



Prime Minister Mark Carney greets Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, at far right, while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand during the G20 summit in Johannesburg on Sunday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carney, Modi agree to restart trade talks after two-year pause

Canada, India renew dialogue after PMs meet at G20 summit, as relations rebound from 2023 low

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Prime Minister Mark Carney and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have agreed to pursue what they are calling a comprehensive economic partnership, restarting trade talks that have been frozen for the past two years.

The development comes after the two leaders met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Johannesburg on Sunday. It is the latest evidence of a thaw in relations between the two countries, which broke down after the killing of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in 2023.

Canada and India have pursued a free-

trade agreement in fits and starts since 2010. The latest effort began in 2022 but was called off the next year amid the diplomatic row that followed Mr. Nijjar's assassination. Canadian law enforcement officials have blamed the killing on the Indian government.

The Sunday announcement is part of a broader reorientation of Canadian foreign policy.

Since becoming Prime Minister, Mr. Carney has sought to mend economic ties with China and India – two countries with which Ottawa has had major security concerns in recent years.

He has also taken a more hard-nosed approach to pursuing foreign trade and investment deals, including with non-democratic countries with poor human-

rights records.

On his way to the G20 meeting, Mr. Carney stopped in the United Arab Emirates to drum up investment from large sovereign wealth funds – leaving with a pledge from the UAE to invest around \$70-billion in Canada.

“Certainly it's not the case – this is an important point – when we engage with a country ... that we're endorsing everything that country does,” Mr. Carney said at a press conference on Sunday before his meeting with Mr. Modi.

This policy shift comes in response to the sharp protectionist turn by U.S. President Donald Trump, which has called into question Canada's access to its main export market.

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