

India, Iran & Af discuss ways to boost economic ties

New Delhi: The first tripartite meeting of Afghanistan, Iran and India at the deputy foreign minister level was held in Kabul on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on consolidating economic cooperation, including Chabahar, as well as enhancing cooperation on counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics and continuing support to the peace and reconciliation process that is led and owned by Afghanistan, the MEA said.

The Indian delegation was led by foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale while the Iranian team was headed by deputy foreign minister Abbas Araghchi. Afghan deputy foreign minister Hekmat Khalil Karzai chaired the meeting.

The three sides agreed to hold the next consultation in India in 2019.

Sources said the possible impact of US sanctions on the Chabahar port project also figured in the meeting. The port on Iran's southern coast being developed by Delhi and Tehran will also come under the US sanctions on Iran. During the 2+2 talks last week with the US, India apprised the American delegation about the strategic importance of Chabahar, particularly for enhancing trade with war-ravaged Afghanistan. **TNN**