooperation in key global regions, all held within a warm and cordial atmosphere.

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