

ON A DIFFERENT PITCH



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese before the start of the fourth Test cricket match between India and Australia, at the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday. “As two cricket-loving nations, Australia and India share a fierce but friendly rivalry. At the heart of this contest is genuine respect, reflecting the affection and friendship between our peoples,” Albanese tweeted

PHOTO: AP/PTI

Modi-Albanese talks to focus on trade, defence, key minerals

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese will hold extensive talks on Friday with a focus on boosting overall bilateral ties in areas of trade and investment, defence and critical minerals.

The two leaders are also expected to review the situation in the Indo-Pacific amid growing concerns over China's increasing military assertiveness in the region, people familiar with the matter said.

The Australian PM arrived in Delhi Thursday evening after concluding his engagements in Ahmedabad and Mumbai. The bilateral ties in areas of trade and investment, defence, critical minerals and education will be the focus of the talks between the two prime ministers.

Albanese's visit comes after a series of high-level engagements and exchange of ministerial trips between two sides in 2022 and in 2023. **PTI**