

# SPAIN INDIA 2020

A joint reflection on the past,  
present and future of our  
bilateral relations

# Introductory Document



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WITH THE COLLABORATION OF



**Indo Spanish Chamber  
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Project-manager and author: Cristóbal Alvear

Coordination and production: Berta Fuertes and Vega Yubero, Spain-India Council Foundation

Documentation and revision: Mikel Herrera

Design and layout: [www.nolsom.com](http://www.nolsom.com)

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C/ Serrano Galvache, 26.

28033 Madrid

I.

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**Framework of the project "Spain-India 2020: A Joint Reflection on the Past, Present and Future of Our Bilateral Relations" promoted by the Spain-India Council Foundation with the collaboration of the Indo-Spanish Chamber of Commerce**

There is an oft-repeated mantra regarding Indo-Spanish relations that bilateral exchanges between Spain and India have enormous unfulfilled potential. There are countless complex factors that could explain this bilateral potential, as well as the limitations to implement it. However, few studies have been carried out to analyze them from a bilateral perspective as well as in comparison with third countries.

Among the publications with a bilateral approach, the pioneering “India-España: Sueño y Realidad. 2000 años de relaciones” (Spain-India: Dream and Reality. 2000 years of relations) coordinated by Professor Juan Gil and published by the **Embassy of India in Madrid**, and the recent “Encuentros Culturales Indo-Españoles (1956-2016): Impactos y Visiones” (Indo-Spanish Cultural Encounters (1956-2016): Impacts and Visions) edited by Anil Dhingra and Gonçal López Nadal, and published by the **Jawaharlal Nehru University** stand out. Both works establish the academic basis of bilateral knowledge and are contributed to by a group of authors who have so far constituted the critical mass of our bilateral experts. To these works must be added the working paper “España y la India: en busca de unas relaciones bilaterales más estrechas” (Spain and India: seeking stronger bilateral relations) by the **Elcano Royal Institute**, published in 2017 in collaboration with the **Observer Research Foundation**. This document, which was prepared by Rubén Campos and

Jayshree Sengupta, had the collaboration of the Spain-India Council Foundation. The development of a holistic and multi-sectoral study to analyze the current state and projection of our mutual exchanges and joint collaborations is timely and necessary.

The **Spain-India Council Foundation**, a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster and promote our bilateral relations from a multi-sectoral perspective, has opted to start the decade 2020-2030 with a project that covers this niche of Indo-Spanish mutual knowledge. Taking into account the bilateral memory of the Spain-India Council Foundation, with its more than 10 years of experience in Indo-Spanish initiatives, the multi-sectoral nature of its board and its leading role as a platform for civil society and public-private cooperation, the Council Foundation is uniquely positioned to lead a process that helps to understand where we are in our bilateral relations and contributes to the reflection of where we want to direct our collaboration and exchanges.

The collaboration of the **Indo-Spanish Chamber of Commerce** in this project has allowed us to gather the on-the-ground vision of private entities involved in our bilateral relations. The Indo-Spanish Chamber of Commerce –created in 2016 and the only one officially recognized by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism of Spain in 2019– promotes a business-sensitive vision of our bilateral relations and facilitates the creation of synergies among its members as a key bilateral business ecosystem in fostering our exchanges.

As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, this project has acquired a much greater complexity and dimension than initially planned. One of the keys to this initiative has been the use of new virtual tools to convert it into a reflection open to participation. With this objective in mind, a series

of surveys and bilingual forms have been created so that all the people and entities interested in our bilateral relations have had the opportunity to participate and contribute their considerations and proposals. At the same time, individualized virtual interviews have been carried out, which have allowed access to a significantly larger number of bilateral actors than those initially considered.

## II.

### Mission and aims

This joint reflection project has been implemented with the mission of **promoting mutual knowledge between Spain and India** through a reference publication that serves as a guide from a multi-sectoral perspective. The resulting publication aims to provide institutional decision-makers, bilateral entities and Indo-Spanish experts with a series of knowledge maps, sectoral analyses and proposals that can contribute to facilitate their work in the dynamization of our bilateral relations. At no time does this study intend to dictate or monitor governmental and institutional relations, the definition, development and execution of which corresponds to the different competent departments in their different fields of action. The *raison d'être* of the project is, therefore, the generation of a series of knowledge maps and proposals that could be useful to the entities and actors involved in our bilateral relations, through an exercise of bottom-up joint reflection.

In order to achieve the proposed mission, the project and the resulting publication pursue a fourfold purpose: **participatory**, opening this process to all interested persons and entities; **evaluative**, studying the impact of the initiatives and actions carried out; **proactive**, suggesting ideas and proposals for the efficient dynamization

of our bilateral relations; and **informative**, promoting bilateral knowledge in the civil societies of both countries by making bilateral knowledge maps available to the general public. Thus, the analysis carried out by the author in the resulting publication does not necessarily reflect the position of the Spain-India Council Foundation, nor that of the Indo-Spanish Chamber of Commerce, nor that of other entities and individuals who have participated in its development.

In order to achieve this mission and goals, a holistic and multidisciplinary analysis is at the core of this bilateral study. The study aims to understand the perspective and relevance of its main milestones, the current bilateral positioning and vision, and the dimension and projection of future relations between the two countries. Likewise, the project focuses on the main areas of bilateral cooperation, among which **ten sectors of analysis** have been identified:

- Bilateral and multilateral government relations.
- Economic and trade relations.
- Business relations and entrepreneurship.
- Urban development and sustainability.
- Science, technology and innovation.
- Tourism, food and gastronomy.
- Education and language teaching.
- Culture and sport.
- Civil society networks.
- Mutual knowledge.

Within this holistic and sectoral study, a series of objectives have been set both from a bilateral perspective and in comparison with other countries. Among the objectives established are the following:

- **Create bilateral knowledge maps** that include a systematization of:

- o Entities and individuals working for the promotion of bilateral relations.
- o The main milestones in Spain-India relations from the establishment of diplomatic relations to the present day.
- o Key data to understand the dimension of Indo-Spanish relations and their bilateral exchanges at present, also in a comparative perspective.
- o The positioning, image and bilateral knowledge of Spain in India and of India in Spain, also in a comparative perspective.

● **Conduct an analysis of our bilateral sectoral relations**, including:

- o The institutional and relational framework.
- o The main areas, sectors and opportunities for cooperation.
- o Institutions, centres, programmes and public collaboration initiatives.
- o Entities, networks, spaces and activities of private interaction.
- o Future bilateral scenarios, new frontiers of our cooperation, emerging opportunities for collaboration and potential bridges of exchange.

● **Generate a series of ideas and proposals to energize our bilateral relations:**

- o Up to a total of 10 proposals for each sector that could contribute to the new bilateral strategy in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing institutional decision-makers, bilateral entities and key stakeholders with a set of ideas that could serve as tools to facilitate their work.

### III.

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#### **Structure, phases and methodology**

The project "Spain-India 2020: A Joint Reflection on the Past, Present and Future of Our Bilateral Relations" has been structured in three main parts: the collection of contributions with a participatory perspective; the documentation, analysis and drafting of the resulting publication by its author and the documentalist and reviewer; and the translation, layout and dissemination, coordinated by the Spain-India Council Foundation. Given the complex context in which this project has been framed, during the COVID-19 pandemic, its execution has been extended during the year 2020.

The project began with a first phase, which took place between January and April 2020, of formalization of the team, conceptualization and definition of objectives, as well as the creation and design of the virtual tools. The second phase of information gathering and contributions open to the participation of all interested persons and entities, together with the third phase of interviews with the main bilateral actors, were developed consecutively, mainly between the months of May and August 2020. The fourth phase of systematization, analysis and drafting of the information collected, which took place from August to October, was followed by a fifth phase of revision, translation and layout during the months of November and December. The sixth phase of dissemination will take place during the year 2021.

Taking advantage of both the new digital tools and the predisposition of the actors to hold virtual interviews, the methodology followed during the second and third phases has sought to gather the greatest number of contributions

and compile the most information available. The following digital tools have been created through which contributions have been collected from more than 250 people and entities:

- **Bilingual digital surveys open to the participation of all those interested in Spain-India bilateral relations.**

The surveys consisted of both closed questions to gather information and generalizable data with a quantitative purpose, and open questions to gather opinions, ideas and suggestions with a qualitative purpose. Participation in the surveys was anonymous and the participants were of a balance of age, gender and previous links and interests with India/Spain. The survey had a total of 100 participants, 67 Spanish participants and 33 Indian participants. The most relevant results of the quantitative questions are included in the analysis of the working papers themselves. The contributions on ideas and proposals to dynamize our bilateral relations have been analyzed anonymously along with the rest of the contributions received.

- **Bilingual digital forms for entities with bilateral impact**

These forms were divided into a first part that sought to collect information on the entity's relations with India and a second part, anonymous, of ideas and proposals on bilateral relations. To facilitate the contribution of the entities, some of them have been contacted directly by e-mail with a series of specific questions and requests for information. The Indo-Spanish Chamber of Commerce has collaborated in this process. Between the forms and individualised e-mails, more than 100 entities have participated, with direct contributions from more than 70 of them being reflected in the working documents. These entities that have shared information

about their relations with India and whose contributions have been included in the working documents are named in the section "sources" with the consideration "information provided by the entity". The rest of the ideas and proposals to dynamize our bilateral relations have been analyzed anonymously along with the rest of the contributions received.

- **Virtual interviews with key bilateral actors.**

100 bilateral actors have been identified and contacted for interviews, of which 80 have responded positively, a considerably high percentage considering the context of the pandemic. These actors have been interviewed individually through digital platforms, with a length varying from 40 minutes to an hour and a half. In these interviews, the different visions and ideas on bilateral relations in their areas of specialization were collected through personalized questions. Contributions on ideas and proposals to boost our bilateral relations have been analyzed anonymously along with the rest of the contributions received.

Given the fragmentation of bilateral information and the scarcity of bibliographic sources, in addition to the direct information provided by the entities themselves, a documentation effort has been made that includes the consultation of:

- More than **270 direct sources** to compile official data on our bilateral relations, both in yearbooks, statistics and public databank, as well as in the reports and websites of the entities with bilateral impact, listed in the working documents in the "sources" sections together with the reference web link.

- More than **475 references**, including publications, academic articles, official reports

and press releases of the main institutions, entities and bilateral actors. Additionally, in the case that direct bibliographic sources were not available, an analysis of news and articles in the digital media has been carried out to complete the knowledge maps and trace the main initiatives in the different fields. These references are listed in the "bibliography" sections.

#### IV.

### **The First Outcome: The Nine Sectoral Working Documents**

The fourth phase of systematisation, analysis and drafting of the information collected has resulted in **nine sectoral working documents**, one for each area identified, except for the ninth, which merges the areas of civil society networks and mutual knowledge. These working documents maintain the same structure, consisting of an introduction—the framework of bilateral relations in the specific field—, six sections that focus on specific areas of analysis and a final section of ideas and proposals. These sectoral reports are complemented by this introductory document, which presents the project, and a final document, which includes both the general conclusions and a series of specific proposals to promote the work of the Spain-India Council Foundation.

The working papers systematize different sectoral knowledge maps that are the result of the processing and study of the information collected. These knowledge maps include:

- **70 illustrations**, including geographical maps of India and Spain, graphs with the main bilateral data, chronological diagrams or systematic tables. A large part of the illustrations are composed of sub-illustrations,

so that the resulting infographics exceed one hundred.

- **33 sections called "in detail"** which are mainly dedicated to deepen in the main pillars, actors, assets, vectors and success stories of our bilateral relations.
- **19 sections called "cases"** dedicated to highlight the work of the main institutions and entities in their relations with India, exposing their flagship activities with bilateral impact and their impact on collaboration and mutual knowledge.

In the different sections, in addition to systematizing the information received, a general analysis is made of the exchanges and collaborations in the fields studied. This analysis does not have an academic purpose, but rather an informative one, which is why we have opted for an agile language and writing style. In the same way, the use of footnotes has been avoided and only quotations are included in the text to refer to the sources of the data mentioned. Likewise, the sources and bibliography have been referenced in a simple and accessible way at the end of each working document.

The last sections of each of the working documents, including the final document on the work of the Spain-India Council Foundation, contain a series of ideas and proposals, ten for each document. This section does not follow the numbering of the previous sections, as these ideas are not necessarily the result of the analysis carried out in the working papers themselves, but rather the result of the systematization of the contributions received and the comparative study with other countries to identify possible alternatives that can serve as a guide and model. Therefore, this section does not necessarily represent the vision

of the Spain-India Council Foundation, the Indo-Spanish Chamber of Commerce or the entities and individuals who have contributed to this process. These 100 ideas and proposals systematized by the author of the report, who has more than twelve years of professional experience in India, aim to offer a useful and constructive analysis that contributes to the desired dynamization of Spain-India relations.

V.

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### **The next steps: The Spain-India Observatory**

In order for this project to fulfill its mission of promoting mutual knowledge between Spain and India, it is necessary that the **publication** can be **disseminated** through different media and platforms. The working papers are conceived with a structure and size that favours independent dissemination to generate a sectoral impact. All the working documents, together with the presentation document and the final document, keep a narrative coherence and a concordance in the numbering so that they can form, jointly, a **unique reference publication** that serves to fill the niche in the bibliographic scenario of mutual knowledge.

To maintain the momentum of dissemination and promotion of mutual knowledge of this exercise, the conversion of this publication into a virtual **Spain-India Observatory**, which would collect and update the maps of bilateral knowledge, would allow to maintain an open window in the digital world to monitor the Indo-Spanish relations. The Spain-India Council Foundation is the ideal entity to coordinate this virtual space, which could serve both as an updated repository of bilateral information and data and as a space for dialogue to facilitate the exchange of ideas

between the two countries and the generation of analyses and reports with a bilateral perspective.

VI.

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### **Team**

#### **Project-manager and author of the resulting publications**

Cristóbal Alvear Garijo is a legal advisor and bilateral expert with more than 12 years of professional experience in South Asia. He is also an associate professor at IE Law School, doctoral researcher at the University of Seville and coordinator of the legal area of the Spanish Association of Interdisciplinary India Studies. He holds a degree in Law and Business Administration and a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Diplomatic School of Madrid.

#### **Coordinators of the project and the production of the resulting publications:**

Berta Fuertes Ferragut has been the director of the Spain-India Council Foundation since its inception. Her extensive experience in international events, as well as her support to the coordination of multiple initiatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain and of the network of Council Foundations –being also director of the corresponding ones with Brazil, Colombia and Peru– have contributed to the success of the entity in these 12 years of existence.

Vega Yubero Bouthelie is currently deputy director of the Spain-India Council Foundation and a professional with 17 years of experience, specialized in foreign market analysis, business internationalization and public diplomacy.

### **Project assistant, documentalist and reviewer of the resulting publications:**

Mikel Herrera Pilar holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain), having spent a year at Fergusson College, affiliated to the University of Pune (India). After having worked at the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Colombia, he currently combines his work as an advisor to the Spain-India Council Foundation with the completion of his Master's degree in Geopolitics.

### **Creativity, layout and dissemination of the resulting publications:**

Nolsom is a communication agency formed by a multidisciplinary team from the fields of design, audiovisual production, communication and advertising. It has been working for the Spain-India Council Foundation since its creation in 2010 and is integrally responsible for its online and offline communication as well as its graphic branding.

## VII.

### **By way of introduction: Chronological overview of the main bilateral milestones between Spain and India**

#### **Two worlds separated by historical chance**

The scarce exchanges between India and Spain, or their very non-existence, have been marked by historical chance. The Treaty of Tordesillas of 1494, by which the Spanish and Portuguese crowns shared the exploration of the globe, led to the expulsion of Spain from navigation and trade with India. Eight years after Christopher Columbus set sail from the Iberian Peninsula to the west with the aim of reaching the East Indies,

and the West Indies prevented him from doing so, Vasco de Gama headed for the same destination, but by the opposite route, landing in Calicut and beginning the long relationship of the Portuguese crown with the Indian subcontinent. Nor did the union of the Spanish and Portuguese crowns between 1580 and 1640 bring Spain closer to the territories of the subcontinent, which came under the control of the Council of India based in Lisbon and the authority of the Portuguese viceroys.

Just as the American continent was a geographical barrier that kept Spain away from India, the independence of Spanish American countries put India back on the Spanish trade map. As interest in trade with India shifted from cotton fabrics and spices to raw materials for the Spanish textile industry, Spanish transatlantic companies sought alternative routes to the Philippines from Suez. The first Spanish diplomatic post in British India was that of Francisco Gordínez in 1845 as Queen Isabella II's consul in Bombay, followed years later by Díaz Cossío as consul in Calcutta. However, the Spanish consular network in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Karachi, Colombo or Rangoon was usually occupied by honorary vice-consuls, whether they were Europeans with knowledge of Spanish or local merchants.

The historical absence of the Spanish crown in India and the late bilateral commercial discovery did not prevent the existence of a Spanish presence in the subcontinent since the 16th century. Examples of these cultural exchanges are the Sephardic Jews who settled on the Malabar coast, the Spanish missionaries who went not only to Portuguese India but also to the court of the Mughal emperor Akbar, among whom the Jesuit priest Antonio Monserrate stands out, or soldiers like Martín Fernández de Figueroa, who wrote a chronicle about Portuguese Goa, or Domingo Urbón de Alcántara, who personally

rescued Prince Duleep Singh during his service to the Sikh court. More literature and interest has been generated by the figure of the dancer Anita Delgado, who became Prem Kaur, Maharani of Kapurthala.

The first great Indian connection with Spain, still very significant today on a cultural level, was the arrival in Spain of the Roma diaspora of Indian origin. The next relevant contact did not arrive until the end of the 19th century with the establishment in the Canary Islands of Sindhi traders and their families, later expanding to Ceuta, Málaga, Barcelona and Madrid.

### **A strained start to diplomatic relations**

The Spanish Civil War connected the Indian anti-imperialist movement with the Spanish Republican anti-fascism. In 1937 an Indo-Spanish committee was created in solidarity with the Republican government, and a year later Jawaharlal Nehru himself visited Spain, where he supported the participation of his compatriots in the International Brigades, showed his sympathy with the Spanish Republican struggle and maintained contacts with important Republican figures such as Foreign Minister Álvarez del Vayo or Dolores Ibarruri. The ideological estrangement between Jawaharlal Nehru and Francisco Franco meant that the first contacts between independent India and Franco's dictatorship took a long time to materialise.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Spain's diplomatic relations with Pakistan began in 1951, five years before relations with India. Spain and India established diplomatic relations in 1956, setting up a Consulate General in Bombay which later became a resident Embassy in New Delhi in 1958. In the same year, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, was appointed

Ambassador to Spain with residence in London. The first resident Indian ambassador to Madrid was not accredited until 1962, the first incumbent being the maharaja of Jaipur, who along with his wife, the influential maharani Gayatri Devi, was very well received by Madrid's high society.

Spain's first official visit to India was made in 1972 by the Foreign Minister of the time, Gregorio López Bravo. During this visit, a trade and economic cooperation agreement was signed, which included the mutual concession of most-favoured nation status and the establishment of a joint commission that would hold annual meetings. Although the frequency of these meetings was not fulfilled even in the first years of the agreement, the joint commission, which has met 11 times, has been the bilateral dialogue that has generated greater continuity and exchanges between the two governments.

### **The Royal Household and official visits as the driving force behind bilateral exchanges**

In the absence of a strong bilateral civil society fabric and intense commercial and cultural exchanges to sustain relations at the private level, official visits became the main driver of the bilateral relationship. The role played by the Spanish Royal House, with a strong family link to India since the establishment of Queen Frederica of Greece in the Indian city of Madras, has been essential in the bilateral momentum. Although in February 1974 the then Prince and Princess of Asturias Juan Carlos and Sofia visited India accompanied by Foreign Minister Pedro Cortina Mauri, the first state visit did not take place until 1982 when the now King and Queen of Spain attended India's Republic Day celebrations as guests of honour.

That same year, the cultural cooperation agreement was signed, which laid the foundations for the increase in cultural relations between the two countries, which was later joined by the student mobility programmes of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the then Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI in Spanish). These scholarship programmes have trained important bilateral actors of our times such as Óscar Pujol or Chantal Maillard, who will take up the baton from figures such as Antonio Binimelis, promoter of Hispanism in India, or Raimon Panikkar, precursor of Indology in Spain.

A turning point in bilateral business and investment relations came with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Spain in 1988 and his speech to the Spanish Confederation of Employers' Organisations (CEOE in Spanish), which prompted a Spanish business delegation to visit India the following year. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao presented his major economic reforms during his trip to Spain in 1992, increasing interest among Spanish businessmen in the liberalisation of the Indian economy, which led to the visit of President Felipe Gonzalez to India in 1993 and the signing of the agreement to avoid double taxation.

A few years later, the then Prince of Asturias and current King Felipe VI inaugurated the largest fair organized by the Spanish Government abroad to date, Expotecnia 1997, where more than 200 Spanish companies participated. In the same year, Spain and India signed the agreement on reciprocal promotion and protection of investments. In 2001, the Prince of Asturias returned to India to support Spain's participation as the guest country at the International Engineering and Technology Fair (IETF), initiating the successful technological alliance between the two countries.

## Towards mutual rediscovery in the 21st Century

The Asia-Pacific Framework Plan 2000-2004, drawn up by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was a revulsive for Spain's strategic action in Asia, reinforced with the creation of the Casa Asia consortium in 2001. Within the framework of this first plan and together with its successor plans, the second more ambitious one of 2005-2008 and the third of 2009-2012, already marked by the economic crisis, Spain's presence in India was multiplied.

Following the visit of Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero in 2006, unfortunately cut short by the tragic Valencia metro accident, the Consulate General of Spain in 2006, the Commercial Office in 2008 and the Tourism Office in 2009 were created consecutively in Mumbai, demonstrating Spain's commitment to be present in the economic capital of India. Also in 2009, the Prince and Princess of Asturias inaugurated the Cervantes Institute in New Delhi, which would soon become the largest in the world in terms of number of students, and the Spain-India Council Foundation was established as a public-private platform for boosting bilateral relations from the civil society.

In Spain, the Casa de la India Foundation was created in 2003, with the participation of the City Council of Valladolid, the University of Valladolid and the Embassy of India in Spain, becoming the main centre for the dissemination of the Indian culture in southern Europe. In 2009, the President of the Republic of India, Pratibha Patil, paid her first state visit to Spain, signing new cooperation frameworks in areas such as renewable energies, agriculture and tourism. This visit was reciprocated by King Juan Carlos I in 2012, accompanied by four ministers and

a large business delegation. During that visit, new cooperation agreements were signed in fields such as defence, transport and film co-production.

2012 marks the beginning of a new era of successful cooperation in the field of science and technology, with more than 18 calls for proposals in the fields of renewable energies, biotechnology and multisectoral innovation. These programmes, an example of fruitful collaboration between the two governments, are the result of agreements between the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI in Spanish) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Global Innovation and Technology Alliance of the Department of Science and Technology (DST-GITA).

### Placing us on the map

The last ten years of our bilateral relations have witnessed a better bilateral understanding, thanks to initiatives from civil society in the business, cultural and sporting fields. Possibly the premiere in 2011 of the Bollywood film *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* (You Only Live Once) –directed by Zoya Akhtar with the participation of Turespaña– has been the initiative with the greatest impact. The Indian society had in front of its screens for the first time an image of Spain, its culture and traditions, giving birth in India to a new interest in travelling and getting to know Spain. This promising relationship between Bollywood and Spain continued with the celebration of the International Indian Film Awards (IIFA) in Madrid in 2016.

In the same year, the Indo-Spanish Chamber of Commerce was created in India, creating a new space for exchange and synergies between the

business fabrics of our countries. Also in 2016, given the growing demand for Spanish football in the local market, the LaLiga office was opened in India, taking advantage of the presence of the Spanish Davis Cup team in New Delhi. Major sports figures such as tennis player Rafael Nadal and badminton champion Carolina Marín continue to be the Spaniards who arouse most admiration and interest in India and have the greatest impact in the local media.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brief but intense visit to Spain in 2017 laid the foundations for the new bilateral strategic relationship. In that visit, where the good harmony between the two governments was demonstrated, a Partnership for Peace, Growth and Innovation (APCI in Spanish) was approved between Spain and India, and eight agreements were signed in areas of great strategic interest such as cybersecurity, renewable energy, civil aviation or maritime information. This APCI represents a new roadmap for the development of bilateral governmental relations in the coming years based on four fundamental pillars: political and security cooperation, economic cooperation, cooperation in multilateral affairs and cooperation in innovation, science and technology. This declaration also established the importance of exchanges at the level of civil society, including culture, business and think tanks, as cross-cutting axes of bilateral momentum. Although the APCI included Spain's intention to celebrate the year of Spain in India in 2020, various factors have prevented it from being carried out.

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