

## **India-Spain Bilateral Brief**

Relations between India and Spain have been cordial since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956. The year 2026 is being celebrated as the Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

2. The President of Government of Spain, H.E. Mr. Pedro Sánchez, [visited India on an official visit from 18–19 February 2026](#) to attend the AI Impact Summit 2026. He held bilateral talks with the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi. The two leaders expressed satisfaction at the functioning of the manufacturing plant of C-295 military aircraft of TATA Advanced Systems Ltd which was jointly inaugurated by them in October 2024 during the [first official visit of President Sánchez to India](#) in October 2024. Earlier, PM Modi had paid an [official visit to Spain](#) on 30-31 May 2017. PM Modi and President Sánchez also met on the sidelines of G20 Summits in 2018 and 2021.

3. The Foreign Minister of Spain, [José Manuel Albares visited India on 21 January 2026](#) and met with the External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties and jointly inaugurated the logo for the Dual Year. FM Albares also announced that Spain is joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. In January 2025, [EAM visited Spain](#) on an official visit and held bilateral meetings with FM Albares and Defence Minister Margarita Robles. EAM also called on His Majesty King Felipe VI and President Sánchez. During the visit, two MoUs viz., on cooperation in the field of sports, and cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development were signed. Earlier, EAM met with Foreign Minister Albares in New York on the sidelines of UNGA in September 2024 where they discussed global issues of mutual concern such as the Ukraine conflict and situation in the Indo-Pacific.

4. From 31 May to 2 June 2025, a six-member Parliamentary delegation led by Member of Parliament Smt Kanimozhi Karunanidhi visited Spain in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor. The delegation held meetings with the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and called-on FM Albares. Union Minister for Finance and Minister for Corporate Affairs H.E. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, visited Spain to represent India at the UN's Financing for Development (FFD4) Summit, held from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Seville, Spain. The Union Minister of Culture and Minister of Tourism H.E. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat led the Indian delegation at the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (MONDIACULT) 2025, convened by UNESCO in Barcelona from 29 September to 1 October 2025. The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law & Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, visited Spain from 12-13 November 2025, to participate in the OECD Justice Leaders' Dialogue in Madrid. In March 2026, Hon'ble Union Telecom Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia led the Indian delegation at the Mobile World Congress 2026 in Barcelona.

5. The [8<sup>th</sup> India-Spain Foreign Office Consultations](#) were held in New Delhi on 13 November 2025 at the level of Secretary (West), India and Secretary of State, Spain. During the discussions, the two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2026 by organizing activities under the framework of the India-Spain Dual Year of Culture, Tourism and Artificial Intelligence.

6. Bilateral partnership in defence sector has witnessed rapid growth in recent years. The procurement of 56 C-295 aircraft from Airbus Spain in a \$2.5 billion contract, 40 of which will be made in India by Tata Advanced Systems, shows the deepening defence cooperation. By August 2025, 16 C-295 aircraft from Spain had already been delivered to the Indian Air Force in fly-away condition. The Chief of Spanish Airforce Lt. Gen. Francisco Braco Carbo visited India in August 2024 to participate in Exercise Tarang Shakti. The 5<sup>th</sup> India-Spain Defence Joint Working Group was held in New Delhi on 6 February 2025. The Indian Air Force participated in the Exercise Ocean Sky held at Las Palmas, Canary Islands, from 15-31 October 2025. Vessels of Indian Navy participate frequently in Passage Exercises and Port Calls in Spanish coasts - INS Tabar in August 2024 and INS Sindhuratna, INS Tarkash, INS Chennai and INS Sumedha in 2023.

7. Spain is India's 6<sup>th</sup> largest trade partner in Europe. Bilateral trade crossed US\$ 11 billion in 2024. India's exports stood at US\$ 7.83 billion while imports stood at US\$ 3.29 billion. In 2025, bilateral trade in goods reached USD 9.41 billion of which India's exports were around USD 7.02 billion. (Source: MINCOTUR, Govt. of Spain). India's top exports to Spain are mineral fuels, chemical products, iron and steel, textiles, machine and mechanical appliances, seafood, and leather. India's major imports are mechanical appliances, chemicals, plastic and mineral fuels. Spain is the 16<sup>th</sup> largest investor in India with cumulative FDI stock of US\$ 4.29 billion (April 2000 – March 2025). There are more than 200 Spanish companies in India and nearly 80 Indian companies in Spain. With the signing of India-EU Free Trade Agreement, bilateral trade and investment relations are expected to gain fresh momentum in coming years. 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 during the visit of PM Modi in May 2017, the second meeting in Mumbai during the visit of President Sánchez to India in October 2024. In order to give boost to trade and investment relations, the Indian Chamber of Commerce was established in October 2023. Relations in the audiovisual sector are also growing rapidly. In April 2025, the Joint Commission on Audiovisual Cooperation between the two countries held its first meeting virtually. India participated with a Country Stand at the Iberseries & Platino Industria audiovisual fair in Madrid from 30 September to 3 October, together with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the India-Spain Producers' Meet. MoUs were signed between the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII) and prestigious Spanish film schools ECAM and ESCAC. Mudras, the first jointly produced documentary between Indian and Spanish filmmakers was screened in New Delhi on 18 February 2026 and at the Malaga on 8

March 2026.

8. The Spain-India Council Foundation organized the 5<sup>th</sup> Spain-India Forum from 5-6 November 2025 in Barcelona, in collaboration with Observer Research Foundation (ORF). The previous editions were held in 2014, 2017, 2022 and 2024. Indian delegations regularly participate in major international trade fairs and conferences in Spain viz., FITUR (Tourism), Mobile World Congress (Telecom), Alimentaria (Gastronomy and Hospitality), FEINDEF (Defense), Cevisama (Ceramics), Fruit Attraction (Fruits and Vegetables) , InterGift (Jewellery, Textiles and Gifts) and Smart City Expo World Congress (Smart Cities). Spanish delegates participated in the India-EU Forum in February 2026. Bilateral travel between the two countries has surged to record levels with 225,000 Indian visitors to Spain and over 80,000 Spanish tourists travelling to India in 2024.

9. Cultural exchange is an important component of India-Spain bilateral relations. During the visit of President Sanchez to India in 2024, among others, an agreement on Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Spain was signed for the period 2024-2028. In July 2024, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral cooperation in the higher education sector. A Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Indian universities and 34 Rectors of Spanish universities was held in New Delhi on 19 February 2026. Casa de la India, established in Valladolid, Spain on 17 March 2003, as a cultural foundation, counts as its founding entities the Government of India, Valladolid City Council and the University of Valladolid. The Casa promotes people-to-people contact by organizing cultural activities, academic events and exchanges. The Twinning of Cities agreement between Ahmedabad and Valladolid, originally signed in 2017, was renewed and expanded in September 2025.

10. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Olé India was enthusiastically celebrated in Madrid on 7 March 2026 featuring over 250 performers and more than 1500 attendees. The 11<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga 2025 was celebrated in 14 cities throughout Spain and Andorra, under the theme 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'. IDY 2025 had participation of thousands of yoga enthusiasts and attracted unprecedented media coverage. In Madrid, the celebrations were held at the iconic Plaza de Oriente, Madrid.

11. The Indian diaspora in Spain numbers around 75,000 concentrated in Catalonia, Valencia, Madrid and Canary Islands. In view of the growing relationship, Consulate General of India in Barcelona was opened on 13 August 2024 and is fully functional since then.

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