**"As one era ends, a new one begins..."**

It has been just six months since the State visit of Indian Prime Minister Mr. Modi to Greece, and now Greek Prime Minister Mr. Mitsotakis is planning to reciprocate with a State visit to New Delhi next week.

The Greek Prime Minister's trip has been timed to coincide with the "Indian Davos", the "Raisina Dialogue", which he will attend and speak as Chief Guest. There will also be a parallel visit by a Greek business delegation led by Deputy Minister Mr. K. Fragogiannis and Sec. General Mrs. M. Myrogianni, which will be visiting the cities of New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

There, in addition to collective meetings between both sides' business groups with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), there will be B2B meetings between Indian and Greek businessmen.

This visit by the Greek Prime Minister will complete the latest phase in Indo-Greek relations, which began with the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Greece last August.

The meeting will effectively confirm that the Greek and Indian leadership have opted to gradually inaugurate , step by step, a special strategic relation between their two countries, of a sort that India currently maintains with only France and Germany.

Their closer communication, will allow a substantial upgrading of relations after many years of inactivity—the last State visit by a Greek Prime Minister to India was by Mr C. Simitis as far back as 2001—, and can lay the foundations for a new era of strategic cooperation and economic partnership between the two countries.

This will certainly be important for both sides, but it will also allow Greece to establish a privileged relationship with this great Asian country, which is expected to be the world's third largest economy by 2030.

The areas on which this cooperation could have a positive impact extend beyond the political, economic and commercial spheres, to include also military cooperation and the related development of areas of bilateral research, given that units from the naval and air forces of the two States have been taking part in joint exercises for a number of years.

The Greek Prime Minister's visit will also allow further discussion on where the IMEC project should go from here, as well as on political and other structural and practical aspects of the creation of the economic corridor connecting the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea, which was decided by the G20 last year.

This project concerns Greece directly, given that the corridor—which is, of course, expected to involve other countries along its route—will end, as our Indian friends believe it will, in Greece, making our country an important commercial channel and entry point for Indian products destined for Western and Eastern Europe.

All of which points—international conjuncture permitting—prove that we are on the verge of a new and important phase in Indo-Hellenic relations, which could certainly be beneficial in any number of areas for both sides.

Over and above political and economic relations, there will certainly also be cooperation in the cultural, academic and touristic spheres, which will encourage and facilitate the creation of the appropriate infrastructure, as well as at the level of Civil Society, given the two nations' significant historical and cultural contribution to world history.

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