

India-Andorra Bilateral Brief

Ambassador of India to Spain is concurrently accredited to the Principality of Andorra. Diplomatic relations were instituted between Andorra and India in 1994, soon after the proclamation of the Andorran constitution in 1993. 2022 marks the 28th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Bilateral relations have been cordial and friendly with a special focus on cooperation in international organizations. Both sides have expressed keenness on strengthening bilateral relations on new fronts.

High level Visits and Engagements

1. H.E. Ms. Maria Ubach Font , the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andorra visited India on 31 July 2022 for a 3 day visit. This was the first time a Foreign Minister from Andorra had visited India, marking a new era of enhanced cooperation between the countries. She met EAM Shri. S. Jaishankar and emphasised on multilateralism being a priority for Andorra. During the 3-day long visit, she delivered a talk at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and met NITI Aayog Vice Chairman and discussed Agenda 2030, SDGs and how India and Andorra can collaborate on tackling global challenges such as Climate Change.
2. H.E. Mr. Antoni Marti, the former Andorran Prime Minister, strongly condemned the Pulwama attacks calling it an act of terror and expressed strong support in a letter to Prime Minister Modi on 18 February 2019.
3. Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, then Minister of State for Steel, paid a goodwill visit to Andorra during 8-12 April 2018 as part of PM's initiative to reach out to all countries of the world. He met H.E. Ms Maria Ubach Font, the Andorran Minister of Foreign Affairs and handed over an invitation from EAM Ms Sushma Swaraj for visiting India. He also invited Andorran companies to invest in India and discussed possibilities to strengthen economic relations. MoS addressed a gathering of the Indian community in Andorra. This was the first visit by an Indian Minister to Andorra.
4. Secretary (West) Shri Vikas Swarup had a meeting with Andorran Foreign Minister H.E. Ms. Maria Ubach Font on 24 February 2020 in Geneva on the sidelines of UNHRC.
5. EAM Shri S.M. Krishna had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr Gilbert Saboya Sunyé, the then Andorran Foreign Minister, in Madrid on 20 April 2012 during the HOMs Conference.
6. The Ambassador of India to Spain and Andorra, Shri Dinesh. K. Patnaik visited Andorra as in order to hand over his credentials to Joan-Enric Vives, the Bishop of Urgell. On the sidelines, he held meetings with Ms. Maria Ubach Font, the Foreign Minister of Andorra and the Minister of culture and tourism. On 14 November 2022, Ambassador Patnaik visited Andorra for the second time and met with the Head of the Government Xavier Espot Zamora, Foreign Minister Maria Ubach Font, Minister of Tourism and Telecommunications Mr. Jordi Torres, Minister of Finance Eric Jover.

Political relations

7. The first round of India – Andorra Foreign Office Consultations was held in Andorra on 31 March 2014 and reviewed all bilateral and multilateral issues. The Indian delegation was led by AS(EW) and the Andorran delegation by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It was affirmed to continue holding regular consultations on political matters and explore means to enhance cooperation in cultural fields as well. No further FOC meetings have been held.
8. Andorra has generally supported India's candidatures to many international organizations.
9. As proposed during the visit of MoS Steel, a senior Andorran diplomat, participated in the 4th Special Course for ASEM Diplomats organised by FSI in New Delhi during 14 – 20 November 2018. Further, invitation has been sent to Andorra inviting diplomats to participate in the 69th Professional course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD) which is to be conducted from 03-28 October at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi.

Economic and commercial relations

10. Bilateral trade between India and Andorra stood at US\$4.31 million in 2018 with nearly all trade being Indian exports to Andorra which included textiles and garments, leather products and footwear, iron and steel and precious and semi-precious stones. After the COVID pandemic struck, In 2020, Indian exports stood at US\$18100 to Andorra and imports stood at about US\$ 6480.

Cultural relations

11. The International Day of Yoga 2022 was celebrated in Andorra at the iconic *Plaça de poble Andorra la Vella*. During the International Day of Yoga event in 2019 Indian classical music concert by Dr Rajnandini was organized as part of the annual *Setmana de la Diversitat* cultural festival in Andorra on 14 May 2019. An ICCR sponsored contemporary dance group from India visited Andorra and performed on 9 December 2013.

Indian community

12. Around 140 Indians/PIOs live in Andorra. The Indian community has been in Andorra since 1970s starting mainly as businesspersons selling electronic goods and diversifying to other areas later. The Indian community is well-respected for being a peace-loving community which has assimilated well into the Andorran society.
13. The first ever Republic Day celebrations in Andorra in 2020 were well received by the Community. Andorran Foreign Minister, the Chief Guest, appreciated the role of Indian Diaspora in Andorran society.
14. Ms. Madhu Jethani was appointed as Honorary Consul General of India in Andorra in 2020.