



India and Spain to celebrate 2026 as 'dual year' highlighting culture, tourism, and

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India and Spain enjoy a robust and multifaceted bilateral relationship that spans areas such as trade, investment, defense, technology, culture, and international cooperation. Below is an overview of their ties:

Political Relations

Historical Ties: Diplomatic relations between India and Spain were established in 1956. Over the years, high-level visits have reinforced political engagement.

Strategic Partnerships: Spain recognizes India's growing global influence, and the two countries share views on key international issues, including counter-terrorism, climate change, and multilateralism.

Economic and Trade Relations

Bilateral Trade: Trade between India and Spain has steadily increased, focusing on sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, machinery, and chemical products.



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In 2022-23, bilateral trade crossed €7 billion, with India enjoying a trade surplus.

Investments: Spain is a significant investor in India, particularly in sectors like renewable energy, infrastructure, water treatment, and auto components. Spanish companies like Acciona, Indra, and Ferrovial have a strong presence in India.

Make in India: Spain has shown interest in India's "Make in India" initiative, with collaborations in manufacturing and technology transfer.

Cultural and Educational Exchange

Cultural Cooperation: Events like the Festival of India in Spain and Spanish language programs in India strengthen cultural ties. Indian cinema enjoys popularity in Spain, and Spanish flamenco is admired in India.

Education: Academic exchanges have grown, with Indian students increasingly pursuing higher education in Spain. Spanish language courses are popular in Indian universities.



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Defense and Security

Spain and India collaborate on defense technology, cyber security, and maritime security. Spanish shipbuilding expertise, such as through Navantia, has been integrated into Indian defense projects.

Renewable Energy and Climate Change

Renewables: Spain is a global leader in renewable energy technologies. Indian companies partner with Spanish firms in solar and wind energy projects.

Climate Cooperation: Both nations are committed to achieving sustainable development goals and participate actively in international climate agreements.

Tourism and People-to-People Ties

Spain is a popular destination for Indian tourists, particularly after the success of Bollywood movies like Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara.



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Increasing connectivity and visa facilitation have enhanced tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

Recent Developments

G20 Collaboration: Spain has supported India's presidency of the G20 in 2023, emphasizing shared goals in global economic recovery and governance.

EU-India Relations: Spain actively supports the strengthening of India-EU ties, particularly in areas like trade, technology, and climate.

Future Prospects

Green Economy: With Spain's expertise in clean technology, there is potential for greater collaboration in green hydrogen, electric mobility, and circular economy initiatives.

Digital and AI Collaboration: Both countries aim to expand partnerships in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and digital transformation.



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India and Spain's relationship is built on mutual respect and shared values, with significant scope for deepening ties in diverse sectors.