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# INDIAN LEADERS PROGRAMME 2022

8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Sustainable Cities:  
Inter-Municipal Cooperation

**Madrid-Valladolid-Barcelona**  
**23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> MAY**



FUNDACIÓN  
CONSEJO  
**ESPAÑA  
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**SPAIN  
INDIA**  
COUNCIL  
FOUNDATION



# 01

## INDIAN LEADERS PROGRAMME: A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING THE TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER

**Ambassador José Leandro Consarnau, Secretary General of the Spain-India Council Foundation, welcomed the participants of this edition to Spain**





## MADRID 23.05.2022

The VIII Edition of the Indian Leaders Programme (ILP) began with a welcome meeting of the Secretary General and the team of the Spain-India Council Foundation with the Leaders. The Secretary General explained to the participants the objectives, characteristics and expectations of the ILP, and the Foundation team analyzed the recent activities and projects of the Council Foundation, such as the Spain-India Report, in which a specific document was dedicated to the urban development and sustainability sector.

The Indian Leaders delegation, formed by Lochan Sehra (Ahmedabad), Rahul Kapoor (Delhi), Saurabh Jain (Bangalore) and Raja Gopal Sunkara (Coimbatore), highlighted that the agenda prepared by the Foundation “is very interesting” to learn about Spain’s capacity and potential in the field of sustainable cities. The four participants hope that the programme will be “an opportunity to bring the two countries closer together and strengthen Spain-India municipal cooperation”, and that it will serve as a “networking tool to increase mutual knowledge between the two countries”, thus achieving an ever greater bilateral presence and impact.







02

## MADRID, A WORLD REFERENCE FOR SMART MOBILITY IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

**Visit to the Regional Transport Consortium  
of Madrid and its Innovation and Mobility  
Management Center**

### **MADRID 23.05.2022**

The first visit of the Programme took place at the Regional Transport Consortium of Madrid (CRTM in Spanish), where Laura Delgado, Head of External Relations, received the delegation of Indian Leaders. The participants had the opportunity to learn in depth about the integrated public transport system of the Community of Madrid, such as the different modes of transport and



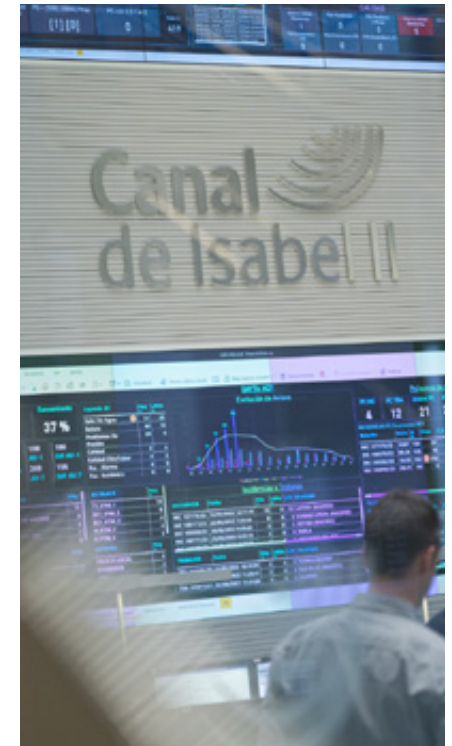


their coordination, mobility needs, demand for public transport, its institutional framework, connectivity and multimodal transport, as well as future challenges, among other issues. Laura Delgado explained to the Leaders that the integration of the CRTM public transport system is a “unique model” at the international level, and since its creation the demand for public transport has increased by 68%.

The Indian Leaders also got a first-hand look at CITRAM, the Madrid Regional Transport Consortium’s Center for Innovation and Mobility Management, which monitors the Community’s public transport system in real time. CITRAM is a world reference in the field of Smart Mobility, which the Indian Leaders also showed special interest in. Programme participants also had the opportunity to share their experiences with public transport in their respective Indian cities.







## 03 THE SHARED CHALLENGE OF WATER AND WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

**The model applied by the Community of Madrid has become a benchmark to be followed and replicated**

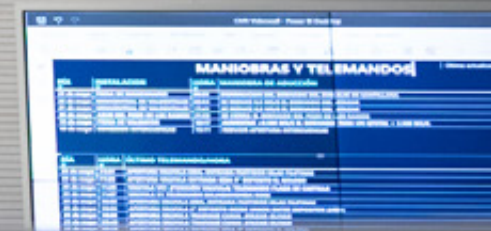




**MADRID 23.05.2022**

The Indian Leaders were received by the head and team of the Control Center of Canal de Isabel II, the company that manages all phases of the water cycle in the Community of Madrid, and which has become a model of integrated water cycle management.

Water management and water resources being one of the main challenges in India, the Leaders showed great interest in issues such as water demand in Spain, its price, the system of dams and water treatment plants of Canal de Isabel II, as well as the main problems of the water cycle in the country. The Indian Leaders also showed great interest in the GAYTA system, Canal de Isabel II's warning and incident management application.





## 04 THE COUNCIL FOUNDATION, A DRIVING FORCE FOR THE SPAIN-INDIA RELATIONSHIP

**The President of the SICF and the members of the Board of Trustees met with the participants of the Indian Leaders Programme**





## MADRID 23.05.2022

The President of the Spain-India Council Foundation, Juan Ignacio Entrecanales, welcomed the Indian Leaders on behalf of the members of the Board of Trustees.

After assessing the importance of the Programme and the good results of previous editions, our Chairman gave the floor to the Leaders to explain their interests and expectations regarding the Program. The trustees also spoke to present their companies and their presence in India.

Lochan Sehra stated that the Leaders Program was proving to be a great experience so far. He highlighted two areas where there are great opportunities for collaboration between Spain and India in the field of Smart Cities: waste management, a serious problem in India, and which Spain can help remedy with its technological solutions, and transportation, a real challenge for Indian cities, which could follow the successful integrated public transport model of the Community of Madrid. Bilateral collaboration could help enormously; it is an excellent opportunity to strengthen ties between the Leaders and Spain.



Rahul Kapoor explained that India is moving towards an urban society, with a greater focus on sustainable cities. The Indian government has ambitious goals, such as net-zero target, so there is a need for closer collaboration and networking. Spain and India need to work together and learn from each other, and the Indian Leaders Program is a great opportunity for this.

Saurabh Jain believes that Spain, like India, is a people-centered society, and that brings us very close on both a personal and business level. He is looking forward to working and collaborating with Spanish waste management companies, and hopes to share technology and expertise for greater bilateral business ties.

Raja Gopal is looking forward to the Leaders Program to share our knowledge and networking.







## 05 ACCIONA SHOWS THE LEADERS ITS CAPABILITIES IN CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**One of the most interesting business lines for the Indian Leaders was “Waste to Energy”, the use of waste to generate renewable energy**





**MADRID 23.05.2022**

Juan Ignacio Entrecanales, in his capacity as Vice Chairman of Acciona, welcomed the Indian Leaders at its headquarters in Alcobendas. The corporate presentations were led by Félix González Yagüe, Strategy Director; María Cordon, Corporate Development and IR; Elena González Sánchez, Director of Energy Efficiency; and Alejandro Jiménez, Strategy and Business Development Director.

They focused on one of the key topics for the Indian Leaders, the circular economy, which has a direct impact on 80% of the SDGs with an extraordinary transformative capacity for job creation and economic development. Acciona showed the Leaders its capabilities in circular economy,

thanks to its more than thirty years of experience and dozens of ongoing projects in the five business lines of circular economy.

One of the most interesting business lines for the Indian Leaders was “Waste to Energy”, that is, the use of waste to generate renewable energy and thus reduce landfill storage and pollution. Acciona is able to transform waste into renewable energy thanks to its three waste-to-energy plants in Australia and Scotland. In total, these three plants will annually dispose of up to 850,000 tons of municipal waste and produce up to 619 MWh of clean electricity per year.



## INTERVIEW

# Rahul Kapoor

DIRECTOR OF SMART CITIES, MINISTRY OF HOUSING  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

“One should not lose the opportunity to be in a programme like this”

**Rahul Kapoor is the Director, Smart Cities Mission in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India. He is also the Mission Data Officer, driving the data initiatives of the Smart Cities Mission. Rahul Kapoor has had varied experience in the field of Government infrastructure and finance, focusing on Public-Private Partnerships.**

**As a representative of the Indian Government in the Indian Leaders Programme 2022, how do you assess the current relations between India and Spain?**

Lot of people don't know about Spain in India. The relationship between the European Union and India is strong, and we have had several interactions with several of the EU countries. However, with Spain, although culturally there has been a strong relationship, in terms of business or economic relationship there is still a long way to go. There have been

several successful cases of Spanish companies working in India or Indian companies working in Spain, but there is a huge potential to forge greater economic and business engagement.

India is trying to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2030, which is a very ambitious but achievable goal, given the demographic dividend that India has today, the kind of programmes that are in place, and the way we have been growing in terms of revenue collection, or GDP growth. Therefore, it's not an extremely difficult task, but, of course, these journeys are not performed alone. India will need strong partnerships, and these partnerships with countries like Spain will certainly help accelerate the achievement of our goals.

**Given that India has such ambitious goals for the near future, what would a partnership with Spain mean for India? Why is the relationship with Spain important?**



India is looking to diversify in the new global order to secure its interests. It is key to have stronger relationships with all important countries and Spain is certainly a very important country, if we look at its economic size, or its global presence. We cannot fail to be better partners to achieve the economic objectives of our two nations, and that is why it is important that we deepen this relationship. So far, the approach has not been the one that both countries would like, but both countries have the will to strengthen the relationship. We share very strong cultural similarities, very family-oriented, and these cultural similarities help us understand each other better. Also, attracting investment is one of the main objectives of the Indian government today, which is a great opportunity for Spanish companies to come to India and diversify their portfolios, creating a win-win situation.

**As the Director of Smart Cities at the Indian Ministry of Housing and Urban**

**Affairs, what capabilities of Spain in innovation and sustainability would you highlight?**

I was very impressed by the visit to the innovation centers in both Valladolid and Barcelona. Both cities have reached tremendous maturity in terms of hosting the right ecosystem to promote and foster innovation in their cities, and they have human resources that understand the world of data and technology, especially emerging technology, and these are enablers to achieve their goals of becoming more sustainable and efficient.

Also, both Valladolid and Barcelona are putting in place the right institutional processes and technology platforms to have a sustainable ecosystem of innovation and data-driven governance. We were able to see that in the Barcelona innovation center [Ca l'Alie], which has gone from being an industrial structure to a sustainable green building, and great value is being generated from it. These kinds of initiatives become benchmarks for others to replicate. Other cities can learn from these initiatives and the demonstrable effect of these projects is enormous. In terms of zero emissions and sustainable development goals, many countries can learn from the flagship projects that have been carried out in these cities.



**Having visited different Spanish entities in the field of Smart Cities, what are the main sectors in which Spain and India can cooperate?**

Mobility is a very strong area, if we look at the urban transport sector in Spain, such as rail and metro systems, and even non-motorized transport systems. Spain also has great expertise in technology, water management or renewable energy, and some of the companies we have interacted with have had a successful presence in many of the important countries in Europe and in the emerging countries in the South American region.

India offers a great opportunity to deploy these solutions, and, at the same time, Spain can also learn from a market like the Indian one. After all, the idea of smart cities is not to do business as usual, but to experiment with new technologies, new solutions and ways of doing things, whether in technology or otherwise, and to create best practices and solutions, which can be demonstrated and replicated. The scalability and replicability of these projects are very important.

**What aspects should we promote to strengthen the relationship between Spain and India? What has the Indian government done in this regard?**

There is still a gap in mutual knowledge between the two sides, although initiatives like the Indian Leaders Programme or the work being done by the Spain-India Council Foundation are efforts that will help us bridge that gap. For example, when we see any company trying to invest in an emerging market like India, there are a lot of apprehensions. Many of these apprehensions may be unfounded because they have already been addressed. These are not new concerns.

Spanish companies already tried to enter India two decades ago. There were many challenges at that time, and learning from those challenges and problems, several initiatives have been taken in the last five years, such as the creation of a separate Invest India programme, which seeks to create a single window to facilitate interactions with the various government departments or the various state governments. However,

in terms of lack of information (who to reach, who to talk to...) the information probably doesn't get through properly and ends up becoming a missed opportunity for both parties.

**How can we improve this information exchange?**

We need to have dedicated teams of professionals and experts who understand the world of business development and have outreach programs with departments inside and outside of government. These dedicated teams working with the economic relations team in the Embassies of the respective countries could help convey information, such as what are the existing opportunities, what are the key investment sectors, or what are the different initiatives or incentives that exist to invest in India, whether it is the Indian Semiconductor Mission or the Smart Cities Mission (these are the sectors where the Government of India is promoting investment). A business development team at the Spanish Embassy in India would be of great help.

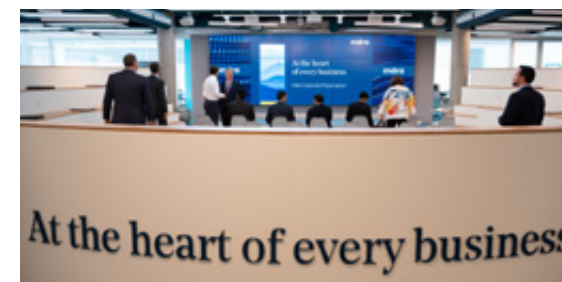
**How does the ILP help bring India and Spain closer together, and why would you recommend it to future participants?**

The Indian Leaders Programme gives us the opportunity to understand not only the companies and the business culture, but also the culture of the people. It is very important to get to know people: how they work, how they live, how they think, and once you have a better understanding, then it becomes very easy to take things through. The Indian Leaders Programme is going to be very useful for all the emerging leaders who are looking to strengthen the relationship between the two countries. This kind of exposure helps them to better understand not only a country or a culture, but also to incorporate the best practices of that country and culture, and to improve their own systems, as well as to foster the development of both countries. One should not lose the opportunity to be in a programme like this.



# 06 MORE EFFICIENT, SUSTAINABLE AND SECURE CITIES THANKS TO INDRA

**More than 100 municipalities use the company's Smart Cities solutions to face the challenges of urbanization**





## MADRID 23.05.2022

The technical visit to Indra's headquarters was led by Alfonso Tena, Director of Institutional Relations at Indra, accompanied by Miguel Ángel González San Román, Business Development Director, Phygital Division, Minsait; Alberto Bernal, Director Phygital Territories, Minsait; and Jorge Aguilera, Public Sector Director, Minsait.

It was a visit of great interest for the Indian Leaders, as they were able to learn about Indra's Smart Cities solutions, which are already being used in more than 100 municipalities to address the main challenges posed by urbanization.

Indra has more than 150 smart solutions implemented worldwide, more than 100,000 companies connected in the ecosystem with its solutions, more than 500 million people have received services performed by its solutions, more than 45 countries in which services are provided through its solutions; and 12 sectors in which its solutions provide added value.

Indra's smart solutions have succeeded in creating more efficient, sustainable and safe cities; increasing the competitiveness of tourist destinations; developing more resilient territories; and fostering digital transformation in the territory.







# 07

## RECEPTION AT THE EMBASSY OF INDIA

**Ambassador Dinesh K. Patnaik invited the first participants of the Indian Leaders Programme after the pandemic interruption to his residence**

**MADRID 23.05.2022**

Dinesh K. Patnaik has been Ambassador of India to Spain since last February. The Indian Leaders Program had not been held since 2019 due to severe mobility restrictions following the pandemic. Therefore, the reception to the participants in the Program by the Ambassador was a double celebration. On the one hand,

to resume this very prominent activity of the Council Foundation and, on the other hand, that the Ambassador could receive the participants of this edition and learn more about what it consists of.

Lochan Sehra, Rahul Kapoor, Saurabh Jain and Raja Gopal Sunkara were received by the highest Indian

authority in our country at his official residence in the capital of Spain. Their expectations regarding the agenda organized for this week in Spain and other aspects of bilateral relations were discussed during the reception.





# 08

## OPENING NEW AVENUES FOR SPAIN-INDIA COOPERATION THROUGH THE MADRID CITY COUNCIL

**Sectors such as  
tourism are very  
interesting for both  
countries**







## MADRID 24.05.2022

The Indian Leaders were received by Ricardo Iglesias, Head of External Relations, and Juan Carlos de Castro Pita, Deputy Director General of Internationalization in the Plenary Hall of the Madrid City Council. The participants were able to learn first-hand about the functioning of the Hall, the mayor's powers, and

accountability to the public, among other issues. Moreover, Lochan Sehra and Raja Gopal Sunkara, Municipal Commissioners of Ahmedabad and Coimbatore respectively, shared their experiences on the functioning of their Municipal Corporations with the representatives of the Madrid City Council.

A topic of great interest to the Indian Leaders was the external relations of the Madrid City Council. Although the City Council has not yet signed Memoranda of Understanding with India, they were open to deepening relations with the same, and encouraged a new phase of municipal rapprochement between Spain and India, in which there could be great

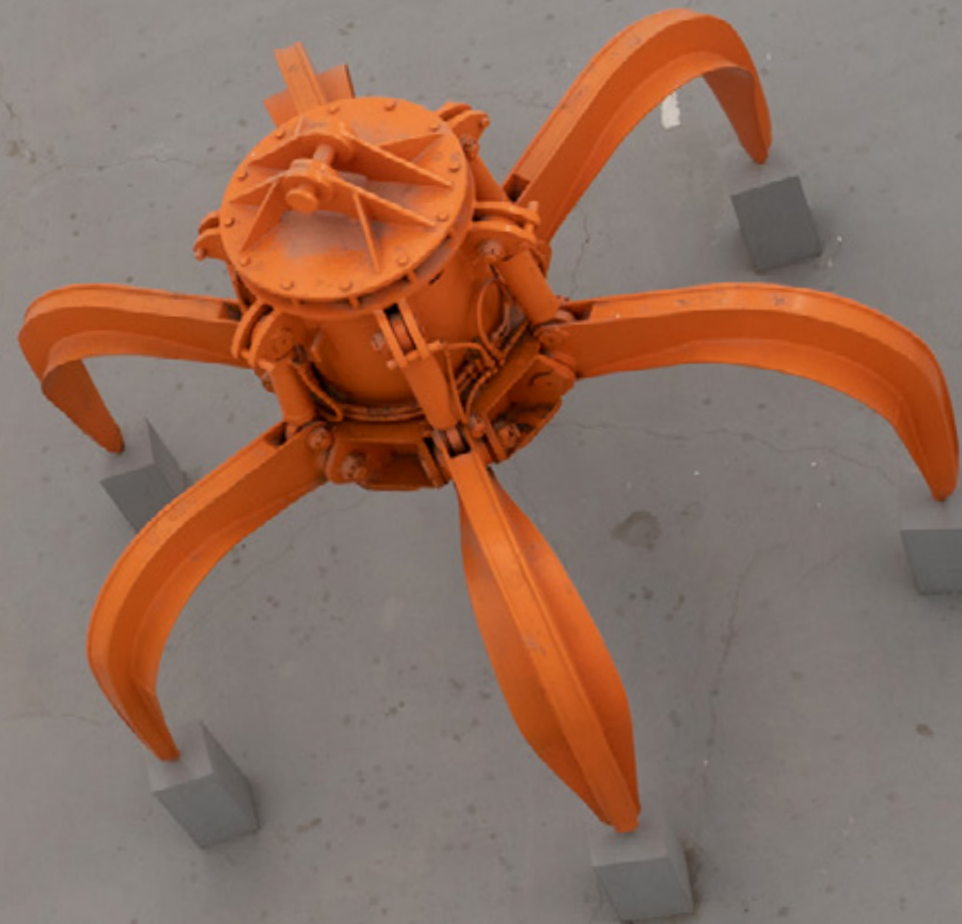
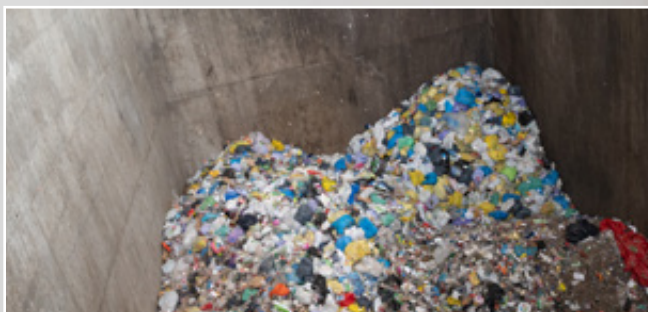
opportunities for cooperation, such as in the tourism sector. The Indian Municipal Commissioners expressed their interest in exploring new avenues of collaboration for deepening city-to-city cooperation between Madrid and India.



# 09

## VALDEMINGÓMEZ, A COMPLETE AND INNOVATIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT MODEL

**Madrid generates more than 4,000 tons of waste per day, which is treated in this Technology Park**



**MADRID 24.05.2022**

The Indian Leaders began their visit at the Visitors' Center of the Valdemingómez Technology Park. They were received by José Luis Cifuentes, Director of Promotion

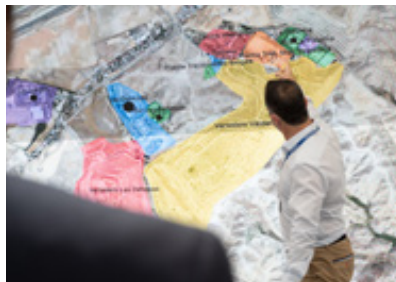
and Information, who explained to the Indian participants how Valdemingómez works, the different treatment centers, as well as the figures and technical data of the Park, which concentrates all the





urban waste treatment facilities in Madrid, where the more than four thousand tons of waste generated daily in the city arrive. The Leaders were also able to see first-hand one of the Park's facilities, the La Paloma Center, whose function is to recover recyclable materials present in the waste from packaging bags and leftovers, and to separate and process organic matter to transform it into biostabilized waste.

Waste management is a key sector for this edition of Indian Leaders. Lochan Sehra, Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad, considers waste management to be one of the main challenges facing his city, if not the first. The Indian private sector is also very aware of this challenge: Saurabh Jain is the co-founder of Trashcon, a company dedicated to waste segregation. Therefore, the visit to one of the most complete and innovative waste management models and a technical reference as the Valdemingómez Park was highly valued by the Leaders.





# 10

## AVANT-GARDE AND INNOVATION IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM AT IE BUSINESS SCHOOL

**The Indian Leaders were interested in the challenges Spain faces in architecture and design, or the trends and differences in urbanism between Madrid and Barcelona**



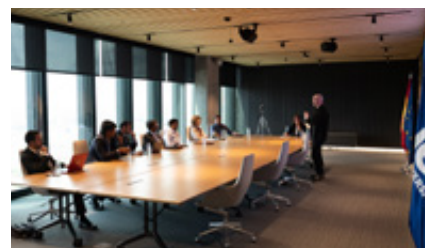




## MADRID 24.05.2022

The Indian Leaders visited the new IE Tower, an avant-garde urban campus and a benchmark for innovation in learning which, at 180 meters high, is the fifth tallest skyscraper in the capital and the seventh tallest in Spain, and one of the few vertical campuses in Europe.

There they were received by the Associate Deans of the IE School of Architecture & Design University, David Jeffrey Goodman and Cristina Mateo, and the President of the Center for Sustainable Cities and director of the future Bachelor in Urban Studies, Manuel Pérez Romero, who introduced the Indian leaders to the studies offered by the institution in the field of architecture and design. The Indian participants also had the opportunity to learn about the



facilities, services and methodology of IE School of Architecture & Design University.

The Indian leaders were interested in the challenges facing Spain in architecture and design, the trends and differences in urban planning between the two cities of Spain with the greatest international projection -Madrid and Barcelona-and other issues related to spatial organization in Spain. On the other hand, they shared with IE representatives their experiences, challenges and opportunities of the Indian cities they come from: Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Coimbatore.



## INTERVIEW

**Saurabh Jain is an electronic engineer and co-founder of TrashCon. This company has invented TrashBot, a waste segregator that can automatically sort mixed waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. Its patented invention has been recognized by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has won many awards and accolades.**

# Saurabh Jain

CO-FOUNDER OF TRASHCON

“I will say that Madrid is much better than New York”

**How has the Leaders Programme helped you coming from the private sector in India?**

Precisely the fact that there were participants from the public sector was very positive. I made good friends and good connections with my colleagues from India. It was a great experience to meet them, as their governmental point of view is very different from mine. But thanks to the Program, which also facilitates personal and human bonds, we have understood the problems we face on both sides, and we can empathize in

both directions. The other participants have given me many suggestions that can help us enormously as a private company. So, beyond the experience in Spain itself, the Programme helped us to understand each other outside our country. So that was a big learning experience for me: on the one hand, to empathize and understand the process that they go through in the central and state governments, and, on the other hand, how we can change our approach to sell also in India, not only in Spain.

It was also very useful to connect with

industries and institutions in Spain, as that allows us to have a global perspective to understand that the problems we have in India are the same or at least not very different from those in Spain, although Spain may be more developed in certain areas, such as transportation. As for waste management, people have better habits here, however, the problem is the same: 40% of waste still goes to landfill, while in India 70%, 80% or even 90% goes to landfill, depending on the location. None of us have reached a point where we can say we are perfect. When we are in India





## INTERVIEW

we think that our solutions will not be accepted anywhere else because they are specific to our country, but when I was able to see the Spanish cities and talked to the mayor of Valladolid and other representatives of the city councils I realized that the problems are the same.

**You mentioned that Spain and India are facing the same problems, in what way is this an opportunity for Trashcon and for India?**

I learned a lot of things, for example, when we visited the Valdemingómez Park about what works and what doesn't work. So that can be of great help to us as we go back to India to tweak certain aspects as India grows. India today is on the second step, while Spain is on the sixth step. As India climbs those steps, we will need Spain's know-how. That way, we won't make the mistakes that Spain may have made as part of its experience, so we can accelerate our progress. Also, since we exchanged our business cards, we can always get in touch with

them, continue to learn and perhaps make a follow-up visit ourselves. We can also invite them to partner with us in India to bring the technology and know-how to our country and thus move from the second to the sixth step or even the tenth step in the future.

**How has your perception of Spain's capabilities in the field of smart cities changed since the Leaders Program?**

Before I came, I thought Spain was a developing nation like India. I didn't know that the city of Madrid is as good or even better than New York. We think only Germany and Switzerland are developed; Germany is possibly the most important benchmark for Indians. This has been one of my learnings. Despite this, Spain and India are very similar; our culture and philosophies are very similar, which brings us very close.

**How can this cultural closeness help us to strengthen the relationship?**

We share fundamental ideas such as

hard work, integrity, solidarity, the value of truth etc. We have similar roots and similar philosophies, which can benefit both sides. If you go to a country where these ideas don't match, people won't match either. There is enormous scope and untapped potential for our relations to move forward, and it should be a very important goal for both countries.

**What are those aspects that we should exploit?**

One of them is clearly the language, Spanish. In India, everybody chooses German or French. For example, in Bangalore there is a French language institute with an exhibition area, where events on France and French are organized. If there were such a Spanish cultural center in big cities like Bangalore or Mumbai, it would attract many Indian students to learn about Spain, its culture and language. Indians should aspire to come and get to know Spain. When I go back to India, I will only talk about the

capabilities of the cities of Madrid and Barcelona, not football; I will say that Madrid is much better than New York. Everyone in India aspires to go to the United States, Germany or Switzerland, and no one would know that Spain has reached such a level of development in the field of smart cities. Also, the work that Casa de la India is doing to make India known in Spain is very important. Its model should be replicated in Bangalore or in any city in India.

**Is there any visit of the Programme that you would especially highlight?**

All the visits in Spain were really enriching, and most importantly, the people who received us showed the passion they had. This is what is needed for cities to develop: leaders with passion. I am sure that the Municipal Commissioners who participated in the Indian Leaders Programme will be inspired by this, and will realize that change is possible. Spain was able to do it in 30 years, so India can do it as well.



# 11 A KEY YEAR FOR SPAIN-INDIA RELATIONS

**Indian Leaders learned about the state of bilateral relations and plans in Economic Diplomacy at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**MADRID 24.05.2022**

The Indian Leaders met at the Marqués de Salamanca headquarters of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Carmen Cano, Deputy Director General for South and East Asia; Luis Mateos, Deputy Director General for Bilateral Economic Relations and Economic Diplomacy; and Ana Esmeralda Martínez, Director General for Economic Diplomacy.

The highest authority in economic diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs assured the Leaders that India is a priority and strategic country for Spain, with which it is necessary to strengthen political, economic and social ties. This is a key year, she said, due to the visits to India planned by the Spanish authorities, which aim to relaunch bilateral relations with that country. There are sectors in which







there are great opportunities for cooperation, such as infrastructure, renewables, innovation, or Smart Cities. Likewise, both countries are committed to the sustainability goals of the 2030 Agenda.

On the other hand, the Indian Leaders noted the great opportunities for collaboration between the two countries. Raja Gopal Sunkara, Municipal Commissioner of Coimbatore, encouraged fostering mutual understanding between

the two countries. For example, he highlighted the great potential of his city in automotive components, a sector in which Spain is an international benchmark. Lochan Sehra, municipal commissioner of Ahmedabad, encouraged seeking ways of cooperation in waste management. City-city cooperation will help cities to grow and face current challenges, but G2G and B2B contact will also be key to boost relationships. He warned about the challenges that climate change brings

to cities, so it will be necessary to join efforts to mitigate its effects. Saurabh Jain advocates a Spain-India collaboration with a long-term vision between the two countries, and focused on the exchange of human resources. Likewise, it would be very beneficial to put in contact and strengthen relations between both start-up ecosystems, which have a great interest in expanding to other markets. Rahul Kapoor, in his capacity as director of India's Ministry of Urban Affairs and Housing, informed the

Ministry of Spain that the Indian government is making a great effort to attract foreign investment to achieve its goal of becoming a five trillion-dollar economy. With that goal in mind, it needs to seek partners and foster long-term collaborations with other countries. Spain and India's shared values place us in a privileged position.







## 12 CASA DE LA INDIA AS A BENCHMARK FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS

**In its almost 20 years of history, it has fulfilled the objective of being a fundamental space for the dissemination of Indian culture in Spain**

The Indian Leaders began their day's visit to Valladolid at Casa de la India, a landmark in Spain-India bilateral relations. Its headquarters in Puente Colgante Street, with its characteristic original wooden haveli incorporated into the facade of the garden that was donated by the city of Ahmedabad in 2009, has fulfilled the objective

of becoming a reference space for the dissemination of Indian culture, beyond the city of Valladolid itself. The presence of Casa de la India in Valladolid has been essential for the rapprochement of Valladolid to India, especially with the city of Ahmedabad, with which the twinning protocol was signed in 2017.





The director of Casa de la India, Guillermo Rodriguez, received the Leaders, showed them the facilities and told them the history and origin of the House from the hand of the team of architects. A welcome breakfast was also offered to the guests, in which both parties highlighted the excellent bilateral relations between Valladolid and India, specifically with the twin city of Ahmedabad, where one of the Indian Leaders of this edition, Lochan Sehra, is the municipal commissioner.







# 13

## VALLADOLID, A CITY WITH A RICH HISTORY AND IMPORTANT TIES WITH INDIA

**Juan Manuel Guimeráns, manager of Sociedad Mixta para la Promoción del Turismo en Valladolid, gave the Leaders a guided tour of the city**



### VALLADOLID 25.05.2022

After visiting Casa de la India, Juan Manuel Guimeráns, manager of Sociedad Mixta para la Promoción del Turismo en Valladolid, invited the Leaders to take a tour of the streets of the historic center of Valladolid, a guided visit that began in the emblematic Plaza de San Pablo.

The Indian participants appreciated the rich history and cultural heritage of what was once the capital of Spain, and the special bond that unites this city with India.

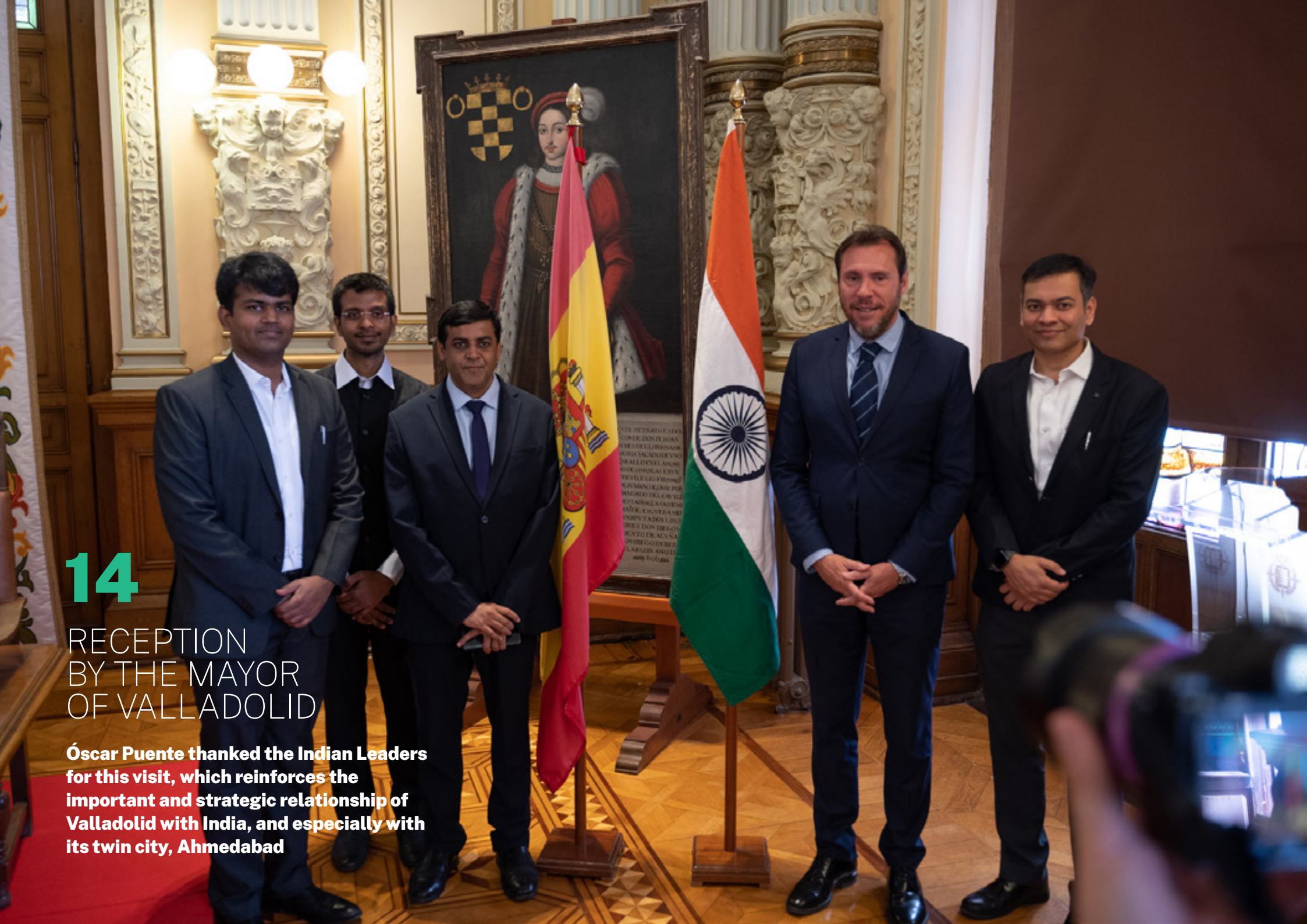




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## RECEPTION BY THE MAYOR OF VALLADOLID

**Óscar Puente thanked the Indian Leaders for this visit, which reinforces the important and strategic relationship of Valladolid with India, and especially with its twin city, Ahmedabad**





## VALLADOLID 25.05.2022

The guided tour of Valladolid for the Indian Leaders concluded at the Plaza Mayor, where Valladolid City Hall is located. The Mayor of Valladolid, Óscar Puente, received the Leaders in his office, where he welcomed them and thanked them for their visit to Valladolid, a visit that reinforces and underpins the very important and strategic relationship of this city with India, and especially with its twin city, Ahmedabad.

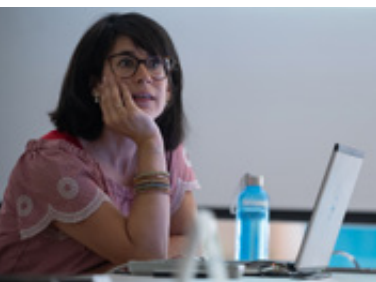
The Mayor showed the Leaders the paintings and other details of the hall, such as the document of the twinning agreement with Ahmedabad, and gave them a tour of the City Hall, while explaining the history and functioning of the different rooms, such as the Plenary Hall of the City Hall.

Also, the ceremony of exchange of gifts between the representatives of the two twinned cities took place:

the Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad, Lochan Sehra, and the Mayor of Valladolid himself, Óscar Puente. Both agreed that this visit of the Indian delegation would be a boost to the relations between their cities and a greater rapprochement between Spain and India, and invited the Mayor of Valladolid to visit the city of Ahmedabad in the near future.







# 15 CLEAN MOBILITY, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GREEN URBAN PLANNING IN VALLADOLID

**The Indian Leaders visited the city's Agency for Innovation and Economic Development**

**VALLADOLID 25.05.2022**

The Indian Leaders appreciated very positively the important role of the city of Valladolid as a promoter of relations between Spain and India, and explored the possibilities of cooperation with Valladolid in the field of Smart Cities, especially after the visit to the Agency for Innovation and Economic Development of Valladolid.

The Leaders were able to learn that Valladolid is on the list of EU cities that will participate in the mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030". This initiative aims to drive research and innovation actions to promote clean mobility, energy efficiency and green urban planning. The representatives of the Agency for Innovation and Economic Development of Valladolid explained in depth to the Indian Leaders the different plans, policies, strategies and projects to turn Valladolid into a climate-neutral Smart City, such as the Circular Economy Action Plan 2021-2023.





# 16

## SPANISH AND FUSION GASTRONOMY AT THE INTERNATIONAL COOKING SCHOOL OF VALLADOLID

**The luncheon was attended by the Mayor of the city, as well as the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor for Internationalization of the University of Valladolid**



## VALLADOLID 25.05.2022

To round off the visit to Valladolid, the Indian Leaders had lunch at the International Cooking School of Valladolid, a reference center for professional development, which respects the gastronomic and culinary tradition by working towards continuous innovation and improvement. More than 10,000 students have passed through the different training activities of the School, and each year it receives approximately 400 foreign students. Students from more than 52 countries from the five continents have already passed through its facilities-with more than 3,000 m distributed in three floors.

It was a unique opportunity for the Indian Leaders to taste the renowned Spanish gastronomy in a more relaxed atmosphere with the presence of the

Mayor of Valladolid, Óscar Puente, the director of Casa de la India, Guillermo Rodríguez, and the rector and vice-rector of internationalization of the University of Valladolid, Antonio Largo and Paloma Castro, among other guests. The International Cooking School of Valladolid also prepared a typical dessert of the Indian subcontinent, the Gulab Jamun, a nod to the cuisine of their country that the Leaders appreciated. The participants of the Program made a very positive assessment of the trip to Valladolid, not only because of the ties that unite this city with India, but also because of Valladolid's firm commitment to smart city projects, which generates enormous opportunities for cooperation with India.



## INTERVIEW

# Lochan Sehra

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER,  
AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

“I have found good solutions  
in this visit to Madrid, Valladolid  
and Barcelona”

**Lochan Sehra worked as Secretary (Housing), Urban Development and Urban Housing Department of the Government of Gujarat, before being appointed Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad in December 2021.**

**As Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad, in what way has the Leaders Program been helpful?**

For all the challenges that I as Municipal Commissioner am facing in Ahmedabad, I have found good solutions in this visit to Madrid, Valladolid and Barcelona. For example, Ahmedabad has been the first city in India to be declared a World Heritage City by UNESCO, and Valladolid is helping us in the conservation of our city's heritage. This visit has further strengthened the bond we already had with the city of Valladolid.

Ahmedabad is one of the 100 Smart Cities of the Smart Cities Mission of India, and we are working on technological solutions to improve the lives of our citizens under the Ahmedabad Smart City Program. The visit to Barcelona will help us move forward, as we will be able to implement the technological solutions that are already being used in that city, such as data analysis. On the other hand, in Barcelona they have created an innovation center that seeks to provide solutions to the problems faced by the city; it is a very innovative idea. We would





also like to set up an innovation center like the one of Barcelona in Ahmedabad.

#### **And what about the visits in Madrid?**

In Madrid, the idea was, on the one hand, to establish contact at the political level, Government to Government (G2G). On the other hand, on the business side, in Madrid we met with Acciona and Indra, and I found that there are many opportunities for business-to-business (B2B) collaboration. When I go back to Ahmedabad, I will talk to the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry to have direct B2B contact with Spanish companies and with the Spanish Chamber of Commerce, which will help a lot to bring Gujarat and Spain closer together. Therefore, in Madrid it was very positive to establish contact at three levels: G2G, B2B and municipal corporation-city council.

#### **A few days ago, you told that Ahmedabad faces two major problems: waste management and water supply. How can cooperation with Spain help to solve these problems?**

In terms of water management, we

depend on a limited water supply, so we want to have new technologies to help us reuse treated water. We are already doing that, but technology from Spanish companies can help us treat our wastewater and reuse it in agriculture, industry, etc. We want to reuse our water to save fresh water that we can use for drinking water.

On the other hand, waste management is one of the city's main challenges. We want to have 100% household collection, 100% segregation and 100% processing, the latter being a key issue. Madrid has a processing plant, a BioCNG plant and a waste-to-energy plant. Ahmedabad is in the process of building these plants, so we can learn directly from Madrid's experience. What Madrid has done, we are doing now, so their experience will help us move towards our goal of processing 100% of our municipal waste.

#### **What could be done at the institutional level to strengthen relations between Spain and India?**

We may not visit Valladolid on a regular basis, but we could meet

monthly online and discuss issues that will help us solve our challenges. The institutional mechanism between Valladolid and Ahmedabad can also continue and keep growing without physical visits.

#### **How does the Leaders Program contribute to the rapprochement between Spain and India? Why would you recommend the ILP to future participants?**

I would recommend the ILP because it gives a different perspective to the Indian context. Although the context is different, the problems remain the same: water supply, waste management, etc. Therefore, we can learn from the innovative solutions that have been implemented by other cities around the world, in this case Spanish cities. In these three cities that we have visited, I have found that in some areas we have done better than Spanish cities, so Spanish cities can learn from us, and in other areas, Spanish cities have done better than us, so we can learn from them. It's a win-win situation for both sides. The ILP brings us closer to each other and

allows us to find out the problems facing modern cities today and learn about innovative solutions to address them. It allows us to learn from each other to provide a better quality of life for our citizens and cities, which is the ultimate goal.

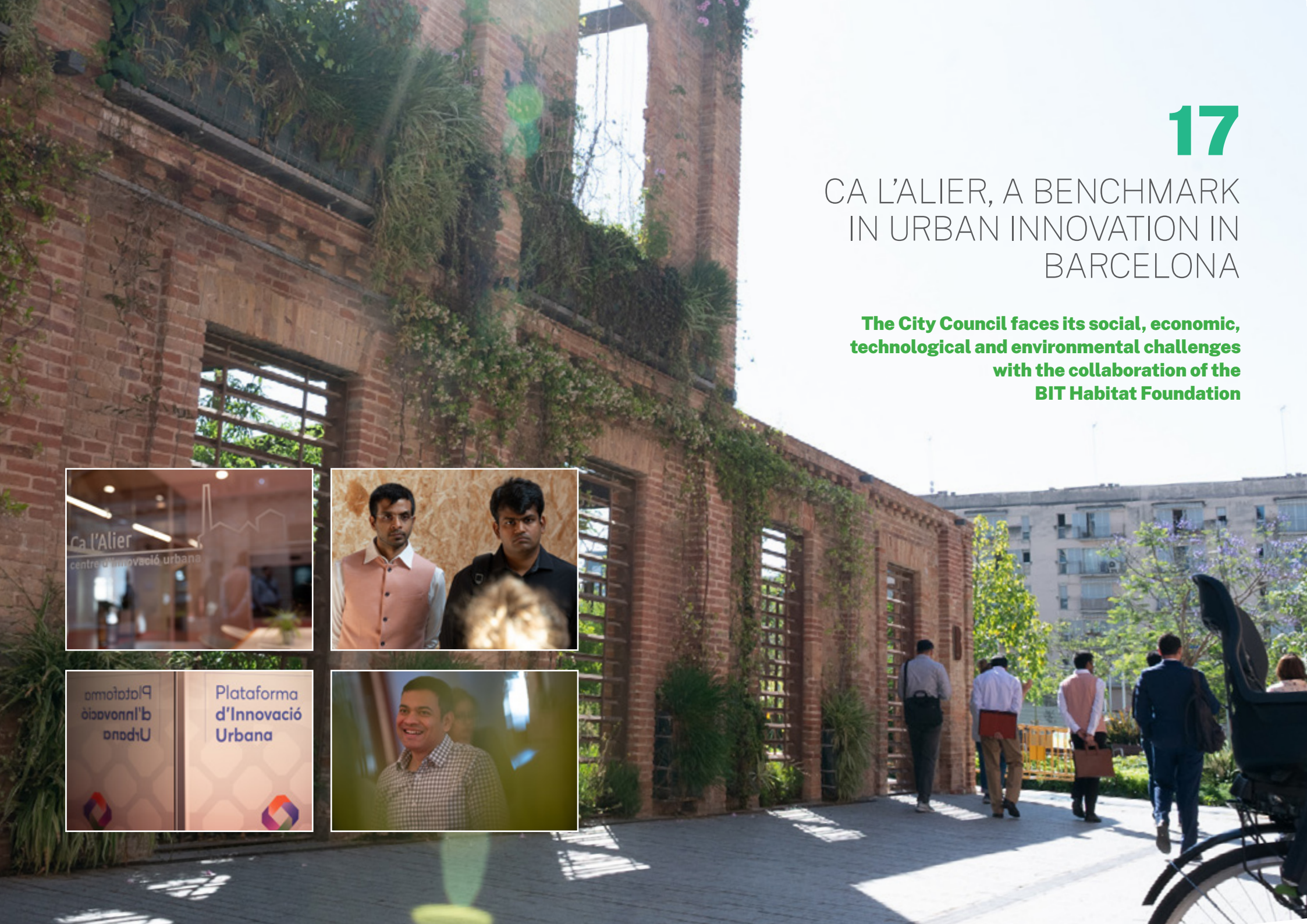
#### **In which sectors could India learn from Spain, and in which sectors could Spain learn from India?**

There are many sectors in which we can learn from each other, but, for example, in terms of what India could learn from Spain, I would highlight Madrid's integrated transport system, which we are trying to set up to organize our transport. As for what Spain could learn from India, we have done a great job in some of our cities, for example in Ahmedabad, in the reuse of wastewater. We are reusing wastewater for agriculture, industry and so on. I have realized that in Madrid reuse is very low, so Madrid could learn from the success story of Ahmedabad and Surat on this issue. By learning from each other we will move forward together and improve our cities and the lives of citizens.

# 17

## CA L'ALIER, A BENCHMARK IN URBAN INNOVATION IN BARCELONA

**The City Council faces its social, economic,  
technological and environmental challenges  
with the collaboration of the  
BIT Habitat Foundation**





## BARCELONA 26.05.2022

The first visit of the Leaders Program in Barcelona was to Ca l'Alíer, headquarters of BIT Habitat, a Foundation that seeks to improve the quality of life of the people who live in Barcelona, responding to their social, economic, technological and environmental challenges. They were welcomed by Isabella Longo, Project Director of BIT Habitat, thanks to whom they were able to learn about the work of the Foundation and the building's past as a textile factory and its subsequent rehabilitation to turn Ca l'Alíer into a smart, zero-emissions building. Ca l'Alíer has become a reference in urban innovation.

The Leaders were also able to learn about the digital strategy of the Barcelona City Council from Michael Donaldson, CEO of BIT Habitat and Commissioner for Technological Innovation, Electronic Administration and Good Governance of the Barcelona City Council. They also toured the facilities and were able to visit the Cities Workshop, where the Urban Data Desk (UDD) is located, a 6x4 meter urban and territorial data viewer controlled by four touchscreen monitors, which offers an interactive experience with multiple layers of geo-referenced information updated in real time (mobility, housing, public space, green infrastructure, flows, facilities, etc.).







# 18

## BARCELONA AND ITS ICT PROJECTS AND SOLUTIONS FOR SMART CITIES

**The Indian Leaders visited the Municipal Institute of Informatics (IMI in Spanish), which provides information and communication technology (ICT) services to the City Council of Barcelona**

### **BARCELONA 26.05.2022**

The Indian Leaders also visited the Municipal Institute of Informatics (IMI in Spanish), a local autonomous body of the Barcelona City Council whose objective is to provide all information and communication technology (ICT) services to the City Council and the agencies and public companies

that depend on it. There they were received by Jordi Cirera, Director of the Knowledge Society Office of the IMI, who presented to the Indian Leaders different ICT projects and solutions for smart cities.

The Leaders showed great interest in the open-source software Sentilo





(term meaning “sensor” in Esperanto), awarded with the Open Awards 2016 as the most innovative open-source software platform. This sensor network knows the flow of people and bicycles crossing the city’s major avenues or arteries, the decibels levels on each street, the temperature of each neighborhood or the air quality being breathed. He also presented to the Leaders the CityOS initiative, an infrastructure based on open-code Big Data technology, which uses single-window access and internal data management, known as a “Data Lake”. This infrastructure provides better data governance, quality controls, more effective privacy and security and, above all, it gives the City Council an overview of this area.





# 19

## THE SAGRADA FAMILIA, A WORLD ICON OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE

**The Leaders Programme is not only a work agenda. Getting to know Spain through its culture, art or gastronomy is fundamental**

**BARCELONA 26.05.2022**

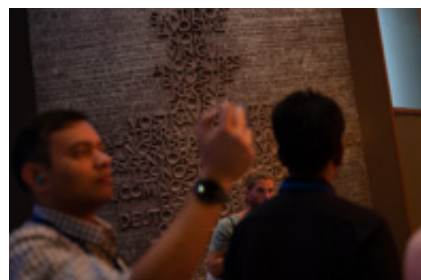
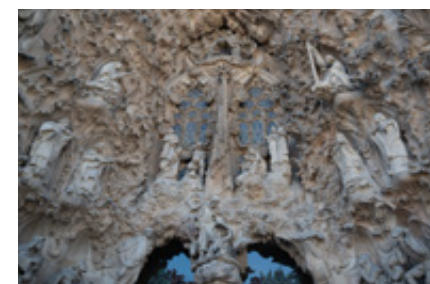
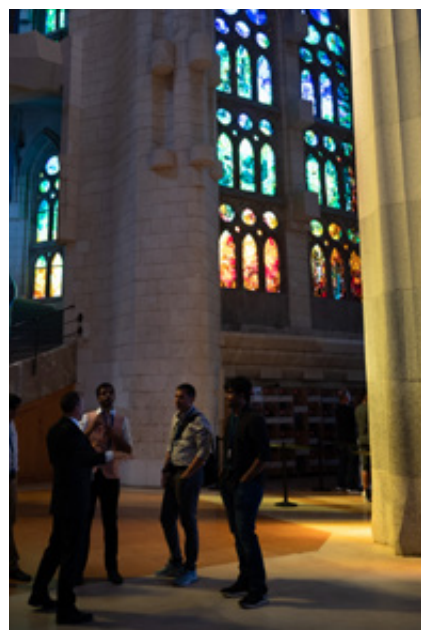
The participants in the Indian Leaders Program had some knowledge about our country prior to their visit to Spain, and they were certainly aware of the Sagrada Familia and the work of Antoni Gaudí. The legacy of the brilliant architect in Barcelona has turned it into a city with some amazing architectural gems that give it a unique and iconic character around the world.

The Leaders Program is not only a work plan with professional meetings and visits. The human factor, cultural immersion, gastronomy and other defining aspects of our country are fundamental for our participants to better understand Spain and for the final objectives of this activity to be fully achieved. For this reason, cultural visits such as this one to the Sagrada Familia are always part of the agenda.





Through a guided tour they were able to learn about the history of the basilica, a project originally conceived by the architect Francisco de Paula del Villar with the laying of the first stone in 1882. Later, the famous Antonio Gaudí was commissioned to continue with the work, giving it a totally renovated and innovative character. The Leaders learned how the works of the temple are progressing, all the peculiarities that make it unique and how its construction is financed thanks to all the visitors who, like them, with their ticket, contribute part of the budget to complete this colossal architectural work.







### BARCELONA 27.05.2022

The second day in Barcelona started at the headquarters of Casa Asia, where Amadeo Jensana, Director of Economy and Business, and Angel Aranguren, Executive Advisor, received the Leaders. After the welcome coffee, the meeting began with the participation of Enric Urreta and Isabel Sabadí, President and Director of 22@ Network BCN respectively, and Sergi Sauri, Director of the Center for Innovation in Transport (CENIT in Spanish).

Amadeo Jensana explained the objectives, work, and upcoming projects of Casa Asia, and expressed his desire to work with the Indian Leaders in the future. Afterwards, Isabel Sabadí made a presentation on the positioning of Barcelona as a hub for innovation, talent attraction, and creation of technological start-ups. She also explained what is the 22@ District, which has become the first European innovation hub and the first innovation district in the world, as well as the work of 22@Network BCN, a private business association that brings together the main organizations in the district: large companies, institutions, universities and technology centers, and a network of SMEs and startups with activities in the district. Also, Sergi Sauri focused on innovative solutions







to make Barcelona's mobility more sustainable.

The Indian Leaders appreciated this interesting visit and expressed their willingness to collaborate with these entities. They invited those present to India to share with the Indian cities the exemplary work done in Barcelona.







## BARCELONA 27.05.2022

On their second day in Barcelona, the Indian Leaders visited Barcelona Activa, the economic development agency of the Barcelona City Council. They were received by Verónica Tan, City Promotion Technician of the Barcelona City Council, and Bárbara Pons Giner, City Promotion Technician and Architect of the Barcelona City Council, who welcomed the Leaders and introduced them to the 22@ Innovation District.

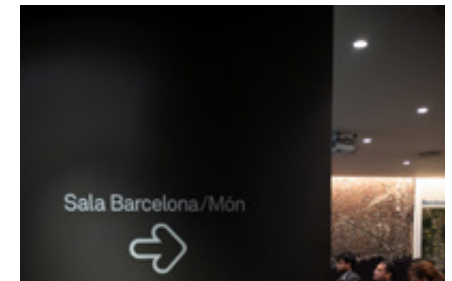
They also toured the Barcelona Activa facilities with Verónica Tan, in which



# 21 KEY ASPECTS THAT MAKE BARCELONA AN INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK TO LIVE IN

**The Leaders discovered them during their visit to Barcelona Activa and the 22@ District**

she explained to the Leaders the work of the local economic development agency. Barcelona Activa aims to contribute to improving the quality of life of people by promoting the economic competitiveness of the city and the rebalancing of the territories, making Barcelona a city of

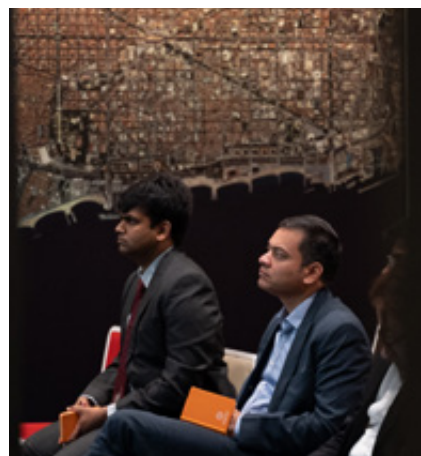
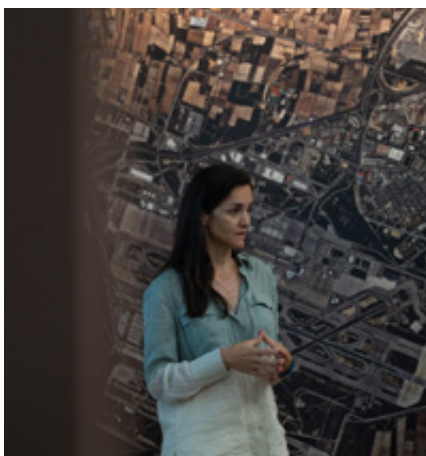






international reference for working, entrepreneurship and living with social and environmental values.

Afterwards, the Leaders were able to take a walk through the streets of the 22@ District accompanied by Verónica Tan and Bárbara Pons, who guided them throughout the tour, while explaining the major transformations experienced by the district. During the tour they were able to visit, for instance, the Poblenou campus of the Pompeu Fabra University, the MediaTIC Building or the Poblenou Superblock. Getting to know Barcelona Activa and the 22@ District was very useful for the Leaders, and they established contact with the people in charge of the visit to initiate a stage of collaboration between the Indian cities and Barcelona.







## 22 CLOSER AND SMOOTHER COOPERATION BETWEEN BARCELONA AND INDIA

**This was the wish expressed  
by the Indian Leaders at the  
farewell lunch held with the  
Barcelona City Council**



## BARCELONA 27.05.2022

The Indian Leaders Programme 2022 concluded with a luncheon hosted by Felip Roca, Director of International Relations of the Barcelona City Council, which was also attended by Pau Solanilla, Commissioner for City Promotion of the Barcelona City Council, and Bettina Stollar, Programme Director for Asia-Pacific at the International Relations Department of the Barcelona City Council.

Both the representatives of the Barcelona City Council and the Leaders had the opportunity to make an assessment of the visits made in Barcelona. The Indian Leaders were impressed by the high degree of innovation of the city and the great Smart Cities projects that Barcelona has brought to fruition, as well as by the amazing transformation of the 22@ District. They also showed great interest in seeking closer and smoother cooperation between the Barcelona City Council and India.





INTERVIEW

# Raja Gopal Sunkara

COIMBATORE MUNICIPAL  
CORPORATION COMMISSIONER

“Spain is certainly able to transfer its innovation know-how to Indian cities”



**Raja Gopal Sunkara is a civil servant working with the Government of Tamil Nadu, with experience spanning across general administration, policy making, development, disaster management and maintenance of law and order. After a brief stint at a logistics startup, he joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), considered the premier civil service of India.**

**As Commissioner, what are your main takeaways from the Indian Leaders Program?**

From a Municipal Commissioner's point of view, the visit to Canal de Isabel II was very interesting, as water supply is a big problem in Coimbatore. It was extremely useful to learn how water supply problems are monitored, how quickly incidents are attended to, how water is supplied from the dam to the tap, etc. Also, regarding the transportation system in Madrid, the fact that all transportation is administratively and technologically integrated was a valuable learning experience.

On the other hand, being able to learn

about the different programs that the innovation centers in Valladolid and Barcelona are carrying out was a great opportunity, as these are agencies that we do not currently have in Coimbatore, i.e. a body working only on the promotion and development of innovation and sustainability projects in the city. For example, in Valladolid they told us about a facility in which they were trying to integrate different municipal services, and it is an idea that I am taking with me to India. These are the aspects of the Programme that most enriched me as Coimbatore Commissioner.

**You mentioned water supply as one of the main challenges facing Coimbatore. How could municipal cooperation with Spain help in solving your city's challenges?**

Water supply is undoubtedly the main challenge facing Coimbatore. Although we have an adequate water source, our distribution system can be improved, so there are areas where drinking water supply is not available once every 10 days or once every 15 days, and people have to store it. But here in Spain, drinking water is available 24 hours a day. We are



trying to set up projects that go in that direction, but we still have a long way to go.

The second big challenge in Coimbatore is solid waste management. We have seen how clean the cities in Spain are, whether it is Madrid, Valladolid or Barcelona, and we were also able to visit the waste management facility in Madrid [Valdemingómez Technology Park]. In Coimbatore we have a landfill of almost the same size, but in terms of waste management we have a long way to go. We are also planning to implement waste-to-energy plants, so we could certainly learn from Spain's experience in that area as well.

**What could we do to strengthen municipal relations in urban development and sustainability between Spain and India?**

We have visited private companies as part of the Indian Leaders Programme, and what I have realized, in terms of infrastructure or technology, is that Spain has successful multinational companies that operate globally. They

have, for example, the technology to convert waste into energy, or an advanced and efficient water supply system, but I think because of the language and the fact that Spain is more culturally affiliated with Latin American countries, the focus on India has not been as great. There are Spanish companies in India that we are not even aware of, also in Coimbatore. Some of the experiences of Spanish companies that have already invested in India could be shared with other companies that are interested in investing in the country, thus exchanging information on what problems they are facing or success stories that can be replicated.

**What could be done at the institutional level to strengthen bilateral relations?**

There are huge opportunities outside the big Indian cities; there are many projects that are being carried out, so there needs to be a Spanish administrative structure in India that is constantly aware of the projects and tenders that Indian municipalities put out so that Spanish companies

can participate and invest in India. In addition, the Consulate General could regularly visit other Indian cities and see what projects are being carried out, which is something that other European countries are doing.

**What complementarities exist between Spain and India in sustainability and urban development, and in what areas can we cooperate?**

As far as smart cities are concerned, we have known that the Smart Cities concept was brought to Barcelona in 2011, and the India Smart Cities Mission was launched in 2015, i.e., just four years later, so our thought process is quite similar. The size of large cities in Spain and medium-sized Indian cities are similar: Barcelona has 1.6 million inhabitants; Coimbatore has 2 million inhabitants. Also, the population density in Barcelona is quite high, as is also the case in Indian cities, so there is a complementarity in the type of cities. The solution to the problems, therefore, could be similar, be it in relation to water supply or solid waste management.

**How does the PLI help bring India and Spain closer together, and why would you recommend it to future participants?**

Before attending the Programme, I was hoping to learn how Spanish cities solve everyday urban challenges. We were able to visit Madrid, Valladolid, and Barcelona, three different cities, and the experience in all three cities was very enriching. The places you have taken us to have been carefully selected, and the visits you have organized have addressed different sectors: water supply, waste management, innovation, city strategies to become carbon neutral, etc. We have learned a lot, and we have also seen that Spanish companies have an advanced technological capacity that can be exchanged with India. Spanish cities have solved most of the problems that Indian cities need to solve. So, there is a lot to learn from Spain and you have reached a point where some of the problems that Indian cities face are not even problems for you, such as water supply. Spain is certainly able to transfer its innovation know-how to Indian cities.

## ORGANIZATION CHART

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**VICE-PRESIDENT:** D. Alfonso Tena, Indra

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** D. Antonio Montes, IE Business School

**SECRETARY GENERAL:** D. José Leandro Consarnau, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación

**DIRECTOR:** D<sup>a</sup>. Berta Fuertes

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