

India believes that ending terror sanctuaries and safe heavens operating across Durand line is necessary for enduring peace in Afghanistan.

As a contiguous neighbour, India continues to extend all support to the Government and people of Afghanistan in realising their aspirations for a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future where the interest of all sections of Afghan society are protected.

During the recent visit of the Foreign Secretary to Kabul on 28-29 February, 2020, the leadership of Afghanistan deeply appreciated India's support for peace, development and prosperity of Afghanistan, including the efforts for regional connectivity such as the operationalisation of Chabahar Port and establishment of Air Freight Corridors between various cities of India and Afghanistan. It was agreed to work together for implementation of the New Development Partnership and further expand cooperation in accordance with the Strategic Partnership Agreement.

Second visit of foreign delegation to Jammu and Kashmir

2923. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the second visit of Foreign Heads of Mission to Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) the list of representatives of countries, their names and designation;
- (c) the list of Civil Societies they interacted with;
- (d) the list of places visited and programmes attended by them; and
- (e) the details of outcome of the visit of Foreign Heads of Mission to Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (e) A delegation of 25 foreign Heads of Missions (HoM) representing various geographical regions (Afghanistan, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, European Union, France, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Rwanda, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Uganda and Uzbekistan) visited Srinagar and Jammu on 12-13 February, 2020.

The visit was organised as part of outreach efforts in view of requests received from foreign Missions based in Delhi with a view to have better understanding of the situation in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

During their visit, the delegation met civil administration, local business and political leaders, representatives of the civil society including youth from different ethnic, religious and socio-economic communities, and representatives of mainstream media. They were also briefed on development programmes being implemented and the security situation. The HoMs interacted freely, heard different voices and got the sense of prevailing normalcy in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, including free movement of people and regular conduct of business. They also acknowledged the importance placed by Government on roadmap for economic development in-the-UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Steps for building international pressure on Pakistan

2924. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need for building more international pressure on Pakistan to check cross border terrorism;
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so far; and
- (c) the details of further efforts to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI V. MURALEEDHARAN): (a) to (c) Government has consistently raised the issue of Pakistan's continued support to cross-border terrorism and terrorist infiltration in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora.

As a result of Government's persistent efforts, there is enhanced concern in the international community at terrorism emanating from Pakistan, including the continuing activities of internationally designated terrorist entities and individuals such as Jamaat-ud Dawa (JuD), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), Hizbul Mujahideen. Major partner countries have called upon Pakistan to not allow its territory to be used for terrorism in any manner. Recently, the Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the State visit of the US President to India on 25 February, 2020 *inter alia* condemned