

GREEK-INDIAN ECONOMIC FORUM

Spring 2022

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“With bonds dating back to pre-Alexandrian times, Greece aspires to strategic relations with India.”

Greek FM Nikos Dendias during his visit to New Delhi

Strategic relations are based on common values

This year started optimistically with the resumption of flights and lifting of travel restrictions for European and Indian citizens imposed due to the pandemic. These measures will facilitate the movement of entrepreneurs and their products, which is necessary for the further development of international trade and economic relations. Overall, the economy is rebounding strongly, Greece's GDP growth in 2021 stood at 8,5 percent, one of the highest among the EU members. Growth is expected to be 4,9 percent in 2022, with the unemployment rate already descending to the pre-pandemic levels. The significant improvement of the economic indicators in the bilateral economic relations between Greece and India makes us even more optimistic. In 2021 a significant increase of 74,6% of Greece's exports to India was recorded, which amounted to € 134,3 million from € 76,9 million the previous year. Imports from India increased and amounted to € 699,2 million from € 415,1 million, also marking a significant increase of 68,4%, with the result that the volume of bilateral trade increased by 69,4%, amounting to € 833 million, setting a record for the last five years.

Today, 75 years after declaring its independence, India is emerging as a global power and is projected to soon become the most populous country in the world with one in 6 people on the planet being Indian, India is a G20 member worth € 3 trillion and a leading actor in the Indo-Pacific, home to nearly two-thirds of the world economy.

However, with the escalation of the geopolitical situation due to the Russia – Ukraine war, the global whirlwinds of high inflation, the supply disruptions of goods and food products, and the energy crisis, the



future of global economic growth is uncertain. More than 23 years after the end of the war in Yugoslavia and 48 years after Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, Europe is facing again a military conflict, with a danger to turn into a global catastrophe. Governments must seek a peaceful settlement rather than a military and economic confrontation.

In this challenging context, Greece and the EU are seeking to develop strategic ties with India. This intention is also supported by India. The political ties between Greece and India are now stronger than ever, after three meetings over the last months, between the Foreign Ministers of Greece and India in Athens, Paris, and New Delhi, which were followed by the official visits of the President of the EU to India and the visit of the Indian PM in Europe.

Greece and India are two pillars of the world civilization on which the cultures of the West and the East have been based. Therefore, they have a historical duty to once again play a leading role in promoting world peace and the spiritual well-being of humanity. The oldest democracy Greece and the largest democracy India can rely on each other as cultural and strategic part-

ners giving by example directions to the rest of the world.

One such example was set by India when it expressed its global solidarity by sending millions of free vaccines from its initially limited production to less economically developed countries. And when the situation worsened for India, the European Union, including Greece, in its turn sent medical aid to the country in need.

The uncovering of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Athens and the painting exhibition in New Delhi last year dedicated to 200 years since the Greek Revolution are two important steps in the strengthening of Greek-Indian friendly and economic relations through a better historical and cultural understanding.

High-ranking decision-makers from the areas of business, politics, education, and culture should join hands in creating an environment in which economic growth and material prosperity can walk side by side with the values that nurtured international law and human values. Only then strategic relations between the West and the East, Europe and India, will become truly feasible. ■

Dr. Dimitrios Th. Vassiliadis
President of ELINEPA & Editor



Chennai, Mumbai



Bamgalore, Karnataka



Athens, Greece



Nepal Chamber
of Commerce

Katmandhu, Nepal



All Handicrafts & Home Furnishing Development
Association, New Delhi & Bhopal



Message by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Diplomacy and Openness

Throughout the years, bilateral relations between Greece and India stand at an excellent level, based on the shared common values of democracy, freedom and the rule of law. Our bilateral relations are marked by rich civilization linkages and currently there is also a new impetus to the economic relations between our two countries.

This was confirmed during the recent 8th session of the Greek- Indian Joint Economic Committee, on April 15, 2022. What we have agreed upon is to further enhance our economic and commercial relations, to encourage exchanges, explore opportunities and facilitate cooperation with particular emphasis on economy and trade, energy - especially renewable energy resources - but also maritime transport, defense, and culture.

India's successful participation in Thessaloniki International Fair/HELEXPO 2019 as the honored country was a milestone towards further reinforcement of our bilateral economic and trade relations.

Our bilateral trade recorded significant growth in 2021, reaching a peak of €833,4 million. However, there is still ample room for improvement. The

Memorandum of Understanding signed recently between Enterprise Greece and Invest in India - the respective Greek and Indian official investment and trade promotion agencies – is expected to function as a tool for the strengthening and expansion of the business ties among Greek and Indian entities, as well as for the encouragement of the bilateral foreign direct investment (FDI) flows.

With Greek economy having overcome a challenging decade of crisis, followed by the global financial crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, I am confident that the strategic and friendly relations between our two countries, along with our mutual desire to strengthen and develop our economic cooperation, shall lead to a prosperous future of collaboration and mutually beneficial prospects.

Our government's stated policy is to make Greece the focus of attention for investors across the world. Greece's development law aims at attracting foreign investments by creating a friendlier and more functional investment environment. We welcome Indian companies wishing to invest in Greece to profit from these opportunities.

We also encourage the exchange of targeted business delegations between our countries, organized by Business Associations and Chambers of Commerce (Hellenic-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Economy), as well as the increase of Indian businesses' participation in trade and investment exhibitions in Greece.

I am confident that the Air Services Agreement

ratified by the Greek Parliament last February, will significantly contribute to the commencement of direct flights between several points in both countries, and further develop our bilateral touristic, cultural, commercial and economic relations.

Greece and India also share a common objective of promoting Renewable Energy Sources, since they both dispose significant solar and wind potential. Furthermore, hydrogen, offshore wind, energy storage and energy efficiency are fields of common interest. The signing and recent ratification by the Greek Parliament of the Framework Agreement for the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as well as the MoU on Cooperation in the Field of New and Renewable Energy, constitute significant steps towards the implementation of synergies in the field of RES.

There are also significant prospects for the deepening of economic and commercial cooperation between Greece and India, in the fields of high technology and tourism. Cooperation of research organizations from both India and Greece in the fields noted above; presents a great potential. Furthermore, the elaboration of joint research personnel exchange programs, joint research projects and capacity-building programs are promising areas of cooperation.

Tourism plays a significant role in terms of promoting and reinforcing our economic cooperation, being at the forefront of our economies and having an important contribution to our GDPs. And it is true that we have made great steps forward in the field through the participation of the Greek National

Tourism Organization at the International Tourism Exhibition “Outbound Travel Mart” from 2017 to 2020, as well as through the participation of India at the 84th International Exhibition of Thessaloniki in 2019 as the honored country.

Aiming at exploring new fields of cooperation, Greece and India are ready to work together in the field of film and audiovisual production. In this context, Greece proposes the cooperation between the competent Greek and Indian authorities on promoting the cinematography of both countries, exchanging of expertise and supporting Greek and Indian professionals who choose India and Greece as a production location for their film or TV series.

In closing, I would also like to congratulate India on the resilience and performance of its economy which not only managed to grow faster than any major economy last year, but also swiftly reached the pre-Covid levels, while keeping diversifying with an eye on the future. With the Greek economy having overcome a challenging decade of crisis, followed by the global financial crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. I am confident that the strategic and friendly relations between our two countries, along with our mutual desire to strengthen and develop our economic cooperation, shall lead to a prosperous future of collaboration and mutually beneficial prospects. ■

Konstantinos Fragkogiannis

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
for Economic Diplomacy and Openness



भारत का राजदूत, एथेंस
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA, ATHENS



I am glad to know that the Hellenic-Indian Society for Culture and Development (ELINEPA) is bringing out the second issue of its annual financial magazine "Greek Indian Economic Forum" in the electronic format with the aim to provide information on the latest trends and developments in Indian and Greek economy.

The relations between India and Greece, despite challenges posed by the pandemic, have shown an upward trend, and have a big significance, especially as India celebrates 75 years of its independence and Greece commemorated 200 years of its war of Independence.

Following the Foreign Office consultations between India and Greece and virtual meeting between External Affairs Minister of India and Foreign Minister of Hellenic Republic in October 2020, H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India paid an official visit to Greece in June 2021 during which he met his counterpart H.E. Mr. Nikos Dendias and held a meeting with Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Foreign Minister H.E. Mr.

Nikos Dendias also visited India in March 2022 on an official visit.

The 8th session of the Joint Economic Committee between India and Greece was held in Athens on 14th April 2022. The Indian delegation was led by the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, H.E. Mrs. Anupriya Patel and the Greek delegation was led by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, H.E. Mr. Konstantinos Fragkogiannis.

The recent exchange of high-level visits and the increasing trade between the countries are testimony of strengthening bilateral and commercial relations between India and Greece.

I avail of this opportunity to wish ELINEPA and encourage its members to continue their efforts to cultivate educational, social, cultural and economic cooperation between the people of India and Greece.

Amrit Lugun

Ambassador of India to the Hellenic Republic



CONTENTS

Editorial

2. Strategic relations are based on common values



Messages

4-5. Message by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
for Economic Diplomacy and Openness
Mr. Konstantinos Fragkogiannis



6. Message by H.E. the Ambassador of India to Greece
Shree Amrit Lugun



Greek - Indian News

9. Unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Athens

10-11. Official visits of the MFA of India

Dr. S. Jaishankar to Athens and of the FM of Greece
Mr. Nikos Dendias to New Delhi

12-13. Official visit of the Union MoS for Commerce and Industry Smt. Anupriya S. Patel to Greece



14. 8th Session of India - Greece Joint Economic Committee (JEC)

15. Padma Shri Award conferred to Greek Indologist
Prof. Nicholas Kazanas

Economy

16. Greece-India Bilateral Trade Relations

17. EU-India: Trade in goods - statistics

19-21. Forthcoming Economic Events in Greece

22. Forthcoming Economic Events in India

23-27. India - Greece: Strengthening Bilateral Economic
and Commercial relations



Discovering Greece

44-45. Pieria - The land of Gods

Education

27. Athens Center for Indian & Indo-Hellenic Studies

33-34. "Greece - An Ideal place to Study for International
Students" by Anthony Papadopoulos



35. DIAN training activities

Health

37-38. "Ayurveda and its global financial potential" by
Dr. Nikolaos Kostopoulos

39. Holistic Health Centre, Athens

40. Genelabs - Collaboration in the health sector →

Contents

Technology

- 42-43. "Can a machine be conscious?" by Ioannis K. Afentakis

Culture

46. India – honored country at the Olympus Festival 2023
50-51. 8th Bollywood and Multicultural Dance Festival



52. Theatrical Play: Ramayana
54-55. Painting exhibition for the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution
55. The island of Lefkada becomes a spot of attraction for Bollywood

Publications

- 28-29. The first issue of the Greek House in Davos magazine
29. ELINEPA Publications - Indological Studies
56. Hindi Poetry - "Ek Tinka" by Christina Arora

Opinions

18. "Doing Business with Greece is India's strategic priority" by Dr. Asif Iqbal
30. "Greek-Indian Trade Revised" by Prof. Dipak Malik

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Editor:

Dimitrios Th. Vassiliadis

Contributors to this issue:

Antony Papadopoulos
Asif Iqbal
Charis Chaideftos (Research)
Christina Arora
Christos Voliotis
David Hitch (Design)
Dipak Malik
Ioannis K. Afentakis
James Mimikos
Nikolaos Kostopoulos
Nikos Koundourakis (Design)
Padmavati Jain (Research)

49. "Karmakshetre: Observations in the business field" by James Mimikos & Christos Voliotis

Business Proposals

31. Vagias: Exporting high quality Table Olives and Extra Virgin Olive Oil from Greece
32. Ktima Gerovasiliou: Exporting high quality wine from the region of Macedonia in North Greece



41. Life Care Phito Labs in Chennai, India
46. Hellas-Phone: Importing and distributing technology in Greece
48. Kouniniotis: Dried Fruits all over the world
53. Agelidakis K&H Partnership: Importing Fishery materials

Services

20. New Kyros Financial Group
36. Indo-Greek legal services
36. Siampani Architects
47. Alesta: Investments in Greece



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Greek-Indian Economic Forum

15 Nik. Florou Str., Athens 11524, Greece
Tel. 2114081462, 2103846757
59/4 Gandhi Road, Dehradun
Uttarakhand - 248001, India
Telefax +91 135 2733960

email: info@elinepa.org, info@giba-network.org

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Unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Athens

The unveiling of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi was held on Saturday, June 26, 2021, by the Ministers of External Affairs of Greece and India Mr. N. Dendias and Dr. S. Jaishankar in a special event organized by the Mayor of Athens Mr. Kostas Bakoyannis in front of the Embassy of India in Athens.

In their addresses at the event, the Mayor and the Ministers expressed their belief that the new statue would act as a strong symbol of friendship and common values between Greece and India, Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias paid tribute to Gandhi's legacy for his country and humanity as a whole, stressing that Greece and India honor his memory by working towards promoting global peace and stability.

In the unveiling ceremony, which due to the pandemic was attended by a few guests, present were the Ambassador of India to Greece Mr. Amrit Lugun, the Chairman of the Greece-India Parliamentary Friendship Group and former Prime Minister Mr. George Papandreou, the chairman of ELINEPA and GIBA Dr. Dimitrios Vassiliadis, ambassadors and diplomats from Greece and other countries and representatives of the press and Greek-Indian cultural and business organizations.

The base of the statue has the phrase of Mahatma Gandhi "THERE IS NO WAY TO PEACE, PEACE IS THE WAY" which characterizes his

predominant belief in non-violence (ahimsa).

The statue of the Father of India in the city of Socrates, whom Mahatma Gandhi admired and characterized as "perfect Satyagrahi" and translated the *Apology of Socrates* for the first time into an Indian language, will act as a strong symbol of friendship between the two countries. ■





Official visits of the MFA of India Dr. S. Jaishankar to Athens and of the FM of Greece Mr. Nikos Dendias to New Delhi

India and Greece enjoy time-trusted relations since historical past, having old and traditional long-standing ties, and both are thriving democracies. Both countries have very good and strong diplomatic relations since the Independence of India (Greece established its Diplomatic Mission in India in 1950, while India opened its Diplomatic Mission in Athens in 1978). India and Greece, both are consistently supporting each other's foreign policy objectives at various international levels. These ties are strengthened by frequent high-level visits including those of Hon'ble Presidents of India to Greece in 2007 and 2018, and of the President of Greece to India in 1982.

In 2021 at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Nikos Dendias, the Minister of External Affairs of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, paid an official visit to Greece on 25-27 June. On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Greek independence, the External Affairs Minister conveyed felicitations of the President and the Prime Minister of India to the Government and the people of Greece. During the visit the External Affairs Minister paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece, and had talks with his counterpart, Mr. Nikos Dendias. He also unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Athens. Both sides shared views on regional and global issues of mutual interest in the context of new geopolitical and geo-economic realities, including the Indo-Pacific, Eastern Mediter-

anean, Cyprus, and Libya. They stressed the need to enhance bilateral ties in many spheres, including the fields of trade and commerce. Greece formally joined the International Solar Alliance.

In 2022 Greek Foreign Minister Mr. Nikos Dendias paid an official visit to India on 22-23 March. During his visit, both sides discussed and explored ways to further strengthen the close and friendly ties between the two countries. They pointed out that trade has shown a significant increase, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Both sides agreed to work together to further enhance collaboration in mutually beneficial sectors such as shipping & maritime, information technology, agriculture, new & renewable energy, and pharmaceuticals. During the visit the Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility was signed. A Cultural and Education Exchange Programme for the five-year period 2022-2026 was signed during the visit. The Greek Foreign Minister handed over the Instrument of Ratification of Greece as a signatory to the Framework Agreement on International Solar Alliance. Both sides discussed the possibility of enhancement of bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership. During his visit, the Greek Foreign Minister called on Hon'ble Vice President Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu and delivered a speech at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi where he announced the reinforcement of the Chair of Greek Studies with a visiting professor from Greece.



Greek FM Nikos Dendias and Indian MEA S. Jaishankar signed the Declaration of Intent on Migration and Mobility and Cultural and Educational Exchange Programme between Greece and India in Delhi



Photo from the dinner organized in honor of the Indian Minister of External Affairs in Athens, (From left):
The Ambassador of India Mr. Amrit Lugun, the President of ELINEPA and GIBA Dr. Dimitrios Vassiliadis, Foreign Minister Mr. Nikos Dendias, Padma Shri Prof. Nicholas Kazanas, Minister of External Affairs Dr. S. Jaisankar, and Former Ambassador of Greece to India Mr. Giannis Zepos. ■



Indian MoS Smt. Anupriya Singh Patei with Greek Minister of Rural Development and Food Mr. George Georgantas

Official visit of the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Smt. Anupriya S. Patel to Greece

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel arrived in Athens on April 14, 2022 to co-chair the 8th meeting of the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) and to have a series of meetings with Greek politicians and members of the Indian diaspora.

The Session's agenda included the strengthening of bilateral trade of goods and services, cooperation in the field of renewable energy, improvement of air and maritime links, as well as the enhancement of cooperation in the tourist sector.

Earlier, the Indian MoS met with the Minister of Rural Development and Food, Mr. Georgios Georgantas. The subject of the discussion, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, was cooperation between the two countries, mainly in the matters of trade in agricultural products and exchange of know-how.

Both sides shared their positive approach towards cooperation in agriculture and hope that the MoU on agriculture would be signed soon, which would open up multiple areas of cooperation.

Smt. Patel also met with Deputy Minister of De-

velopment & Investment Mr. Christos Dimas. The focus of their contacts was the deepening of cooperation in science, research & innovation, agricultural economy, RES, tourism, etc.

During her visit to Athens, the Indian MoS held a number of meetings with members of the Indian community living and working in Greece and offered flowers in memory of Baba Saheb Ambedkar at a special event organized by the Indian Embassy on the occasion of the 131st anniversary of his birth.

She also visited the Benaki Phytopathological Institute (established in 1929) to explore cooperation between the institute and Indian counterparts.

In honor of the Indian Minister, the Embassy of India in Athens organized a reception at a central hotel in Athens which was attended by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Konstantinos Fragkogiannis and members of the Business and Economic community of the country, ELINEPA was represented by its General Secretary Mr. Antonis Papadopoulos and the Greek-Indian Business Association (GIBA) by Director of Public Relations Mr. James Mimikos.



Meeting of the Indian State Minister and members of her mission
with the Deputy Minister of Development & Investment Mr. Christos Dimas



Indian MoS Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel
with GIBA BoD members
Mr. James Mimikos and Mr.
Antonis Papadopoulos. ■



8th Session of India - Greece Joint Economic Committee (JEC)

The 8th Session of the Greece-India Joint Economic Committee, concluded its work on April 15, 2022, in Athens with the signing of the Protocol by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Diplomacy and Openness Mr. Kostas Fragkogiannis and the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry of India Smt. Anupriya Patel.

In their introductory remarks, the Deputy Ministers referred to the excellent level of relations between the two countries, noting the prospects for further strengthening and expanding economic relations in the fields of trade and investment, energy and renewable sources, transport and tourism.

The Greek delegation consisted of the Secretaries-General of the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Mr. Apostolos Dimitropoulos, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food Mr. Konstantinos Baginetas and the Ministry of Tourism Ms. Olympia Anastassopoulou, high-ranking officials from the Ministries of Development and Investment, Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, Health as well as executives of Enterprise Greece, the Civil Protection Authority, Athens Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Hellenic Cinema Center.

Discussions on a wide-range of issues in the economic, commercial and related areas such as agri-

culture, research & innovation, tourism, air services, maritime affairs, investment, energy, education, health & pharmaceuticals, etc. were held. The Committee also examined possibilities of enhancing trade in goods, in particular food, pharmaceuticals and construction materials.

The prospects of direct air connections between Greece and India were discussed as well, following the recent ratification by the Greek Parliament, in February 2022, of the Greece-India air connection agreement signed in 2017.

Upon conclusion of the Committee's work, Mr. Fragkogiannis praised the warm and constructive atmosphere of the talks, which, as he pointed out in a short statement to the Greek National Television (ERT), "prepared the ground for the next big business mission to India scheduled for the coming autumn".

This was the Committee's 8th Session – the previous one was held in New Delhi in 2016 – which confirms the momentum that has been created for the enhancement of economic and trade relations between the two countries, following the recent visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Dendias in New Delhi in March 2022. ■



Ambassador of India Mr. Amrit Lugun presents the Padma Shri Award to Prof. Nicholas Kazanas in the presence of the Minister of Culture & Sports Mrs. Lina G. Mendoni

Padma Shri Award conferred to Greek Indologist Prof. Nicholas Kazanas

A conferment ceremony was organized on March 1, 2022, in Athens to present the Padma Shri Award to the Greek Indologist Prof. Nicholas Kazanas for his distinguished service and contribution to the enrichment of literature and education.

The Ambassador of India to Greece Mr. Amrit Lugun presented to Professor Nikolas Kazanas the Padma Shri Award conferred by H.E. the President of the Republic of India in 2021 and spoke about its importance as it is India's 3rd highest distinction.

Chief Guest H.E. Mrs. Lina G. Mendoni, Minister of Culture & Sports of the Hellenic Republic, presented the Padma Shri medallion to Prof. Kazanas. In her speech, she stressed the importance of cultural contacts that unite Greece and India for millennia and expressed her wish for their further expansion.

Prof. Nikolaos Kazanas, in his speech, thanked the Government of India and the Honorable President for the honor bestowed on him, expressed his joy at receiving this Award and spoke about the philosophical and poetic significance of the Sanskrit language.

The ceremony was attended by several foreign and Greek diplomats, Greek Indologists, representatives of Greek-Indian Cultural Associations and prominent members of the Indian community residing in Greece.

Nicholas Kazanas was born on the Greek island Chios in 1939. He studied English Literature at University College, Economics and Philosophy at the School of Economic Science and Sanskrit at the School of Oriental and African studies – all in London; post-graduate at SOAS and at Deccan College in Pune, (India).

Since 1997 he has turned towards the Vedic Tradition of India and its place in the wider Indo-European culture. This research comprises a thorough examination of Indo-European cultures, comparing their philosophical ideas and values, their languages, mythological issues, and religions. He has also translated the ten principal Upanishads from the original Sanskrit text into Greek and authored several books and articles on Vedic and other philosophical and religious issues. ■

Greece-India Bilateral Trade Relations

The figures from the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) indicate that the trade balance is consistently in deficit to the detriment of Greece. In 2021, a deficit of €564,8 million was recorded as Greek exports amounted to €134,2 million, recording a significant increase of 74,6% compared to 2020, while imports to €699,1 million, recording an increase of 68,4% compared to 2020. The deficit increased by 67 % compared to the corresponding of 2020.

| Bilateral trade between Greece and India (2015-2021, source: ELSTAT) | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Year | Exports | | Imports | | Trade volume | | Surplus / Deficit (-) | |
| | Value | Change % value y,o,y | Value € | Change % value y,o,y | Value € | Change % y,o,y | Value € | Change % y,o,y |
| 2015 | 60.769.475 | 10,7% | 285.196.686 | -41,4% | 345.966.161 | -8,6% | -224.427.211 | -16,5% |
| 2016 | 62.433.328 | 2,7% | 297.735.265 | 6,6% | 360.168.593 | 4,1% | -235.301.937 | 4,8% |
| 2017 | 97.298.688 | 55,8% | 363.291.867 | 56,3% | 460.590.555 | 27,9% | -265.993.179 | 13,0% |
| 2018 | 148.721.275 | 52,9% | 395.569.611 | -17,8% | 544.290.886 | 18,2% | -246.848.336 | -7,2% |
| 2019 | 86.933.823 | -41,5% | 402.273.901 | 1,7% | 489.207.724 | -10,1% | -315.340.078 | 27,7% |
| 2020 | 76.884.863 | -11,5% | 415.109.345 | 3,2% | 492.057.837 | 0,58% | -338.161.189 | -7,24% |
| 2021 | 134.288.327 | 74,6% | 699.158.500 | 68,4% | 833.446.827 | 69,4% | -564.870.173 | 67,03% |

Main Greek exports 2021 - value in € (source: ELSTAT)

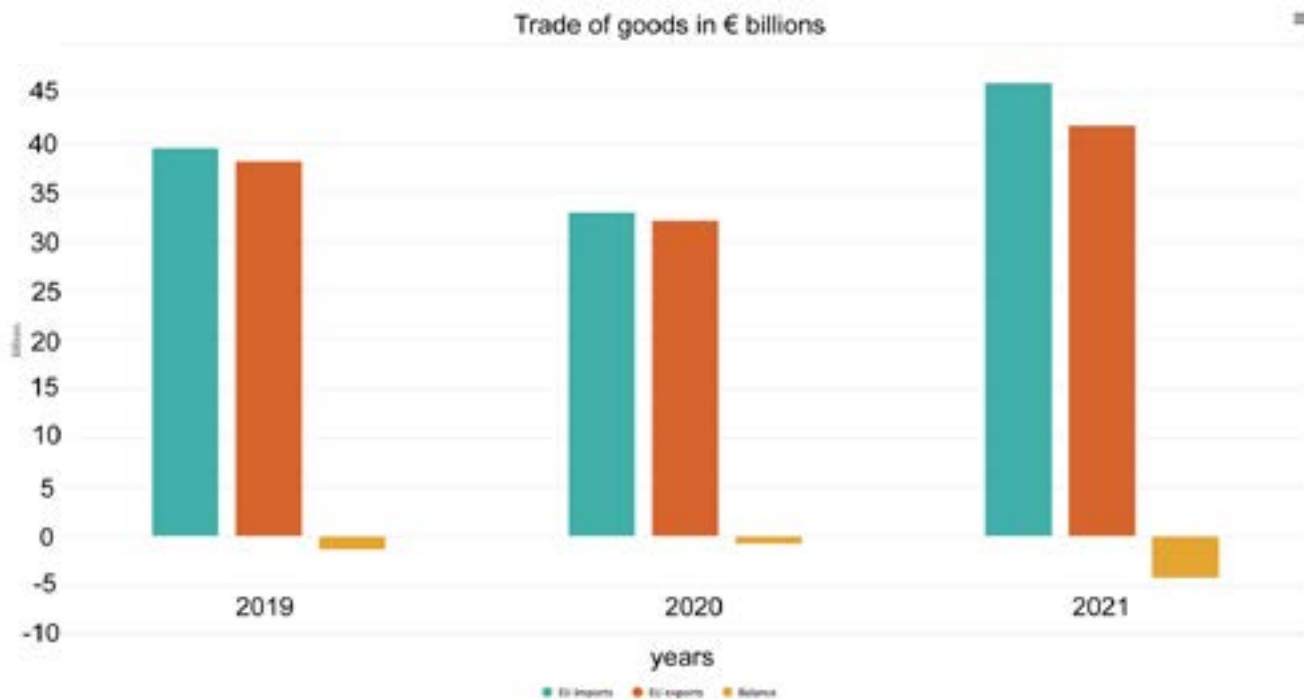
| | |
|---|------------|
| Recycled paper or paperboard (waste and scrap) | 19.986.903 |
| Waste and scrap of aluminum | 15.397.692 |
| Waste and scrap of iron or steel | 13.690.594 |
| Aluminum sheets and thin strips | 11.307.257 |
| Waste and scrap of copper | 9.666.435 |
| Cotton, not carded or combed | 8.512.403 |
| Medicines | 7.094.919 |
| Coating paints and varnishes | 4.436.031 |
| Marbles, travertines, Belgian limestones and other limestones | 3.895.525 |
| Bonders made for foundry molds or cores | 3.089.357 |

Major Indian exports 2020 - value in € (source: ELSTAT)

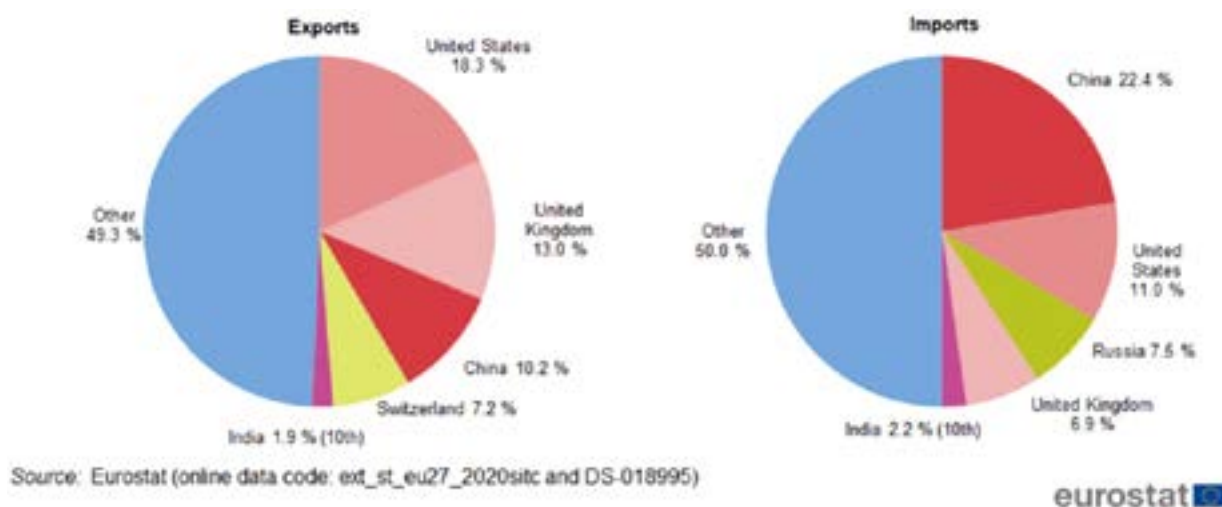
| | |
|--|-------------|
| Aluminum in raw form | 142.082.172 |
| Oils from petroleum or bituminous minerals | 100.444.062 |
| Flat-rolled iron products | 40.331.647 |
| Molluscs, suitable for human consumption | 23.753.393 |
| Heterocyclic compounds only with nitrogen heteroatom (heteroatoms) | 23.147.624 |
| Electric transformers | 18.604.628 |
| Nucleic acids and their salts | 17.181.614 |

EU-India: Trade in goods statistics

By the end of 2021, both exports and imports between the EU and India have been recovered after the sharp fall caused by the Covid-19 crisis in 2020.

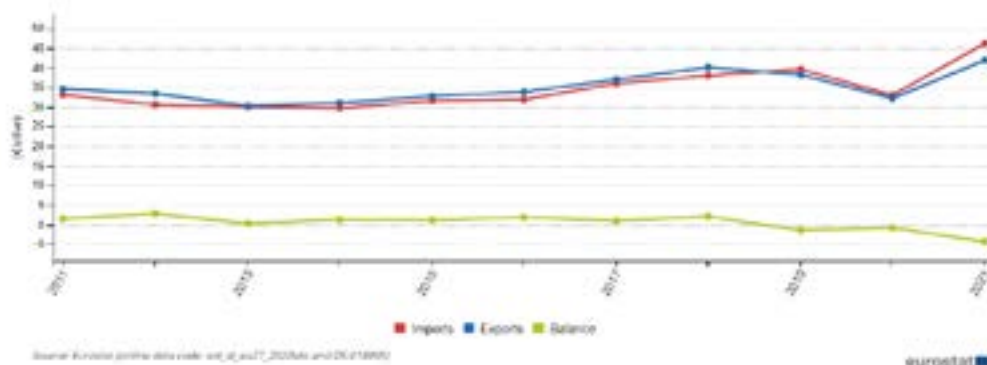


In 2021, India was the tenth largest partner for EU exports of goods (€ 42 billion, 1,9 %) and also the tenth largest partner for EU imports of goods (€ 46 billion, 2,2 %). Among EU Member States, Germany was both the largest importer of goods from and the largest exporter of goods to India in 2021. The position of India among the largest trade partners of the EU in 2021 can be seen in the Figure below.



Both exports to and imports from India increased between 2011 and 2021. 2011 imports increased from 33,1 billion to 46,2 billion and exports increased from 34,6 billion to 41,9 billion in 2021.

Imports, exports and trade balance between the EU and India, 2011-2021



Doing Business with Greece is India's strategic priority

By Dr. Asif Iqbal

President
Indian Economic Trade Organization



It is a well-accepted fact that Greece has geographically and historically been India's gateway to Europe. I must appreciate the relations we have enjoyed with GIBA and its business members, as well as the substantive support received by the Greek Embassy in India. Greece and India have much in common. We are modern nation-states built on the foundations of ancient civilizations. "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" is a timeless Sanskrit phrase that translates to "The World is a Family". It has guided India's external outlook down the ages and continues to do so. As sister civilizations from the earliest days of human society, Greece and India are special members of this family.

Our bilateral political and economic relationship goes back 2,500 years. Greece was the fountainhead of western culture and its imprint extended across continents. In India, too, there is an enormous evidence of Greek travelers, traders, scholars, and warriors interacting with our ancestors. The most famous Greek to come to India was, of course, Alexander the Great. He arrived at the head of an invading army in 326 BC – but he left as a friend. Every Indian schoolchild knows how Alexander and the Indian King Porus fought a pitched battle and then, impressed by each other's courage and dignity, became allies.

Shortly afterwards, Emperor Chandragupta founded the first great Indian empire, the "Mauryan Empire", which covered much of the Indian subcontinent. Chandragupta, who was known to Greeks of the

time as Sandrocottos, was helped in his mission by Seleucus Nicator. Seleucus was Alexander's general and founded his own Greek empire in Asia.

It is believed that Chandragupta married Helen, the daughter of Seleucus and she became his queen. Seleucus sent Megasthenes to Chandragupta's court as, perhaps, the first Greek ambassador to India. Fortunately for us, besides being a diplomat, Megasthenes was a scholar, historian, and ethnographer. His travelogue "Indica" remains one of the best-known accounts of ancient India.

A fusion of Greek and Indian cultural influences gave rise to what is termed "Greco-Buddhist art" and to the "Gandhara School of art and sculpture". The Greek geographer Ptolemy mapped the seven islands that today make up the city of Mumbai. He called this collection of islands "Heptanesia", which is the Greek term for "seven islands". More recently, in 18th and 19th century India, there was a flourishing community of Greek businessmen, and traders in spices, jute, and other commodities. The Greek Orthodox Church in Kolkata still stands proudly with its impressive Doric columns.

I have given you only a few examples of the exchanges between Greece and India since antiquity. There are, of course, several more. Yet, to my mind, the most important attribute we share is a commonality in values. Athens, is regarded as the "cradle of democracy". In ancient India, too, there was a tradition of "city-repub-

lics", such as the "Licchavi republic" in the modern state of Bihar. The values of liberal democracy, public sovereignty and transparent government continue to guide us and are cornerstones of India's relations with Greece and with the European Union. Ours is a partnership of principles. It is much more than a transaction. It is a friendship tested by time, by cherished beliefs – and by sacrifice.

Like you, we recognise and believe that the "age of empires" is over. The 21st century will be built by democracies, such as ours – democracies that place a premium and a priority on the wellbeing of citizens; on jobs and opportunities for local communities, and on a global development model that is economically viable, ecologically sustainable and ethical in its architecture.

This is the perfect time for India and Greece to increase bilateral co-operation. Greece could also procure defence systems from India and I am optimistic about the possibility of India and Greece jointly developing their co-operation in strategic research and innovation.

The possibility of a strategic partnership between India and Greece is not new and goes back to 2011 when Greece and India agreed to cooperate on combating terrorism and counter-piracy in the Indian Ocean and we must prioritise bilateral relations from a security point of view as well. ■

www.ieto.online



Forthcoming Economic Events in Greece

| Date | Event | Link |
|--------------------|--|---|
| MAY 21-23 | 12 TH HEALTH EXPO ATHENS | https://www.pharmamanager.gr/index.php/en/12th-health-expo |
| JUNE 6-10 | POSIDONIA | https://posidonia-events.com/ |
| JULY 4-8 | 12 TH NANOTECHNOLOGY EXPO | https://www.nanotechnology.com/ |
| JULY 16-24 | COSPAR 2022 - COMMITTEE ON SPACE RESEARCH | https://www.cosparathens2022.org/ |
| SEPT. 10-18 | THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FAIR | https://www.thessalonikifair.gr/en |
| SEPT. 15-18 | ATHENS FASHION TRADE SHOW | https://www.athensfashiontrade-show.gr/en/ |
| SEPT. 28 - OCT. 9 | 28 TH ATHENS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL | https://en.aiff.gr/ |
| SEPT. 29 - OCT. 01 | GLOBAL INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY EVENT | https://www.beyond-expo.gr/ |
| SEPT. 30 - OCT. 02 | 11 TH EXHIBITION OF CHEMICALS EQUIPMENT & QUALITY CONTROL | https://chem-ecolink.gr/ |
| OCT. 20-23 | 29 TH INTERNATIONAL FAIR FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES | https://agrotica.helexpo.gr/en/ |
| OCT. 21-23 | ATHENS SCIENCE FESTIVAL | https://www.athens-science-festival.gr/ |
| OCT. 26-28 | 2 ND EDITION SENSORS TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - SENSORS 2022 | https://www.setcor.org/conferences/sensors-2022 |
| OCT. 26-28 | 7 TH EDITION SMART MATERIALS & SURFACES CONFERENCE - SMS 2022 | https://www.setcor.org/conferences/sms-2022 |
| OCT. 26-28 | NANOMEDICINE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - NANOMED 2022 | https://www.setcor.org/conferences/nanomed-2022 |
| NOV. 03-05 | 9 TH ATHENS INTERNATIONAL TOURISM & CULTURE EXPO | https://aite.gr/en/ |
| NOV. 18-20 | 37 TH INTERNATIONAL TOURISM EXHIBITION (PHILOXENIA) | https://philoxenia.helexpo.gr/en |
| MARCH 18-20, 2023 | FOOD EXPO | https://foodexpo.gr |
| APRIL | DELPHI ECONOMIC FORUM VIII | https://delphiforum.gr |
| MAY 9-11, 2023 | DEFEA (INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE & SECURITY EXHIBITION) | https://defea.gr |



The HELLENIC INVESTORS ASSOCIATION (HELINAS) and the EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF INVESTORS & FINANCIAL SERVICES USERS (BETTER FINANCE) will hold a joint International Conference in Athens, on Thursday 16th of June 2022 |

“A New Era: Building on Investor Protection, Engagement & Stewardship, Sustainable Growth & Pension Reforms in Greece”

The purpose of the Conference is to highlight Investment Opportunities, Challenges, Financing of Sustainable Investments, and Investor Protection in Greece, as well as to take advantage of the opportunities and perspectives presented by the ongoing Greek Pension System's Reforms.

The conference will be attended by representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Supervisory Authorities and the European Investors & Insurers Association, Greek and Foreign Investors, Institutions, representatives of Financial Institutions, as well as Insurance Companies, Insurers and Insured individuals & entities.

We invite you to honor us with your presence and/or become a sponsor of the International Conference. Our Sponsorship Packages include a wide range of sponsorship activities, achieving maximum international visibility. For more information, see the link: <https://www.helinas.gr/el/xorhgies>

For your participation in the Conference (Individual or Corporate Participation), please visit the webpage: <https://www.helinas.gr/el/forma-eggrafs-sinedriou>

For the Hellenic Investors Association,
Kyriakopoulos Ioannis
Chairman



NEW KYROS FINANCIAL GROUP is a company providing financial advice and brokering to invest in all types of property (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real estate etc.) for Greek and foreign individuals and institutional investors (and through Golden Visa). The Group includes KYROS LAW OFFICES (Law Firm with Specialization and Awards in Capital Market Law), and the HELLENIC INVESTORS ASSOCIATION.



2022 GFCC “Global innovation Summit” in Athens

The Delphi Economic Forum VII welcomed in the historic town of Delphi its content partner Council on Competitiveness and Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC).

The GFCC organized two panels chaired by Deborah Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness where distinguished leaders from Greece, Malaysia, Brazil, US, Portugal, and Saudi Arabia participated as speakers in the Forum.

The Delphi Economic Forum is honored to continue the successful cooperation with GFCC and announce the organization of the 2022 GFCC “Global innovation Summit” in Athens-Greece on November 14-17. The event is co-hosted by GFCC, Delphi economic Forum and Compete.gr



Thessaloniki International Fair 10-18 Sept 2022

Thessaloniki International Fair is an institution; an established exhibition event that is integrally linked to the history of Greece’s economic and cultural growth.

To this day, since its foundation in 1926, it reflects the momentum and trends of domestic and international entrepreneurship.

This year’s event seeks to highlight the dynamics and prospects of the market with the most modern services and technologies offered, hosting for one more year a wide range of Greek and International entrepreneurship and productivity with emphasis on small and medium enterprises.



Forthcoming Economic Events in India

| Date | Event | Link |
|----------------------|--|---|
| MAY 21-22 | INDIAN PROPERTY EXPO 2022 | https://www.indianpropertyexpo.in/index.php?id=social |
| MAY 26-28 | PAINTINDIA 2022 | http://www.paintindia.in/ |
| MAY 29 | FBO INDIA FRANCHISE EVENT | https://fboindia.com/ |
| JUNE 1-4 | FPE FOOD PROTEC EXPO 2022 | https://www.eventbrite.com/e/food-protec-expo-2022-tickets-217103260697?aff=ebdssbdest-search |
| JUNE 4-6 | WORLD ENVIRONMENT EXPO | https://worldenvironment.in/ |
| JUNE 7 | CYPRUS BUSINESS SUMMIT | https://www.imhbusiness.com/events/cyprus-business-summit-india-2022/ |
| JUNE 24,25 | BIOPLASTEX 2022 | https://bioplastex.com/ |
| JULY 4-5 | 1 ST CULTURAL AND BUSINESS FORUM OF GREECE AND INDIA IN NEW DELHI | https://indiangreekforum.com/ |
| JULY 15-18 | AGRI INTEX | https://www.agriintex.codissia.com/ |
| AUG 4-6 | GAR-TEX EXPO | https://www.gartexindia.com/ |
| AUG 5-6 | RENEWABLE ENERGY INDIA EXPO | https://www.renewableenergyindiaexpo.com/about-expo |
| AUG 19-20 | HYDERABAD INTERNATIONAL MACHINE TOOL & ENGINEERING EXPO | https://himtex.in/ |
| AUG 21-22 | FRANCHISE INDIA 2022 | https://www.franchiseindia.com/expo/ |
| SEPT 1-3 | BIOFACH INDIA | https://www.biofach-india.com/ |
| SEPT 1-9 | INDIA SURFACE TREATMENT & FINISHING EXPO | https://www.istfe.com/ |
| SEPT 14-16 | ANUTEC (INTERNATIONAL FOODTEC INDIA) | https://anutecindia.com/ |
| SEPT 16-17 | DRIVE ELECTRIC EXPO 2022 | https://www.driveelectricexpo.com/ |
| SEPT 21-24 | IMTOS (INDIA MACHINE TOOLS SHOW) | https://kdclglobal.com/ |
| SEPT. 21-23 | FOOD INGREDIENTS INDIA | https://www.figlobal.com/india/en/home.html |
| NOV 10-12 | LEATHER ASIA EXPO CO-LOCATED WITH SHOE TECHNOLOGY EXPO | https://leatherasiaexpo.com/ |
| FEBRUARY 20-22, 2023 | INDIA STEEL | https://www.indiasteelexpo.in/# |
| MAR 20-23, 2023 | CONVERGENCE INDIA EXPO | https://www.convergenceindia.org/ |

India – Greece: Strengthening Bilateral Economic and Commercial relations



India-Greece Interaction on Trade and Investment Opportunities

The Embassy of India, Athens, in collaboration with Enterprise Greece organized a business meeting, namely “India-Greece Interaction on Trade and Investment Opportunities” on 17/02/2022.

The event was organized with the aim to focus on bilateral trade and export promotion, as well as, to explore the opportunities of further collaboration between India and Greece in the area of trade and investment. The common interest areas regarding exports and investments were in the fields of food and beverages, industrial products, consumer products, etc., and the exploration of opportunities in the field of technology, tourism, jewelry, etc.

The event was hosted by the Ambassador of India to Greece, H.E. Mr. Amrit Lugun, who referred to the traditional long-term ties between the two countries and the scope for their further strengthening.

The exceptional level of relations between the two countries was also praised by the CEO of Enterprise Greece, Mr. George Filiopoulou, who, after thanking the Embassy of India for the initiative of organizing the meeting, stated that: “India and Greece have excellent relations, which are further strengthened by such meetings. Having the second largest population in the world and an ever-growing middle class, India is an important market for Greek companies and a priority for Enterprise Greece. Greece,

like India, has a highly educated workforce with a high percentage of scientists, engineers and doctors and is emerging as a hub of technology and innovation in Southeast Europe. This opens up possibilities for further cooperation in new areas, such as research and innovation, and we are very pleased to see, here today, the strong interest of the Indian side for a Greek start-up system”.

The event, which was held in the hybrid mode, was attended, by officials from Enterprise Greece, Embassy of India, Athens, GMR, Optima Bank, and Business organizations from Greece, namely, Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hellenic Federation of Industry and Association of Jewellery Companies. Business Organizations from India, namely, Invest India, FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM participated in the virtual format. ■



“Discover India”: Event organized by Enterprise Greece, SEV, ACCI and SEVE for business opportunities in India

Enterprise Greece organized a virtual event “Discover India” in cooperation with Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV), the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), and the Greek Exporters’ Association (SEVE) on March 29, 2022, aimed at strengthening economic and commercial relations between Greece and India, by informing Greek Business Community and export companies about the opportunities available in India, a large consumer market, characterized by a young population and healthy savings rates. This event was a follow-up of the business meeting “India-Greece Interaction on Trade and Investment Opportunities” organized

by Embassy of India, Athens in collaboration with Enterprise Greece on 17/02/2022.

The event, with the participation of around 70 companies and institutions, took place in three segments: first, on Greek-Indian Bilateral Relations addressed by the Ambassador of Greece to India, H.E. Mr. Dionysis Kyvetos and the Ambassador of India to Greece H.E. Mr. Amrit Lugun. The second section focused on business and investment opportunities presented by the Indian market, and in the last segment, Greek companies exporting to India shared their views and experience on Indian market. ■

Virtual meeting between SME Chamber of India & Eurobank Greece

Embassy of India, Athens, organized a virtual event on 27/01/2022 to connect Eurobank with SME Chamber of India/Federation of Indian SME Associations for enhancement of business and trade relations between persons/firms in India and Greece.

During the virtual meeting, ample opportunities with regards to trade and business were explored and discussed. ■



FOOD EXPO 2022 – India’s Participation



The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, set up the Indian Pavilion at the 7th Edition of FOOD EXPO 2022 (physical form) from 12-14 March 2022, at Metropolitan Expo Exhibition Center in Athens. The Indian Pavilion was inaugurated by H.E. the Ambassador of India in Greece, Mr. Amrit Lugun.

48 Indian companies from the

food and beverages sector showcased the strength of the Indian Food industry to Greek and international

buyers, especially in products such as dairy, spices, rice, pulses, tea, and food/bakery machinery.

Participation of Indian Companies in a large scale in Food Expo 2022 provided a platform for closer engagements and interactions with relevant business partners (Local/foreign companies) and will surely enhance India’s external linkages. FOOD EXPO 2022 with the participation of 28,600 Greek and foreign decision-makers from the Food & Beverage businesses is the industry’s leading commercial forum in South East Europe. ■



India's Participation in the 36th PHILOXENIA 2021, Thessaloniki

The Embassy of India participated at the 36th International Tourism Exhibition 'Philoxenia 2021' (12-14 November 2021) at Thessaloniki, Greece's second-largest city to promote tourism, in line with GOI's vision to promote 3Ts – trade, tourism, technology. The divergent and colorful Indian stall was one of the most attractive stopover for the visitors, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Incredible India campaigns were also displayed / publicized during the event.

In the international tourism trade fair, held annually at the International Exhibition and Congress Center (HELEXPO), participated 235 exhibitors representing 12 countries and also the Greek Ministry of Tourism and many local regional and municipal authorities. ■



Webinar on “Exploring business potential between India and Greece”

On September 9, 2021, the Millennial India International Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (MIICCIA) organized, with the support of the Embassy of India in Athens, a Webinar on the subject “Exploring business potential between India and Greece”.

Distinguished speakers were the President of MIICCIA Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, the Ambassador of India to Greece Mr. Amrit Lugun, Board of Directors of the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) Mr. Fanis Matsopoulos, Board of Directors of GIBA Mr. James Mimikos and Mr. Yannis Bellas, CEO, Belas F. & Son S.A. ■



Prakash Hinduja receives the 2021 Who-is-Who Award in Greece



The President of the Hinduja Group in Europe Mr. Prakash Hinduja was honored among other prominent personalities from the business and artistic world with the 2021 Who-is-Who award in Greece in a spectacular ceremony organized on September 30 at the idyllic “environment” of Lake Vouliagmeni in Athens.

The event was honored by the presence of members of the government, MPs, such as the Minister of Justice Costas Tsiaras, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy George Amyras, the Deputy Minister of Tourism Sofia Zacharaki, the Regional Governor of Attika George Patoulis, the Parliamentary Representative of Nea Dimokratia Haris Theocharis and A Sua Eccellenza Reverendissima Athens, Nunzio Apostolico S.E.R. Mons. Savio HON Eccellenza Vostra, the Chairman of GIBA Dr. Dimitrios Vassiliadis and others.

Prakash Hinduja and his family visit Greece very often. Their company participated in Thessaloniki

International Fair seeking to expand its activities in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean region. The company employs more than 150,000 people and is involved in a wide range of activities including import-export, trading, motor vehicles, banking, and healthcare. Its presence can be found even in the media area with strong participation in cable television networks.

The Who is Who International Awards have been instituted by Who is Who Greece, a Publishing Group of Companies. The purpose of the awards is to promote prominent Greeks and Philhellenes, creativity, competence and ethics in Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Science, Art, Academia and Social Responsibility as well as the restoration of morality and redefinition of the globality of Hellenism. There are five award categories and approximately 20 major and important personalities are awarded from the fields of Business, Science, Art, Academic and Social contribution. ■

GIBA's Participation in the Indo-Global Entrepreneurship Conclave



Delhi, May 27, 2022

“Accelerating Business Growth in the Post Covid Scenario.”

To commemorate the monumental occasion of India@75, which is celebrated by the Government of India as Amrut Mahotsav - for a resurgent, Atma Nirbhar Bharat, this conclave has been envisioned to create a favourable environment for business start-ups and to promote entrepreneurship ecosystem approach to become a catalyst in boosting the Indian economy in the post Covid19 period.

This mega corporate event has also been aspired to be an assemblage of luminaries hailing from

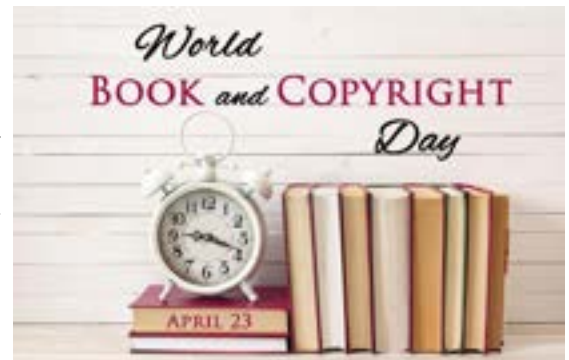
Government, Foreign Embassies, Think Tanks, Business Chambers, Academia, Media and Entertainment industry.

Mr. James Mimikos, Board of Directors of GIBA, introduced the Greek Indian Business Association as a member driven organization and he will cover various areas, in which our members are active, including film production incentives, food processing, agriculture, wines, IT investments, Golden Visas, property, finance and more. ■

GIBA's Participation in the World Book & Copyright Day

Greek writer and GIBA Board of Directors member Mr. James Mimikos participated in the World Book & Copyright Day organized online on April 23 2022 by the Indian Reprographic Rights Organization (IPPR) and The Federation of Indian Publishers.

The four sessions were 1 Transforming role of IP in the era of technology, 2 Copyright and artificial intelligence, 3 Copyright and education sector, and 4 Monetization of intellectual assets into a sustaining business. ■



Meeting with the President of the Poland-India Business Council



The Ambassador of India to Greece Mr. Amrit Lugun hosted a dinner on June 16, 2021 for Mr. Jagadeswara Rao Maddukuri, President of the Poland-India Business Council (PIBC), who visited Greece, Also present were Mr. Rajendran Samykannu, Second Secretary of the Embassy of India, and James P. Mimikos, Greek-Indian Business Association (GIBA) Board Member.

The meeting provided a good opportunity to exchange views on how to further enhance the business co-operation between Greece, Poland and India.

PIBC actively promotes Polish-Indian business for many years now and its President Mr. Maddukuri expressed a strong interest in signing a Memorandum of Understanding with GIBA for the India-Greece-Poland connection. ■



The first issue of the Greek House in Davos magazine

A special edition full of articles from the leaders of the business world and key members of the Greek government will be distributed in Davos, Switzerland, 22-26 of May 2022 during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting. Experts in their respective fields, write about the most important issues concerning the Economy, Geopolitics, Environment and Culture.

- Christos Staikouras Minister of Finance “Aligning economic growth and sustainability targets: a strategic priority for Greece”,
- Adonis Georgiadis Minister of Development & Investments “Now is the best time to invest in Greece”,
- Ioannis Plakiotakis Minister for Shipping and Insular Policy “Greek-owned fleet to play a crucial role in securing EU’s energy diversification”,
- Kostas Fragkogiannis Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs “Economic Diplomacy and Openness”,
- Dr Christos Dimas Deputy Minister of Development and Investments, responsible for Research and Innovation “Transforming Greece into a research and innovation hub for South-Eastern Europe”,
- Ioannis Smyrlis General Secretary of International Economic Relations and Outreach, Greek Foreign Ministry “Greece: A key actor in global cooperation within the Southeast Europe and Eastern Mediterranean regions”,
- Alex Patelis Chief Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of Greece “Take a look at Greece”,
- Athina Chatzipetrou President & CEO Hellenic Development Bank “Hellenic Development Bank An efficient promotional institute for Greece”,
- Simos Anastasopoulos President Council on Competitiveness of Greece “Increased confidence attracts investment”, →

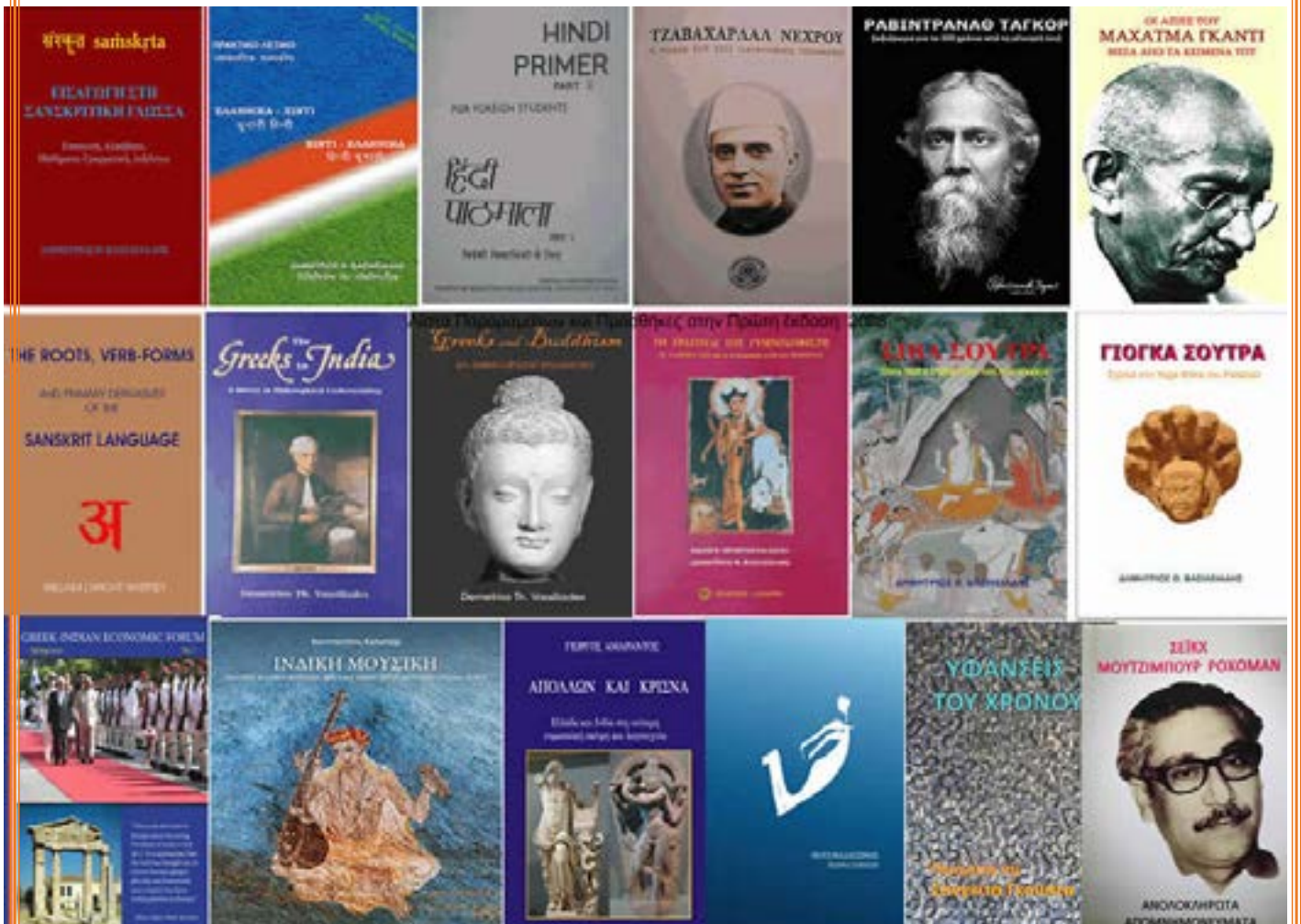
- Panagiotis Liargovas Scientific Director, Greek National Productivity Board & Chairman of the Board and Scientific Director, Centre of Planning and Economic Research (KEPE) “Macroeconomic developments and productivity growth”,
- John E, Charalambakis Managing Director BlackSummit Financial Group “The Hendiadys Way of Investment Pivoting: A Lion AND a Fox; a Serpent AND a Dove”,
- Christian Hadjiminis Chairman EFA GROUP, Vice President Hellenic Entrepreneurs Association (EENE) “Greek defense industry: A remarkable turnaround”,
- Vasilis Stenos CEO, Environmental Engineer, EU Climate Impact Ambassador, ESGs expert farming, Circular Bioeconomy, EU Climate Impact Ambassador, ESGs expert “The dawn of vertical microalgae in Greece also tackles climate change”,
- Dimitris Fragakis General Secretary of the Greek National Tourism Organization “Luxury Tourism in Greece: A Growth Industry!”,
- Spyridon Flogaitis Docteur en Droit, Docteur en Histoire Diplômé de l'Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes-IVème Section Environmental protection needs nations coopération”,
- Costis Stambolis Chairman and Executive Director at IENE - Institute of Energy for South - East Europe “Greece’s New Energy Path”,
- Nikos Salapataras Chairman of the International Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHAF) Chairman of Salas Group “Resilience in times of humanitarian crises: The linkages between food security, migration and sustainable development. The perspective of the International Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHAF)”.
- The cover, a creation of high artistic value made by Ero Tsirika, will be available as an NFT!
- The first ever collectible of Greek House Davos could be yours: <https://bit.ly/3yylprZ>



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Greek-Indian Trade Revised

By Prof. Dipak Malik
 Director emeritus
 Gandhian Institute of studies
 Varanasi, India



The Indo-Greek relations have a long history. They are much beyond comprehension, as scholars and lay-people are so much bogged down in the history of the last two centuries of British colonial presence. To start with, the Indo-Greek relation, it was not a colonial or imperial one – a large exception is the expedition of Alexander the Great but one has to understand that he was primarily a Macedonian adventurer. The Greeks touched the deep cores of ancient India, particularly the Buddhist regimes and Buddhist discourse. Thus the great ancient culture of Greece which gave the civilizational input to the European culture and life had an equal share in creating bonds with Buddhist India and the discourse on culture and philosophy. It was natural that the two most thinking civilizations reached a relationship that encompasses philosophy and arts and they left their impact on the rest of the world. Greek thought influenced the whole of Europe to graduate into a rational and reasonable society. Similarly, Ancient India influenced East Asian territories which are known nowadays as the Indo-Chinese countries of Thailand, Indonesia, Laos Cambodia, and beyond. Buddhism spread even further. It crossed the Indian ocean and Himalayan heights and went to central Asia, crossed into China, and then went up to the farthest East, to Japan.

There is a need today to build up freshly this relationship in the context of the modern world's evolution as it is taking place and trade and commerce play a big role. India since

its decolonization has been emerging as an important player in world affairs and currently tops the list of fastest-growing economies.

It must be emphasized that trade and commerce on a global level and particularly in the case of Indo-Greek relations need to diversify the sources of the supply chain. In this acute period of the pandemic, we have seen how dependency on few sources has brought immeasurable difficulties. The economics of globalization as practiced in the past are now encountering the question of the different shapes of politics and power games. The world can not be safe if it is mortgaged to one source. The dependency created by one supply chain has caused anomalies in the national life of countries in a large swathe.

When we talk about diversifying the supply chain then India emerges as one very viable force with its huge resource base, large educated and skilled middle class, a propensity towards higher learning and research and product development, as it is a relatively open society, a democratic ethos which brings it much closer to West and Europe than the secretive bamboo walled society in the further East. Felicity in international dealings and the presence of the English language also helps India to come closer to a united Europe and particularly Greece. Athens could become the gateway for India to enter Europe, especially after the Brexit as London will no more be able to play a middleman between India and Europe.

Post pandemic world will have

to change its gears as the world changed after the second world war and a new era started with Marshal aid in Europe, the cold war, and rapid decolonization on a global level. This is an area where West, too, will have to think more openly and introspect as well. Mere competition in arms or in trade and commerce and technology may bring back the era of the cold war which may turn anytime into a mutually destructive war. The ideology of competition which was put on the pedestal of divinity has to accommodate the ideology of co-existence and cooperation. Pandemic has shown how total withdrawal of state and blind privatization, particularly in the realm of health care and education may be counter-productive. Similarly, the state machinery has to be empathetic and responsive to the demands of the common people. It needs in long run to return to the age-old Indian ideology of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” i.e. the whole world is a family. This, perhaps, will be more effective than mere economic globalization, but globalization with an agenda for lasting peace, cooperation humane state, and empathetic and inclusive business. In such an arrangement the two old civilizations of India and Greece would fill the bill rather than the crass globalists and privatizers ruling the roost.

The tormented world with ‘Chinese dream’ and ‘Make America great’ can be tempered by the non-dream adage of ‘the whole world is a family’ as a value system, rather than getting into an inferno of clashing dreams. ■

Business Proposals



Exporting high quality Table Olives and Extra Virgin Olive Oil from Greece

VAGIAS FOODS SA is exporting high quality green and black table olives and extra virgin olive oil in big and small quantities from the regions of Chalkidiki, Kalamata and Atalanti in Greece. If you are interested to import and distribute these products in your markets, please write for a price list and other details to info@vagiasfoods.gr



The involvement of the Vagias family in the olive oil production and trading dates back to 1928. Since 2005 the company has been focusing on the processing and trading of table olives and has demonstrated a remarkable exporting activity in a wide-range of olive products. The company owns contemporary facilities of 5,000 m in Atalanti, Fthiotida region, with state – of – the –art, fully automated machinery and well-trained personnel.

Vagias Foods S.A. has implemented ISO 22000 / HACCP, ISO9000, and IFS and has developed effective quality inspection processes to safeguard quality at all stages of production.

The company's philosophy is to provide tasteful products conforming to international food safety standards, which will delight its customers.



Exporting high quality wine from the region of Macedonia in North Greece

Ktima Gerovassiliou is exporting high quality Greek wine in big and small quantities from the region of Macedonia in North Greece. If you are interested to have our wines in your luxury hotels / markets or to please your guests at a special event (marriage, celebration, etc.), please contact us at giba.athens@gmail.com or at ktima@gerovassiliou.gr



Ktima Gerovassiliou has been involved in vine cultivation and winemaking since 1981. On the slopes of Epanomi, a few kilometers away from the city of Thessaloniki, a meticulously well-cared vineyard surrounds the modern winery, where the renowned Ktima Gerovassiliou wines are produced,

At Ktima Gerovassiliou, the vineyard is cultivated with great care and enthusiasm that leads Gerovassiliou to constantly researching and experimenting with Greek and foreign varieties, both well and less known ones. New technological advances blend well with tradition throughout vine growing and vinification processes. The aim is to produce high quality wines from grapes cultivated exclusively in privately-owned vineyard; wines that carry all distinct characteristics of the specific microclimate (terroir) in Epanomi.

At the heart of the winery, the Gerovassiliou Wine Museum presents various aspects of the world history of wine-growing. The creation of the Wine Museum itself in combination with various activities organized -visits, wine tastings, educational programs, seminars, publications- contribute to the diffusion of wine-growing culture.

Greece – An Ideal place to Study for International Students

By Anthony Papadopoulos, LLB, LLM.
General Secretary
GIBA BoD



Greece with its rich cultural heritage is an ideal place for international students to study classical subjects, such as Ancient Greek Literature, History, Philosophy, and Archeology. As a vibrant modern economy, Greece also plays a leading role in the fields of Tourism, International Business, and Shipping and its colleges and universities provide education in these trends and disciplines, enabling students to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills for a professional career.

However, the country did not attract, so far, the number of foreign students it rightly deserves, mainly due to the lack of educational

programs in English, which is now the most widely used international language. Foreign students would have to learn Greek, a rather difficult language, to be able to study at Greek universities.

This obstacle has begun to be removed in recent years as more and more Greek

universities started to offer study opportunities in English at Bachelor's and Master's degree levels for foreign students.

Greek universities now offer numerous undergraduate, postgraduate, and summer diploma



programs through the English medium in a wide variety of scientific fields ranging from classical humanities to modern technolo-

Greek universities now offer numerous undergraduate, postgraduate, and summer diploma programs through the English medium in a wide variety of scientific fields ranging from classical humanities to modern technologies.

gies. The foreseen specialties are constantly expanding and from the new academic year, the universities of Athens and Thessaloniki

will also conduct medical courses in English.

It is also remarkable that a great number of foreign Universities have opened their branches in Greece providing undergraduate and postgraduate programs in English for foreign and Greek students, mainly in economic and theoretical subjects. However, the Greek Constitution prohibits private educational institutions from operating as independent universities, which are obliged to function in collaboration with local private Colleges. According to the current legislation, as derived by the incorporation of EC Directive 2005/36,

holders of academic degrees by universities in the European Union, including those obtained through studies at a college in

Greece, have their professional rights fully recognized.

The cost of education in Greece will vary depending on

the subject and the level of study. On average, one is likely to pay somewhere in the range of 3,000 and 15,000 euros per year. Apart

→



from the university fees, one has to calculate the cost of living, which is relatively low in Greece compared to many other European countries.

Non-EU students are required to obtain a student visa to become eligible to pursue their education in Greece. To obtain a student visa, the candidate will have to submit the required documents to the Greek Consulate in his country. However, before the application, the student needs to make sure that he/she fulfills all requirements for admission to a Greek University / College. One must meet the academic requirements and have sufficient funds.

Foreign students who are admitted to Greek Universities get a residence permit in a short period from the Greek Immigration Authority and can apply for a room at university hostels or rent an apartment in the city of their study.

Overall, Greece provides a friendly and fertile environment for

undergraduate and postgraduate studies. Those who study in Greece have further access to EU's study programs and can do internships or traineeships abroad.

The Study in Greece (SIG) program is the official project of Greece for the internationalization and extroversion of Greek

Higher Education Institutions that operates under the auspices of the Greek Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education and Religious Affairs, Tourism, and Culture and Sports. The project's portal (<https://studyinggreece.edu.gr/>) hosts and maintains all pertinent information related to the Greek

academic world. Presenting and promoting a wide variety of English (and other languages)-taught programs offered by the Greek Universities.

The Study in Greece program seeks to endorse Greece as a prime education hub for international students by inviting them to pursue their higher education in the country. SiG constitutes also the official bridge between the Greek and the international academic community, by facilitating the creation of academic networks, as well as by fostering synergies between Greek and foreign university departments in diverse scientific fields. ■





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Anthony Papadopoulos & Associates Law Office has been involved in Greek-Indian matters for four decades. Anthorny Papadopulos, the Head of the office, is a founding member and General Secretary of the Hellenic-Indian Society for Cu;ture and Development (EL.IN.E.P.A.) and of the Greek-Indian Business Association (G.I.B.A.) promoting the cultural and economic relations between Greece and India.

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Ayurveda and its global financial potential

By Dr. Nikolaos Kostopoulos
Director of the Holistic Health Centre
Athens



World news is dominated by financial news and numbers regarding GDP, inflation rates, unemployment and salaries. In the Vedic tradition the concept of finance and wealth has a different meaning. To earn wealth, you must perform a duty or Dharma, as it is called in Sanskrit, helping society to live in a happier way.

The question regarding whether Ayurveda could have a financial potential in the modern world leads to the following query.

Could Ayurveda, which was developed thousands of years ago, help a society that is already served by state-of-the-art modern diagnostics and medical treatments?

To my mind, there are many areas that are still underserved by modern medicine and as an example I will mention two areas: namely, the stress problem and the management of chronic pain and, more specifically, the modern epidemic of migraine.

Let's look at some statistics from medical publications:

1) Stress impact in economy: Stress and health disparities. *American Psychological Association, 2017*

Stress related illness and injury are estimated to cost the United States more than \$300 billion per year, including costs related to stress-related accidents, absenteeism, employee turnover, diminished productivity, and direct medical, legal, and insurance costs (*American Institute of Stress, 2013*).

2) Health economics: *Lancet* 2021, vol.397

The economic consequences of migraine emphasise the need for improved health policies that are informed by evidence. In Europe, financial costs attributed to migraine were estimated at €50 billion to €111 billion in 2011, of which direct costs accounted for 7% and indirect costs for 93%. In the USA, direct costs were estimated at US\$11 billion and indirect costs at \$12 billion in 2007.

3) Drug Overdose Deaths: "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention", *National Center for Injury Prevention and Control*, February 22, 2022

Nearly 841,000 people have died since 1999 from a drug overdose.¹ In 2019, 70,630 drug overdose deaths occurred in the United States. The age-adjusted rate of overdose deaths increased by over 4% from 2018 (20.7 per 100,000) to 2019 (21.6 per 100,000).

- Opioids—mainly synthetic opioids (other than methadone)—are currently the main driver of drug overdose deaths.

- 72.9% of opioid-involved overdose deaths involve synthetic opioids.

- Opioids were involved in 49,860 overdose deaths in 2019 (70.6% of all drug overdose deaths).

P4 medicine: (predictive, preventative, personalized, participatory) that is considered the future of medicine, describes exactly what Ayurveda taught thousands of years ago.

Ayurveda describes the 3 basic energies that function in the body:

1) Vata or Kinetic energy, 2) Pitta or metabolic energy and 3) Kapha or homeostatic energy.

In this way it determines the possible energy imbalances before they occur, **predicting** potential disease
→



states.

It attempts to restore the correct balance of energies before a pathology takes place, therefore **preventing** diseases.

Personalized medicine is the definition of Ayurveda per se: disease is always described in relation to an individual and not as an abstract entity.

Finally, **participation** is a key factor in Ayurveda that asks the patient, or the healthy individual, to follow a diet and change his behaviour, so that they return to a healthy, balanced state.

In addition, if needed, Ayurveda describes a vast array of herbal preparations whose actions are supported by scientific research.

These can be used to help the healing process without causing side effects. Some of these are: Ashwagandha, Triphala, Guduchi, Vasaka etc.

The Ayurveda text of Susruta Samhita refers to a procedure called 'Agnikarma', in modern terms 'Thermal microcautery', that can be used in migraine and pain management with amazing results.

Bibliography:

"Application of thermal microcautery in



migraine management", *Headache Medicine*, v.10, n.4, p.182-185, Out/Nov/Dez. 2019; and "Thermal Microcautery, a Form of Peripheral Nerve Field Stimulation for Treatment of Painful Knee Osteoarthritis: Non-Randomized Controlled Trial", *Pain Studies and Treatment*, vol.7 no.3, July 2019.

Another example of how Ayurveda forethought modern concepts is that of the Gut Brain connection that was mentioned by Ayurveda in its classical textbooks before it was rediscovered in recent years.

Ayurveda also refers to specific techniques that could influence the microbiome another modern rediscovery that plays an important role in health and disease.

In this way Ayurveda has the

potential to help with the management of the amazing cost of chronic lifestyle diseases, releasing funds for other areas of need in modern society.

All this vision, however, can be fulfilled only following scientific evidence-based research, strict standardization of Ayurvedic preparations and co-operation between modern physicians and Ayurvedic experts.

I hope and wish that this happens so we can achieve a holistic approach to modern health challenges.

The close cooperation over the last 32 years between Vaidya Asvin Barot and myself is proof that this can happen very successfully! ■



Dr. Nikolaos Kostopoulos qualified at Athens Medical University, Greece in 1984. He worked in the Renal Unit of the Naval Hospital in Athens, in the Intensive Care Unit of the Hospital of Chest Diseases in Athens and in the Respiratory Unit of the Manchester Royal Infirmary in England.

Dr. Kostopoulos was introduced to Ayurveda by Vaidya Asvin Barot and, in collaboration with him, he practiced privately in Harley street in London (UK) for 10 years combining Ayurveda and modern medicine. He established the Holistic Health Centre in Athens in 1999.



Holistic Health Centre - Western medicine with Ayurveda, Yoga & Meditation

The Holistic Health Centre was founded by Dr Nikolaos G Kostopoulos in 1999. It is located in Kifissia, the northern suburbs of Athens, adjacent to the Sygrou park and is surrounded by fig and citrus trees.

Its aim is to advise and treat the individual as a whole and combines Orthodox Medicine with Ayurveda, as well as alternative medical treatments with a scientific basis depending on the needs of the patient and their state of health at the time of consultation.

The Centre is also used to host free talks open to anyone on Ayurveda, Yoga, and Meditation.

Dr Kostopoulos was introduced to Ayurveda by Vaidya Asvin Barot and in collaboration with him, he practiced privately in Harley Street in London for 10 years combining Ayurveda and modern medicine.

Its purpose is to convey the principles of Ayurveda, Yoga and meditation through seminars, interviews, and conferences so that their application can enable people to have the right approach to health, wellbeing, and way of life.

On a practical level, Holistic AYM organizes lectures at the Holistic Health Centre or in other venues and participates in conferences promoting ideas which strengthen the deeper understanding of health. It also

publishes articles and video clips from seminars and organizes teleconferences. In essence, it promotes the spread of the principles of Ayurveda, Yoga and meditation in the modern world.

Holistic AYM aims to bridge philosophy or spirituality and science. The principles of Ayurveda, Yoga and the practice of meditation combine philosophy and science with the sole purpose of achieving physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. The Holistic AYM explores the principles of Ayurveda, Yoga and meditation in a holistic way.

Modern scientific research is combined with fundamental principles of Ayurveda, like the assessment of the constitution of the individual, on both physical and mental levels. At the same time, we refer to both Western and Eastern texts related to the study of Yoga and meditation, which are approached in a scientific way.

The knowledge of our own unique constitution (Prakruti) which includes our physical (Doshas: Vata, Pitta, Kapha) and mental energies (Gunas: Sattva, Rajas, Tamas) is taught with great accuracy by the science of Ayurveda. The application of this knowledge in our daily lives is supported by the practice of Yoga. Meditation, which is part of Yoga, helps to enable us to be in touch with our deeper nature. ■

Individualized
integrated medicine is the motto
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For this reason Genelabs plans to come in touch with Indian companies that provide Rapid COVID19 tests that will be used for the tests that are conducted in companies and businesses.

In addition Genelabs plans to contact Premier Medical Corporation an Indian medical supplies company that provides Rapid COVID19 Tests half the price something that will give us the ability to reduce the price of the Rapid COVID19 Tests for our clients.

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Can a machine be conscious?

By Ioannis K. Afentakis

PhD researcher in Artificial Intelligence
Imperial College, London



The purpose of this essay is to express an idea about how the title question can be approached and hopefully find a way towards potential answers. My aim here is to highlight the importance of clearly defining the different terms involved, as well as the implications that these definitions have in the follow up arguments. I briefly present some common theories on the underlying topic, along with my personal opinion based on my knowledge, research and understanding about consciousness and the future of AI, and by no means I believe it is the only answer to the question.

Admittedly, there is a general lack of consensus among scientists and philosophers about whether machines and specifically AI can become conscious. This is mainly due to the fact that there is no clear definition about what consciousness is, why it exists and which are its mechanisms (e.g. how can it be achieved) in humans, let alone machines. There are various attempts trying to define the term consciousness, including sentience, self-awareness, wakefulness, and opposing arguments about the potential that future AI may become conscious or not.

Integrated Information Theory (IIT) as presented by G. Tononi and colleagues [1, 2] introduces a link between the cause-effect power (involving some input, processing and output) and consciousness, where the latter is defined as broadly as subjective experience. Essentially it is a theory which can predict how conscious a physical system is, based on the level of integrated information (Φ), a metric expressing how much different parts of a system know about each other. It is believed that it has the potential to be applied in healthcare in order for doctors to understand whether seriously brain-injured patients (i.e. patients in coma) are in a vegetative state or not. In general, for IIT to be applied, a physical system requires memory, some kind of information processing and also it needs to be independent and integrated, so that the system as a whole is autonomous but their parts



are not. The authors believe that even if we manage to create AI machines which are perfect simulations of the human brain, they will not have subjective experience [3], since mimicking the behaviour of a conscious being is very different from actually being a center of subjective experience.

Professor of physics Max Tegmark [4], starting from the fundamental truth of physics that everything around us is quarks and electrons arranged in a certain way, asks the question, which particle arrangements are conscious and which are not. He argues that probably consciousness is an “emerging” phenomenon meaning that it has properties above and beyond their particles. So, the same way as other “emerging” phenomena, the properties of consciousness are independent of its physical substrate. Opposing to researchers who argue that consciousness cannot be studied scientifically, he explains that with a theory such as the IIT (mentioned above), we can test which systems are conscious and which are not, and as a result this is by definition a scientific methodology. On the other hand he leaves space for harder questions such as “How do physical properties determine qualia [5]?” or “Why is anything conscious?” for which there is not a known scientific approach. He continues stating that if consciousness is the way information feels when it is processed, then what is important is the structure of information, and not the matter where information processing takes place. This definition of subjective experience, →

leaves open the possibility that some future AI could be conscious even if they are just a piece of software.

It is a fact that science and technology have made great progress towards understanding how the brain processes information. Intelligent machines such as Alpha Go and self-driving cars have already proven their ability to perform complex tasks (conquering the game of Go and driving a car respectively) surpassing human level performance and it is believed that in the not so long future, machines will be superior to humans in almost all the tasks that involve computations and processing of information. But, what if consciousness does not have to do with memory and information processing at all? Since we as humans agree that we do not understand what exactly is consciousness, this might also be a possibility worth considering.

In the yogic philosophy there are four main stages of consciousness corresponding to different perceptions of reality. The first is called jagrat and it means wakefulness. Jagrat is a state of body and mind (where body is referred to as the physical body and mind is our thoughts and emotions) but it is not consciousness by itself. This is an interesting differentiation because in western medicine there is no clear distinction between wakefulness and consciousness, as seen in the case of anesthesia, or patients in coma as mentioned before [8]. Jagrat corresponds to the perception of entities different from the perceiving subject which means that the focus is outwards. The second stage is called swapna (dream state) and it is far more vivid than the previous state in the sense that it is more profound in terms of experience. By closing the eyes one can detach from the outside world and look into the inside world. The perception focuses on mind-generated objects different from the subject (the focus here is inwards). The third stage is called sushupti which means deep sleep. This is a stage where no images, no words, no thoughts and essentially no information exists in one's mind. There is no difference in perception between object and subject and it is often parallelised as the separation of oneself from the mind. Finally, it is turiya or the fourth, a state where no memory of any kind is involved (here the term memory is used not only for what a person remembers, but also includes genetic memory, evolutionary memory, elemental memory and all the different aspects of memory that have been acquired during the process of evolution). This state is what in the yogic philosophy is considered as pure consciousness. A state of being

beyond memory.

All the above describe experiences that have been witnessed as such by many people who have practiced meditation. Although some might argue that this is beyond science I believe that, in our attempt as human beings to understand what subjective experience exactly is, it is smart enough to at least try to learn more about these experiences themselves. At the end of the day, it is the only evidence (scientific or not) that we have about how it feels to be a human.

Humans admittedly are the most complicated and sophisticated creatures on earth. That is the reason why we are at the top of evolution. If we manage to create a “thing” that has the capabilities and sophistication mechanisms we have, then it might be possible that this “thing” can access the dimension of consciousness. However, even the most impressive today's intelligent machines are designed to mimic the human brain and as a result show no evidence towards this direction. This is simply because we do not know exactly how the brain works so that we can reverse engineer it.

Consciousness is one of the biggest mysteries of life. Yet humans are the only creatures on earth that can access this dimension of life to such a wide degree. So, it is worth trying to experience it and feel how it is to be a human, and then find ways to define it and study it. After all, in the near future Artificial Intelligence will by far exceed the limits of human intelligence in almost all the tasks, so consciousness might be the only differentiation left between humans and machines. As Max Tegmark suggests, maybe it is time to rebrand ourselves as Homo sentiens.

Endnotes

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Ioannis Konstantinos Afentakis holds a Diploma in Applied Mathematics and Physical Sciences from National Technical University of Athens in Greece and a Masters in Computer Science from Warwick University in the United Kingdom. He is currently a PhD researcher in Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare at Imperial College London.

PIERIA the land of Gods



Pieria is situated at the foot of the sacred mountain Olympus and it is widely known for its historical and economic impact. A unique destination in the heart of Greece, located between Athens and Thessaloniki, is ideal for businesses and tourism

Business

Pieria has one of the strongest agricultural economies in Greece. The local Mediterranean climate consists of warm summers and mild winters making it ideal for the cultivation of many high-quality agricultural goods. The principal exports include mainly kiwis, cherries, tobacco, grapes, and olive oil. Those goods are exported to other countries inside and outside the European Union.

Exports are not limited to the agricultural field but they also extend to the industries, Biorol S.A. is a local company that exports garages, industrial doors, and automation equipment and collaborates closely with Indian enterprises.

Pieria also has many thriving businesses that import goods from India and then forward them to other European countries. Home market and Optohellas are two leading enterprises at the national level, that import furniture and medical equipment respectively. →



Tourism

The region of Pieria is a major tourist destination thanks to its natural surroundings. In the east Pieria is surrounded by the Aegean sea, it even has one of the longest coasts providing a dream place for tourists to spend their summer vacations.

To the west, lies the sacred mountain of Olympus which attracts tourists from all over the world due to its historical and mythological significance. Hiking is an all-year-long experience. In winter tourists can stay in one of many traditional villages and visit the local ski resort.



Culture

Pieria is the home of one of the biggest cultural festivals in Greece – the Olympus Festival. This is one of the oldest open-air summer festivals taking dance, theatre, music, and art out of their traditional settings and bringing them right into the heart of history and tradition.



The medieval castle of Platamon, the byzantine church of Panagia Kontariotissa, and the ancient theater of Dion which dates back to 179 BCE are the principal locations of the Olympus Festival. Over the years the Festival has gained a strong reputation and collaboration with many countries and museums. Some illustrative examples include cooperation with France, Germany, Spain, Israel, etc.

India has been nominated as the honored country of the Olympus Festival in the summer of 2023.



India – honored country at the Olympus Festival 2023



India, the rapidly developing and second most populous country in the world, has been nominated to be the honored country at the 52nd Olympus Festival in 2023. For this purpose the Cultural Attache of the Indian Embassy in Athens Mr. S. Rajendran visited Pieria in March 2022.



Mr. S. Rajendran was received at the offices of ORFEO-Theater by the members of the administration, where they discussed the framework of cooperation between the two sides. On behalf of the ORFEO administration, the Indian diplomat was welcomed by President Grigoris Papachristos, who pointed out the goals set by the administration, with respect to the supporting cultural institutions of the honored country.

Mr. S. Rajendran said that this initiative strengthens the effort of both governments to develop bilateral relations. In fact, during the recent visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dendias, to New Delhi, a

protocol of cooperation in the issues of culture was signed between the two countries.

Afterwards, Mr. S. Rajendran, accompanied by the members of the administration, visited the Deputy Regional Governor, Mrs. Sofia Mavridou, where they had a friendly discussion.

The Indian diplomat completed his tour in Pieria with a visit to the museum and the archeological site of Dion. He was stunned by the archeological findings, the museum, the ancient theater, and the temples. ■

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Karmakshetre: Observations in the business field

By **James P. Mimikos, J.D.**
(GIBA BoD. Public Relations)
& **Christos Voliotis**
(GIBA BoD. Business Development)



GIBA, now in its third year, is growing in stature and abilities to assist its members, especially now as we are exiting Covid and our associated organizations in India are preparing to visit us, and later, we are planning our return visit.

In our experience, the key to concluding business is to know exactly who you want to meet and why. This requires research on your part as no one knows your business better than you. By this, we mean, that before approaching GIBA you need to provide us with the profile of the type of company suited for your business. In other words, knowing exactly what you want; including specific companies, we may well have a direct approach or can use that as a search basis. We will not discuss success stories but rather make observations creating foundation for success.

Simply putting it down, now that we are in post-covid, the introductory zoom meetings do not produce results. The business we have seen develop is from companies who know exactly what they want and in general from whom and where. i.e., established businesses know their actual and potential markets.

We can only assist if we have clear specifications of the exact requirements, and that way we can work with our associated organizations in India to find the right partners; otherwise, it is nothing more than getting a commercial list with names and contacts.

By the way, what we say holds true for both Indians and Greeks. And a word for Indian film producers: please contact us to help you find local producers and services for your production providing lists of technical requirements, detailed information about your project and its budget, and relevant production questions before your trip to Greece.

Following a preliminary study and initial contact, the parties must meet to see each other and decide how business can be done. A good Indian friend,

after his thorough research, came to Athens to meet (only) one specific food producer and for one specific feta cheese. After meeting, they signed a contract. Obviously, trade fairs assist but still at the end of the day, travels and direct contacts must be made.

This means besides researching the market, eventually one has to get on an airplane, visit potential collaborators and partners, possibly hire legal counsel, marketing consultants, and whatever else is required according to the nature of his business.

Within this spirit, the Hellenic Association of Travel and Tourist Agencies (HATTA) invited and extended full hospitality to 70 members of the Outbound Tour Operators Association of India (OTOAI) who came to broaden their professional collaboration and accommodate a strong demand of Indians for trips to Greece. The invitation has become a logical outcome since the number of Indian tourists keeps increasing over the last few years.

Likewise, when we did business with other countries, we researched possibilities beforehand and closed meetings with specific companies that met our desired profile. In turn, we provided them in advance with as much relevant information as possible. We needed to see their operation, their offices, how they managed their people, etc. to determine if we should proceed with them in signing a contract or not.

When this is done, we have seen projects go forward; and if not, then unproductive B2B meetings and endless time spent on promoting “how good I am for you” over coffee.

It is time to work sincerely and collaboratively to improve business opportunities for our partners and companies in the growing markets of Greece and India, expanding to even further to the bigger market fields of Europe and around the world. ■



Culture



8th “Bollywood and Multicultural Dance Festival”

July 1st-3rd 2022 in Athens Greece
2 Unique Shows at Dora Stratou Theatre

East and West, two seemingly separate worlds, will come together at the biggest Extravaganza of 2022, the 8th Bollywood and Multicultural Dance Festival in Athens, Greece.

Three days of deep culture immersion, full of music, dancing, mystery, charm, and endless aesthetics.

“Greece has always been a crossroad between East and West, where diverse cultures met and have evolved over millennia. From India and Middle East to North Africa and the Mediterranean Basin, ethnically diverse communities come to close contact by exchanging various characteristics of their culture and all forms of Art. The Festival aims to highlight this magical amalgamation of cultures emphasizing the role of Dance and Music, and to provide the opportunity to discover the magic and the beauty of this peaceful gathering of nations – beyond geographical boundaries – at this modern world that we live in.”

Within the spectrum of this Festival, dancers, musicians, singers as well as intellectuals from Greece and abroad will participate. In addition, workshops will take place in combination with presentations, performance and lots of other activities.

2 UNIQUE SHOWS

The Highlight of the festival is the two Amazing Shows at the historic Dora Stratou Theatre, in the heart of Athens, with the Filopappos green hill background, on July 2nd (Saturday) and July 3rd (Sunday) 2022. The audience will have a treat to witness a plethora of dance styles from all over the world and multicultural character by great artists from Greece and abroad, as well as exclusive choreographies from 1st Bollywood Academy Greece.



The 7th International Bollywood Dance Competition

The Festival will host the “7th International Bollywood Dance Competition” in Greece, organized by “Oriental Expression Awards”. The competition will be held at Dora Stratou Theatre, Saturday, July 2nd front of a 9-member Judges Panel, and it will be divided into two levels (amateur and professional) and two categories (solo and group). The winners will be honored with presents and awards.

13 Dance Workshops - Mini Bazaar and Indian Flavors - Opening Party

The Festival is organized by the Artistic Studio Oriental Expression and 1st Bollywood Academy Greece, in collaboration with the Hellenic-Indian Society for Culture and Development (ELINEPA), under the Auspices of the Greek National Tourism Organisation (GNTO), the City of Athens and the International Dance Council (CID) and with the kind support of the Indian Embassy in Athens.

Υπό την αιγίδα

GREECE

8th

Bollywood & Multicultural
Dance Festival

1 - 3 Ιουλίου 2022

Embassy of India
Athens

Artistic studio
Oriental Expression

Elina & Emma
PHOTOGRAPHY



7ος ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟΣ BOLLYWOOD DANCE
by Oriental Expression Awards

Θέατρο "Δόρα Στράτου"



INFORMATION - REGISTRATIONS

31, Antiopis str - Agios Dimitrios (Dafni Metro station)
Tel. / Fax 210 9735 888 – Mob. 699 711 6407 – 699 255 3320



info@orientalexpression.gr. www.orientalexpression.gr. www.bollywoodfestival.gr. www.bollywoodacademy.gr
www.facebook.com/BollywoodMulticulturalFestival. www.facebook.com/Artistic.Studio.ORIENTAL.EXPRESSION



Theatrical Play: Ramayana

Melina Mercouri Open Air Theatre (Theatro Vrachon) - Athens

July 8, 2022, 21:00 hrs

Like *Odyssey*, *Ramayana* narrates the adventures of the mythical warrior prince, Rama, who wanders in the forests of India until he regains his lost kingdom. And as *Iliad* does it tell a story about the battles and struggles to regain a queen, Sita, the hero's own soul. Through the intense element of adventure, demons attack, grab and kill people. The balance of the world has been upset and the focus is on the constant battle between Good and Evil. The lyricism of the great Indian epic dresses the stories of the heroes and shows the way to the sanctuary.

- Directed by: Maria Peretzi
- Text adaptation: Dimitris Peretzis, Maria Peretzi
- Music Supervisor: Maria Peretzi.
- Music: Takis Paterelis (piano, flute, vocals), Pia Pierrakou (piano, vocals), George Dounis (percussion), Maria Thoidou (vocals), Patty Papageorgiou (vocals), Iris Baglanea (vocals), Costas Christantonis (vocals), and Stavros Kappas (vocals).
- Acting:

Rama: Thomas Gotsis, Sita: Iris Baglanea, Laxmana: Christos Velaoras, Vishvamisra / Vibesana: Stamatis Logos, Dasaratha: Stavros Kappas, Kaikegi: Anna Kypraiou, Ravana: Nikos Tsioumplektis, Surpanaka / Mandara: Ioulia Ventikou, Barata / Sugriva: Giannis Aggelis, Hanuman: George Kostogianni. ■



A Magnificent play performed by the 30-members team of the Roda Theater

Business Proposals



Importing Fishery materials

Agelidakis K&H Partnership is interested in the import of quality fishery materials and collaboration with foreign companies while maintaining the best quality and the most competitive prices for its products. Can you supply them? If yes please contact us at giba.athens@gmail.com or at info@agelidakis.gr

List of the required products

CABLE & COMBINATION ROPE (CABLE, STEEL WIRE ROPES)

COMBINATION ROPES (3 or 6 strands)

TWISTED ROPES (POLIESTER,POLYPROPYLENE, POLYETHYLENE,POLYSTEEL)

BRAIDED ROPES (NYLON, POLIESTER)

MOORING ROPES (POLYSTEEL, NYLON)

DOUBLE BRAIDED ROPE

NETS (HT, HIGH TENACITY POLYETHYLENE)

NYLON, WHITE NYLON NETTING

NETS (PS, POLYETHYLENE)

BROWN NETS, KNOTTED OR KNOTLESS

NYLON MULTIFILAMENT NET

BUOYS AND FLOATS

FLOATS WHITH CENTRAL HOLE

DEPTH FLOAT

DEPTH GILL NET FLOAT

HARDWARE

SWIVELS, HOOKS, RINGS, SHACKLES, CHAIN, SPLIT LINKS/QUICK LINKS, THIMBLES

Agelidakis K&H Partnership is one of the largest Greek companies in the commercial fisheries sector. Its main activity is focused on the sale of all kinds of ropes and fishing nets (coastal nets, trawl nets, purse seines, etc.)



Painting exhibition for the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution in New Delhi, Nov. 21-27, 2021

Under the auspices and with the support of
the “Greece 2021” Committee & the Indian Council for Cultural Relations

As part of the celebrations dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution, the Hellenic Indian Society for Culture & Development (ELINEPA) in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Embassy of Greece in New Delhi organized a painting exhibition and a series of cultural events in India to honour the memory of the heroes who fought against the Ottoman Empire for the independence of Greece during the liberation war in the years between 1821 and 1829.

Four contemporary Greek artists Claire Tsalouchidis Hadjiminias, Froso Vizovitou, Lazaros Pandos and Pavlos Samios presented for the first time their painting works which were inspired by the Greek Revolution of 1821.

More than 200 people attended the inauguration of the exhibition that was made by H.E. the Ambassador of Greece Mr. Dionyssios Kyvetos and Director General of ICCR Shri Dinesh Kumar Patnaik on Sunday, November 21, 2021, at BIKANER HOUSE, between Pandara and

Shahjahan Road, India Gate, New Delhi. The Hellenic-Indian Society of Culture and Development was represented by Ms. Yvonne Alexandridou, former Honorary Consul of India in Thessaloniki and main inspirer of the whole action.

During the painting exhibition, parallel workshops and interaction with Art students took place at Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi (22 No

vember), at Delhi College of Arts and Amity University, Noida (23 November) and at Pracheen Kala Kendra Complex, Chandigarh (25 and 26 November) with the participation of the Greek artists Maria Xanthakou and Claire Tsalouchidis Hadjiminias, while the historian Zafeiroula Kagalidou gave speeches on the Greek Revolution of 1821.



Director General of ICCR Shri Dinesh Kumar Patnaik, the Ambassador of Greece Mr. Dionyssios Kyvetos and the Program Director of ELINEPA Ms. Yvonne Alexandridou inaugurate the exhibition.



Interaction of Greek artists Maria Xanthakou (left) and Claire Tsalouchidis Hadjiminas (right) with Indian Art students in Chandigarh. ■

The island of Lefkada becomes a spot of attraction for Bollywood

Mr. Narendra Batti, Director of the Indian film production company “God Bless Films Entertainment” visited in January 2022 the beautiful Island of Lefkada in the Ionian Sea in order to select ideal locations for the shooting of his upcoming Hindi romantic feature film “Only for You”.

The Indian producer was accompanied by three members of his technical team, Associate Director Mr. Arvind Sharma, Art Director Ms. Anupreet Kaur, and Cameraman Rubin Kumar. All were very impressed by the natural beauty of Lefkada and the hospitality of its people. After selecting a few ideal locations and discussions with the local Municipal authorities and film

producers returned to India with the aim to come again later this year and complete their movie in Greece.

“God Bless Films Entertainment” is a dynamic and promising film company based in New Delhi and it has produced several feature films, music videos, theat-

rical plays, and documentaries in India and Europe.

Several Indian movies and musical video clips have been produced in Greece, but their work was stopped in the last years due to the pandemic travel restrictions. ■



Mr. Narendra Batti (center) and members of his team with the Deputy Mayor of Culture & Finance of the Municipality of Lefkada Mr. Anastasios Gazis and the Director of the Cultural Center of the Municipality Ms. Ioanna Filippa (left)

व्यावहारिक शब्दकोश यूनानी हिंदी और हिंदी यूनानी

Practical Dictionary Greek-Hindi & Hindi-Greek

by Dr. Dimitrios Vassiliadis

ISBN: 978-960-87774-2-2

Size A5, 772 pages

ELINEPA, 2016



Hindi Poetry

Translated by Christina Arora

एक तिनका ek tinka (A Straw)

Full of pride I became arrogant,
One day, while I was standing on a small wall,
suddenly flying from afar, a straw fell on my eye.

I got up hesitantly and a little worried,
The eye turned red and also started to hurt.
People turned a piece of cloth and placed it (on my eye).
The unfortunate pride left silently.

When somehow the straw came out of the eye
Then the understanding mocked me in this way;
Why did you have this arrogance?
For you, just a straw is enough.

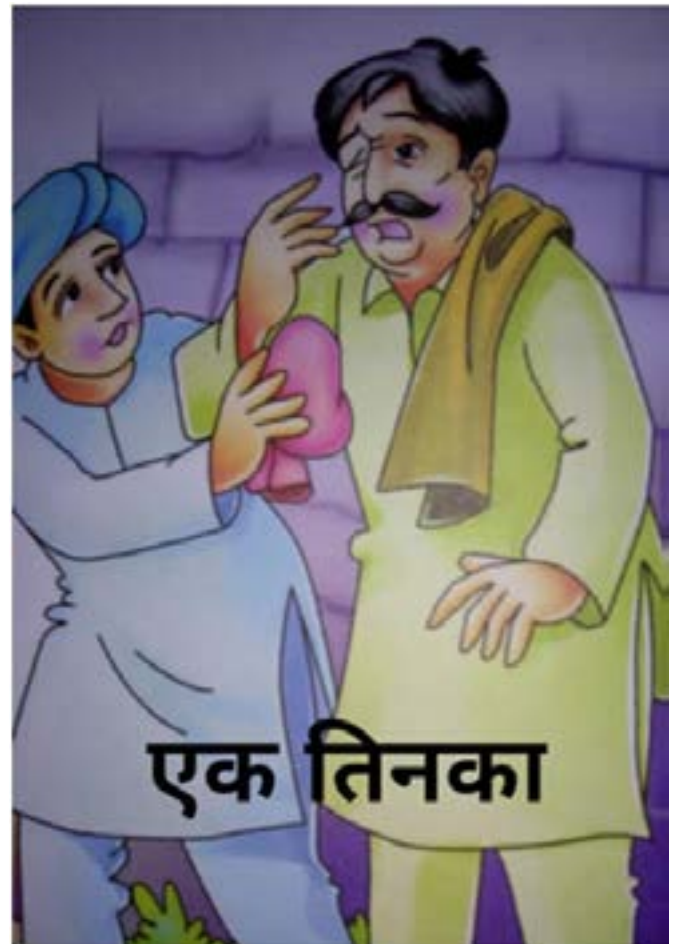
Ayodhya Singh Upadhyay "Hariodh"

A few words about the poet

This is a poem taught to young children in India. Through this, children learn a useful lesson about the modesty they should have. Arrogance does not benefit man as many unbalanced factors – such as straw in this case – can show him that he is weak. Our life depends on luck, nature and other things we do not control.

A few words about the poem

Ayodhya Singh Upadhyay 'Hari Oudh', (15 April 1865 – 16 March 1947) was a writer of Hindi literature. Ayodhya Prasad was born at Nizamabad, Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh. At the age of five he started learning Persian from his uncle. Later he moved to Kashi to study English at Queen's College; however he had to leave college due to deteriorating health. He then studied Sanskrit, Urdu, Persian and English at home. He got a government job in 1889. He worked in Hindi Department of Banaras Hindu University for several years as a volunteer teacher. His literature-service earned him considerable fame. He had been conferred the title of Vidyavachaspati. He died in 1947 at Azamgarh.





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COOPERATION • DEVELOPMENT • CULTURE

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