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Kabul, Delhi Vow to Put up Joint Front Against Terrorism

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Afghanistan and India have stressed joint counterterrorism efforts and bilateral economic cooperation, the Presidential Palace said on Wednesday.

A statement from the Palace said President Ghani, heading a high-level delegation, visited India on Tuesday, hours ahead of US Secretary of State Tillerson's arrival in Delhi. India Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the Afghan president and expressed his sympathies over the loss of precious lives in a string of deadly attacks across Afghanistan. "The leaders talked about opportunities created by the new US strategy for South Asia and agreed implementation of the policy is important for peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region."

The two leaders also discussed counterterrorism and boosting economic and transit cooperation. Ghani praised India's cooperation, particularly in implementation of fundamental projects in Afghanistan. He acknowledged bilateral cooperation had grown considerably. Ghani said that India and Afghanistan would work jointly as part of their respective policies to ensure peace and stability and achieve mutual interests.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his country and 1.2 billion Indian citizens would always stand always by Afghans and help them achieve prosperity and development. Both the leaders discussed boosting strategic cooperation and called their meeting productive. Modi supported an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process and stressed regional countries

should honestly fight against terrorism and destroy terrorist safe havens. The meeting also discussed about the importance of economic issues, regional connection, Afghanistan-India air corridor and exports through the corridor. Both sides agreed over creating a mechanism for finding markets for Afghanistan products in India.

Pointing to the Chabahar port, where the first shipment of wheat has just reached, the leaders said that Afghanistan, India and Iran should accelerate efforts to get advantage of the facility. Ghani thanked India for higher education cooperation with Afghans and sought its support for arranging vocational and agricultural courses Afghan youth from rural areas.

“India is an important country in exemplifying democracy and we want to use its experiences in technical and electoral areas in Afghanistan,” he said.

The two sides also reached an agreement on sharing experiences between the election commissions of the two countries, according to the statement.