

Modi, Sunak focus on sealing free trade deal

Our Bureau
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Rishi Sunak discussed cooperation in a range of areas, including defence, security, trade and mobility, and expressed their support for the India-UK free trade agreement in a bilateral meet on the sidelines of the G20 Summit on Wednesday.

Modi also held a number of other bilaterals on the second and last day of the G20 summit, including with leaders from Italy, France, Germany, Singapore and Indonesia, and was formally handed over the G20 presidency to India for the coming year by Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

"The leaders discussed the range of areas where the UK and India are working increasingly closely and

have the opportunity to further develop our links, including defence and security," according to a statement issued by the British High Commission in India on Sunak's meeting with Modi.

They looked forward to the agreement of a UK-India free trade deal, which has the potential to unlock investment and increase jobs in both countries, as well as expanding deep cultural links, it added.

Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron reviewed ongoing collaboration in diverse areas like defence, civil nuclear, trade and investment, said an MEA release.

Modi's meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz focussed on the Partnership on Green and Sustainable Development signed by the two at the 6th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations earlier this year.