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## India pledges \$1 billion for Afghanistan development

Sep 14, 2016



President Ashraf Ghani and Indian Prime Minister on Wednesday condemned the sponsorship of terror in the region and vowed to further deepen bilateral cooperation, a media report said.

According to the Indian express New Delhi pledged one billion dollars for the support and development of “a unified, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan”.

Earlier, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on the head of a high level delegation had left Kabul for two-day official visit to India, his office said in a statement.

“The two leaders discussed the regional situation and expressed grave concern at continued use of terrorism and violence in the region for achieving political objectives,” a joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said.

“The two leaders agreed that this phenomenon presented the single biggest threat to peace, stability and progress in the region and beyond.

“Stressing that elimination of all forms of terrorism, without any discrimination, is essential, they called upon the concerned to put an end to all sponsorship, support, safe havens and sanctuaries to terrorists, including for those who target Afghanistan and India,” it said.

The Indian prime minister and Afghan president reaffirmed their resolve to counter terrorism and strengthen security and defence cooperation as envisaged in the India-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement.

The two sides also signed an Extradition Treaty, an agreement on cooperation in civil and commercial matters and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in peaceful use of outer space.

“Modi reiterated India’s abiding support for a unified, sovereign, democratic, peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. He conveyed India’s readiness to consider further requirements of Afghanistan for capacity and capability building in spheres such as education, health, agriculture, skill development, empowerment of women, energy, infrastructure and strengthening of democratic institutions.

“To this end, the Prime Minister offered that India would allocate a sum of USD 1 billion. The Prime Minister also proposed to supply world class and easily affordable medicines from India and cooperation in solar energy through mutually agreed instruments,” the MEA statement said.

The two sides also discussed quick implementation of the trilateral agreement involving Afghanistan, India and Iran, signed in May 2016, using Chahbahar port.