

FTA with India to be expedited in next few months: British envoy

India and the United Kingdom are set up for the “final ascent” on signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and expediting the pact in the next few months is one of the main aims of the two sides, British High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis said on Friday.

Tellis said the two sides have got through the majority of the negotiations, but there are “tough issues” like the security of investments of British companies where some in the past had found difficulty in regard to the now-scrapped retrospective tax, in an appar-

ent reference to the long-drawn Vodafone case.

On extradition to India of economic fugitives like Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi, Ellis said it is no longer a government matter.

India and Britain launched negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) in January with an aim to conclude talks by Diwali (October-end), but

the deadline was missed due to a lack of consensus on several issues. Ellis drew a parallel to the signing of the FTA to long climb up a mountain.

