

# 'India, Germany must step up co-operation to reduce over dependence on China'

Our Bureau  
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German Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Robert Habeck, said on Thursday that India and Germany have a mutual interest in strengthening co-operation, bringing in more investments and bringing more companies together to ensure that there is no over-dependence on China.

Habeck, in an interaction with the media on the sidelines of a business event in Delhi, said he is in India to discuss economic matters, energy matters related to sanctions and renewables.

The Vice-Chancellor is on a three-day India visit and will also travel to Mum-



**BOOSTING TIES.** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with German Vice-Chancellor Robert Habeck in New Delhi

bai and Goa. Answering questions on China, Habeck said relationship with the country was a complicated one.

"China is our biggest trading partner. So, a lot of companies have invested in China. It's a huge market. And this goes the same for

India and the US, for example. On the other hand, we see that being dependent on only one market could be risk, and even more so if we see that economic issues are not politically neutral, and that interests are interwoven in the economic relations," he said.

While it would be difficult to decouple from China, but de-risking, diversification is of highest importance, he said.

Diversification, he said means that other partnerships, the Indo-German partnership and other ones as well, become more and more important.

"And my understanding also from the talks I had with the Indian partners is that this goes the same for India. So there's a mutual interest from the German side, from the Indian side to strengthen our cooperation, bringing more companies together, bringing more investments, creating your common trade sphere so that we are being not too dependent on only one country," he said.