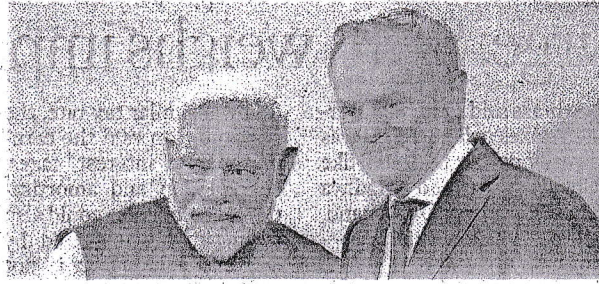


India, Poland unveil 5-year action plan, upgrade ties

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India and Poland on Thursday upgraded their ties to the level of a "strategic partnership" and inked a social security pact to promote the mobility of skilled workers following wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk.

In the meeting, both sides vowed to significantly expand the bilateral defence and security ties with Tusk expressing Warsaw's eagerness to be a key partner in New Delhi's aim to boost domestic defence production



STRENGTHENING RELATIONS. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister in Warsaw REUTERS

and modernise its armed forces. Modi arrived in this Polish capital on Wednesday, in the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Poland in nearly half a century. In the second leg of his two-nation

trip, Modi will be in Kyiv for around seven hours on Friday. The Prime Minister also held talks with Polish President Andrzej Duda.

Following the Modi-Tusk talks, the two sides unveiled

a five-year "Action Plan" (2024-2028) for the India-Poland strategic partnership identifying a range of areas including defence, trade, agri-tech, energy, green technologies, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and mining for cooperation.

PRIORITY AREAS

"This year we celebrate 70 years of our diplomatic relations. On this occasion, we have decided to reshape our relation into a strategic partnership," Modi said in his media statement with Tusk by his side. "Today we have identified several initiatives to give a new direction to our relations," he said. The 'Action Plan' lists various prior-

ity areas for boosting engagement under different pillars including political and security cooperation, trade and investment, transport and connectivity, climate, energy, mining, science and technology and EU-India. It specifically mentioned supporting the early conclusion of the ongoing India-EU trade and investment negotiations, the operationalisation of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and the implementation of the India-EU Connectivity partnership.

Modi said the social security agreement will promote the mobility of the workforce and ensure their welfare.