

■ India, UK Agree to Conclude Free Trade Agreement by Year End

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has said that India and the United Kingdom have decided to do their best to conclude the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) by the end of this year. Addressing a joint press briefing following bilateral talks with his UK counterpart Boris Johnson in New Delhi on 22nd April, PM Modi said, the teams of both countries are working on the FTA and good progress is being



made in the negotiations. Both leaders also discussed the developments taking place at the regional and global levels. Prime Minister Modi said, they emphasized maintaining the Indo-Pacific region based on free, open, inclusive, and rules-based order. Shri Modi said, they stressed dialogue and diplomacy in Ukraine for an immediate ceasefire and resolution of the problem. In his statement, the visiting Prime Minister Johnson said the partnership between India and Britain is one of the defining friendships of the times. He pointed out that since last year, the threats of autocratic coercion have grown even further and it is vital to deepen cooperation including a shared interest in keeping the Indo-Pacific open and free.

14. People Slipped into Poverty in 2021 Due to Pandemic: UN