

In call with British PM Sunak, Modi discusses trade pact

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a telephone conversation with new British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The discussion between the two leaders took place in the backdrop of the arrival of the U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, who will participate in the special meeting of the United Nations' Counter Terror Committee in Mumbai and Delhi.

“Glad to speak to Rishi Sunak today. Congratulated him on assuming charge as U.K. PM. We will work together to further strengthen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We also agreed on the importance of early conclusion of a comprehensive and balanced FTA,” Mr. Modi

said in a message. Thanking Mr. Modi, Mr. Sunak said, “The U.K. and India share so much. I’m excited about what our two great democracies can achieve as we deepen our security, defence and economic partnership in the months and years ahead.”

“The Prime Minister said he was a visual representation of the historic links between the U.K. and India, and intended to build on this relationship to develop ever closer ties between our two countries,” a Downing Street spokesperson said regarding the talks. The two leaders agreed to work together to “strengthen the developing economies of the world,” said the spokesperson. Both leaders are expected to meet at the G-20 summit in Bali next month.