

MODI, JOHNSON AGREE TO STEP UP BILATERAL COOPERATION

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: India - UK

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G7 summit in Biarritz on Sunday. GettyPool

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a “good” meeting with his British counterpart Boris Johnson here on Sunday and they discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas like trade, investment, defence and education.

Mr. Modi met Mr. Johnson on the sidelines of the G7 summit. The Prime Minister arrived in Biarritz from Manama, the capital of Bahrain after concluding the first-ever prime ministerial visit to the Gulf nation.

“PM @narendramodi had a good meeting with UK PM @BorisJohnson on margins of #G7 summit. Discussions focused on strengthening our bilateral ties going forward, inter alia, in trade & investment, defence & security, S & T and education sectors,” Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

“PM Modi begins by congratulating PM Johnson on England’s spectacular win in the Third Test of the Ashes a short while ago,” the Prime Minister’s Office tweeted earlier.

This is the first meeting between the two leaders after Mr. Johnson became Prime Minister last month, the third in fairly quick succession since Britain voted to leave the EU in June 2016 - following on from David Cameron and Theresa May.

Their meeting came against the backdrop of the Indian government revoking the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the State into two Union Territories.

During a telephone call early this week, Mr. Johnson told Mr. Modi that Kashmir remains a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan as far as the UK’s view is concerned.

“The Prime Minister made clear that the UK views the issue of Kashmir as one for India and Pakistan to resolve bilaterally. He underlined the importance of resolving issues through dialogue,” a Downing Street spokesperson said in an official readout of the phone call on Tuesday.

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