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Ghani-Modi meeting: Defence, trade links on agenda

12/3/2016



President Ashraf Ghani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will discuss greater defence and trade cooperation during their meeting at the weekend, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

Faced with cross-border terror threats, Afghanistan and India would join hands at the Heart of Asia Conference in Amritsar to mount pressure on Pakistan,

Ghani and Modi will inaugurate the event on Sunday. Ministers from Pakistan, Iran, Russia and China will be in attendance, according to The Hindu.

As part military aid, India has already delivered seven helicopters to Afghanistan. A trilateral framework with Russia is being developed on supplying spares and conducting repairs on other aircraft in Afghanistan.

A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said Afghanistan's Deputy Foreign Minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai and India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley would give a joint media briefing on Sunday.

The Hindu reported Iran Foreign Minister Javed Zarif might make a presentation on the benefits of Chabahar for Afghanistan. India plans a big "reach-out event" to lure more countries to the port project.

The planned event in Chabahar will likely involve not merely the governments and experts, as well as industry representatives. It would highlight benefit from enhanced connectivity through Chabahar for other nations.