

India, Greece to ink mobility pact soon, double trade by 2030: Modi

NEW AVENUES. Cooperation deepening in security, defence, trade, investment, education, tourism: Greek PM

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India and Greece will soon sign a mobility and migration partnership agreement to ease skilled migration between the two countries and aim to double bilateral trade by 2030, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Indian PM and his Greek counterpart, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, in their bilateral meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday, discussed strengthening of cooperation in multiple areas, including defence, security, education, start-ups, shipping, trade, investment, agriculture and tourism.

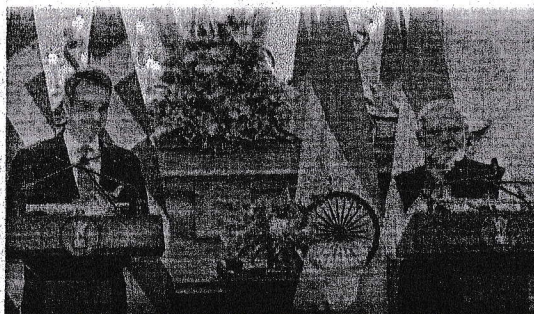
Modi said the visit of the Greek PM to India after 16 years was a historic occasion. "It's a matter of happiness that we are heading towards doubling the bilateral trade by 2030," he said

in a press statement following his meeting with Mitsotakis.

India-Greece bilateral trade in 2022-23 was about \$2 billion, with India's exports at \$785.72 million and imports at \$1.16 billion, per government data.

Noting that he was visiting India for the first time in his official capacity, Mitsotakis said the two leaders were continuing to build on the positive momentum in bilateral relationship.

"The joint declaration that we signed in Athens a few months ago and which upgraded our relationship to a strategic level is already being put into practice. And as the Prime Minister said, we are making significant progress towards deepening the strategic cooperation in all spheres - security and defence, investment and trade, science and technology, cyberspace, education,



OPTIMISTIC. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis (left) during a joint press statement after their meeting in New Delhi, on Wednesday.

culture, tourism, agriculture," he said.

On the mobility pact, Modi said it will boost people-to-people ties that have been historically robust. "To make skilled migration between the two countries easier, we have decided to strike a Migration

and Mobility Partnership Agreement soon," he said.

MOBILITY PACT Mitsotakis, too, was upbeat about the mobility pact, and expressed hope that it would be signed soon. "It will constitute a very important step towards

strengthening our cooperation in issues such as illegal migration, fighting human trafficking, but also offering young Indians an opportunity to come and work in Greece and benefit from the growth of our economy...," he said in his statement.

Later, at the inaugural session of the Raisina Dialogue 2024, Mitsotakis highlighted the "great promise" of the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). He said it would supercharge connectivity between India, the growth economies of West Asia and Europe, and Greece could play an important part.

"One has to just look at the map to realise that Greece is sitting right in the centre of this new corridor. And, we are your natural door step to Europe and beyond," he said.