



INDIA & SPAIN – INTERNATIONAL REALTIONS

NEWS: Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez of Spain paid a State Visit to India, where he and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated the Final Assembly Line Plant for C-295 aircraft in Vadodara.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The plant, a collaboration between Airbus Spain and Tata Advanced Systems Ltd., will produce 40 C-295 aircraft domestically, with the first delivery expected in 2026.

- In addition to the local production, Spain will deliver 16 C-295 aircraft to India, with six already delivered to the Indian Air Force.

India-Spain Bilateral Relations

- **Diplomatic Ties:** Established in 1956, India and Spain have maintained high-level visits and discussions to enhance political relations.
- **Economic Partnership:** Spain is India's 6th largest trading partner in Europe. Bilateral trade reached US\$ 9.9 billion in 2023, with Indian exports at US\$ 7.17 billion and imports from Spain at US\$ 2.74 billion.
- **Investment:** Spain ranks as the 16th largest foreign investor in India, with a cumulative FDI of US\$ 3.94 billion as of December 2023.

Key Areas of Cooperation

- **Defense:** Spain plays a pivotal role in India's defense diversification and modernization, especially with the procurement of 56 C-295 aircraft from Airbus Spain. This marks the first "Make in India" defense project.
- **Tourism:** Around 250,000 Indian tourists visit Spain annually, while 40,000 Spanish tourists travel to India.
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** Both nations work together in international forums such as the United Nations, G20, and the International Solar Alliance (ISA), addressing global issues like climate change, terrorism, and sustainable development.

Initiatives and Forums

- **India-Spain Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC):** Set up under the 1972 Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement, it has convened twelve times to discuss bilateral economic relations.



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- **Spain-India Council Foundation:** A private non-profit in coordination with Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized the 3rd Spain-India Forum in 2023. This forum promotes bilateral cooperation with India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF).



Indian Diaspora

- The Indian community in Spain numbers around 75,000, primarily concentrated in regions such as Catalonia, Valencia, Madrid, and the Canary Islands.

Future Prospects

- **Evolving Ties:** India and Spain's growing relationship is promising, with collaboration in key areas such as trade, renewable energy, infrastructure, and defense.
- **Opportunities:** Spanish expertise in renewable energy and environmental technology aligns well with India's expanding market.
- **Mutual Initiatives:** Programs like "Make in India" and "Digital India" create favorable conditions for further cooperation and investment.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2068963>