

# India, Egypt discuss 'cascading impact' of Russia-Ukraine war

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India and Egypt decided on Wednesday to elevate their ties to the level of a strategic partnership, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi resolving to broaden the bilateral engagement in the areas of defence, security and trade, and calling for "zero tolerance" towards terrorism.

After his talks with the visiting Arab leader, Modi said both sides were unanimous in their view that terrorism poses the most serious security threat to humanity and agreed that concerted action is necessary to end cross-border terrorism.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said at a media briefing that the prime minister and the Egyptian president called for "zero tolerance" towards terrorism and strongly condemned its use as a "foreign policy instrument", in what is seen as an oblique reference to Pakistan's support to various terror groups.



**PM Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday**

PHOTO: PTI

The two leaders also discussed the "cascading impact" of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the availability of food,

energy and fertiliser, and decided to work towards reliable supply chains.

Following the talks

between Modi and Sisi, the two sides signed five agreements providing for cooperation in the areas of culture, information technology, cyber security, matters relating to youngsters and broadcasting.

The two leaders also decided to take the volume of bilateral trade to \$12 billion in the next five years from around USD seven billion at present, Kwatra said while describing the Modi-Sisi talks as "extremely productive" and "very warm".

In his remarks, the prime minister said India and Egypt are worried about the spread of terrorism around the world.

"India and Egypt are worried about the spread of terrorism happening around the world. We are unanimous in the opinion that terrorism is the most serious security threat to humanity," Modi said.

"Both countries also agree that concerted action is necessary to end cross-border terrorism. And for this, together we will continue to try to alert the international community," he added.

