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India calls for end to terror-safe havens in Af

Appeals to international community to continue supporting Ashraf Ghani regime

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India has strongly condemned the mindless violence against innocent people in Afghanistan and appealed to the international community to continue its support to the Ashraf Ghani regime and the country's national defence forces to combat terror imposed on them and ensure that verifiable actions were taken to end safe havens and sanctuaries outside the war-torn nation.

Addressing the Geneva ministerial conference on Afghanistan, Minister of State for External Affairs V K Singh said India was committed to sustainable peace, prosperity and stability in Afghanistan. The conference was convened to evaluate and strategise developmental policy achievements during the "transformation decade" (2015-24) for



the embattled nation. Singh said New Delhi would support all efforts for a political settlement in Afghanistan which were inclusive, promote unity, security, democracy and build a self-reliant and prosperous country. He emphasised on the Afghan side having a greater responsibility in running and managing its own affairs.

India, the minister said, has been engaged in a development partnership with Afghanistan and this was based on the objectives of building capacities for governance,

training human resources, creating infrastructure, enhancing connectivity, and promoting trade & investment.

A robust bilateral development cooperation dialogue was in place to ensure that these were in consonance with National Peace and Development Framework and National Priority Programmes of Afghanistan, he added.

"India supports all efforts for a political settlement in Afghanistan which are inclusive, promotes unity, peace, security, democracy and builds

a self-reliant and prosperous Afghanistan. All such efforts for peace and reconciliation should be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled," he said.

Singh also reaffirmed India's commitment to the rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan. He reiterated India's development assistance commitment of over \$3 billion to Afghanistan in keeping with Kabul's priorities under its National Peace and Development Framework.

On the margins of the conference, Singh separately called on Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

At the conclusion of the conference, the Geneva Communiqué entitled 'Securing Afghanistan's Future: Peace, Self-Reliance and Connectivity' along with the Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework document on deliverables was also adopted.