

# India, Chile agree to begin trade pact negotiations

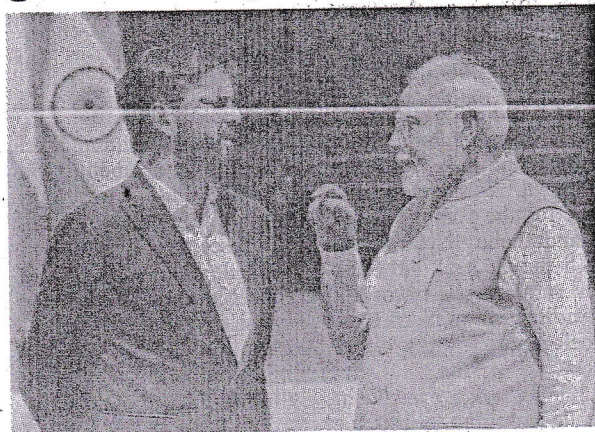
Press Trust of India  
New Delhi

India and Chile on Tuesday announced starting negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership pact as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font held wide-ranging talks focusing on boosting the ties in areas of trade, defence, critical minerals and health.

Describing Chile as an important "friend and partner" for India in Latin America, Modi said several new initiatives were identified to enhance overall cooperation in the coming decade.

Boric, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers, members of Parliament, senior officials and business leaders, is on a five-day state visit to India.

"India and Chile may be at



**TALKING POINT.** PM Narendra Modi with Chilean President Gabriel Boric at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Tuesday ANI

different ends of the world map, there may be vast oceans separating us, but nature has linked us with unique similarities," Modi said in his media statement.

He further said: "The waves of the Indian Ocean flow with the same energy in India as the waves of the Pa-

cific Ocean touch the shores of Chile." The Prime Minister said India is ready to share its positive experience with Chile in the areas of digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, railways, space and others.

"We welcome the growth in mutual trade and invest-

ment. We agree that there is also untapped potential for further cooperation in this," he said.

## CRITICAL MINERALS

"Today we have instructed our teams to begin discussions on a mutually beneficial comprehensive economic partnership agreement." Modi further said that the India-Chile partnership will be strengthened in the field of critical minerals and work will be done to establish resilient supply and value chains.

In the field of agriculture, cooperation will be done to ensure food security, he said.

"The growing cooperation in the field of defence is a symbol of our deep mutual trust. We will move forward to create defence industrial manufacturing and supply chains in this area according to each other's needs," Modi said.

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