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Afghanistan, India agree to enhance defense and security cooperation

December 14, 2013

India and Afghanistan have reached to an agreement to enhance defense and security cooperation between the two nations.

India's External Affairs Ministry following a statement said that the agreement was reached during a meeting between President Hamid Karzai and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on Friday.

The statement further added that Kabul and New Delhi will enhance cooperation in training of the Afghan armed forces and meeting the equipment and infrastructure needs of the Afghan security forces.

President Hamid Karzai and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also agreed to expand opportunities for higher military education in India for Afghan officers, the statement added.

However, the Indian officials have not commented regarding the military equipment wish list which was presented by president Hamid Karzai to New Delhi.

In the meantime, India's External Affairs Ministry said that the two leaders also held talks on a number of other issues including development of new trade routes to facilitate trade and transit to Afghanistan and beyond, and the bilateral security agreement between Kabul and Washington.

Syed Akbaruddin, spokesman for the External Affairs Ministry of India said Friday that New Delhi was against attempts to pressurize and would support any stand taken by Mr. Karzai.