



BILATERAL RELATIONS
INDIA - SPAIN

INTRODUCTION

Relations between India and Spain are warm since the establishment of democracy in Spain in 1978. Diplomatic relations between India and Spain were established in 1956 with the opening of the Spanish Embassy in New Delhi. Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II, the Maharaja of Jaipur, was appointed in 1965 as the first Ambassador of India to Spain.



HIGH LEVEL VISITS

After a gap of 28 years, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, paid an official bilateral visit to Spain on 30-31 May 2017. Prime Minister met Mr Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires on 1 December 2018.

Former EAM Ms Sushma Swaraj visited Spain on 18 - 19 February 2019. Spanish Foreign Minister Mr Josep Borrell had earlier visited India on 8-9 January 2019 to participate in the Raisina Dialogue.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar met Mr Josep Borrell, now the EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting on November 23 2019.

EAM met the Spanish Foreign Minister Ms Arancha Gonzalez Laya at Munich Security Conference on 16 February 2020. President ICCRDr.

Vinay Sahasrabuddhe visited Spain in October 2019 for the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

MoEFCC Mr Prakash Javadekar visited Madrid to deliver India's national statement at the COP25 Conference on 10 December 2019.



CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC RELATIONS

Cultural exchange is an important component of India-Spain bilateral relations. ICCR sponsors cultural groups to Spain and offers ten scholarships annually to Spanish students to study in India.

ICCR is offering four scholarships to the Principality of Andorra for the first time in 2021. Casa de la India, a PPP collaboration between ICCR, University of Valladolid and City of Valladolid was founded in 2003 as a platform for the promotion of India in Spain through activities in the fields of culture, education, cooperation and enterprise.

University of Valladolid hosts Rabindranath Tagore Chair for Contemporary Indian Studies and Hindi Chair (both vacant at present), established by ICCR. Twinning Agreement between Ahmedabad and Valladolid signed in 2017 was renewed in July 2020 for three years.

Flagship biennial cultural festival India en Concierto, film festivals Imagine India and India-Indie, and festivals such as Janmashtami, Onam, Diwali and Dussehra were celebrated in 2019 and 2020. Indian movies were showcased in the 65th SEMINCI Film Festival and in the 17th Asian Summer Film Festival in 2020.

550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji was celebrated in November 2019 along with local Gurdwaras in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia, in which more than 12000 devotees participated.

DG ICCR visited Spain in December 2020 as the birth centenary of Pandit Ravi Shankar was celebrated with an exhibition in the Fernando Gomez Cultural Centre in Madrid and with the Spanish premiere of Ravi Shankar Symphony by David Murphy, Shubhendu Rao, Saskia Rao and the Symphony Orchestra of Castilla and Leon.

Mission also hosted ICCR sponsored Musical Treasures of India exhibition, a collection of 52 heritage instruments in 2020.

TRADE RELATIONS

Relations between India and Spain have been cordial since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956. A Mission headed by a Cd'A opened in Madrid in 1958. The first resident Ambassador of India was appointed in 1965.

Spain is India's 7th largest trade partner in the European Union. Bilateral trade in 2017-18 stood at US\$5.66 billion (Dept. of Commerce), posting a growth of 4.91% over similar period a year ago. India's exports grew 16.65% and stood at US\$3.99 billion while imports shrank by 15.51% and stood at US\$1.66 billion. India's top exports to Spain are textiles, organic chemicals, iron & steel, seafood, automobiles and leather. India's major imports are mechanical appliances, electrical machinery, chemicals, plastic and mineral fuels.

Spain is the 15th largest investor in India with cumulative FDI stock of US\$2.76 billion (April 2000 – June 2018). There are nearly 200 Spanish companies in India mainly in the sectors of metallurgical industries, renewable energy, automotive, ceramics and infrastructure mainly in highways, transmission lines, tunnels and metro stations.

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are the major destinations for Spanish investments in India. Indian investment in Spain stood at around US\$900 million. There are nearly 40 Indian companies in Spain mainly in software & IT services, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and logistics. India is among the top 30 investors in Spain globally and among the top 5 from Asia.

Commerce Secretary led the Indian delegation to the 11th round of India Spain JCEC held in Madrid in January 2018. 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 in May 2017. Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) along with the Spanish Centre for Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) instituted the India-Spain Programme of Cooperation on Industrial Research and Development, a bilateral framework for providing financial support to collaborative R&D ventures between Indian and Spanish industry and academia.

India and Spain have an ongoing Joint Programme of Cooperation in S&T, signed in 2009. A Science, Technology and Innovation Steering Committee Meeting was held in September 2017 in Madrid, as highlighted in the Joint Statement during the PM's visit to Spain. There are ongoing innovation driven joint R&D projects in sectors such as biosensors, bio pesticides, bio-economy, waste-to-energy, e-health and flexible electronics. During the PM visit, a MoU on cooperation in Organ transplants was also signed.

ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

India Spain bilateral cooperation in Sports has been strengthened by interaction between the sports industries in both countries and participation of leading players and teams in events in India and vice versa especially in football, badminton, hockey and kabaddi. There is potential for having a separate MOU for cooperation in the field of Sports.

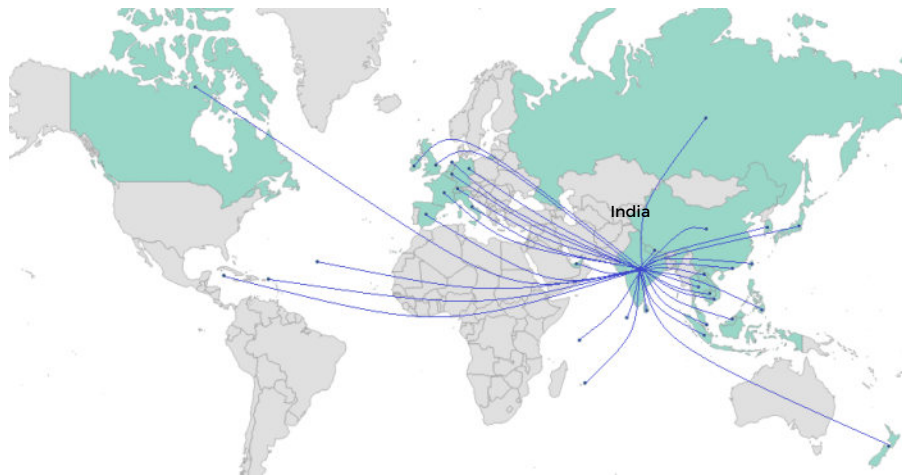
Recognizing the immense potential for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism, it was agreed to set up an Expert Panel on Tourism during PM's visit. The first India-Spain Expert Panel on Tourism was held in Madrid on May 21, 2018 led by Shri Suman Billa (JS, M/Tourism) on the Indian side and Mr. Manuel Butler (DG, Turespaña) on the Spanish side.

India regularly participates in major international trade fairs and conferences in Spain viz. FITUR (Tourism), Mobile World Congress (Telecom), CPhI Worldwide (Pharmaceuticals) and Smart City Expo World Congress (Smart Cities). As agreed in the Joint Statement issued during PM's visit, the II Spain India Forum was jointly organized by CII and Spain India Council Foundation in Madrid in November 2017, in which over 200 companies participated.

During 2017, the Embassy, in collaboration with its local chambers of Commerce and Industry associations, organized around 40 commercial events for trade and investment promotion and to present government's flagship initiatives. These events were focused on key sectors like infrastructure, renewals energy, food processing, automotives, defence, IT, smart cities, tourism, agri-food sector, innovation and gastronomy.



SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



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