

'India committed to a democratic and stable Afghanistan'

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Spanta assured that his government would do everything to ensure the security of Indians in Afghanistan.

Spanta advocated the need for a "comprehensive strategy", including targeting of the "sources" of international terrorism, and said India and Afghanistan could share their experiences on tackling the scourge.

"We have to attack the roots, not only the symptoms of terrorism. There is a need to target the sources of terrorism like ideology, training, finances and other logistics. These are the factors that guarantee continuity of terrorism," he said in New Delhi.

Without specifying whom he meant while talking about "sources" of terror, Spanta underlined the need for the cooperation of neighbours in tackling the situation.

Talking about the possibility of cooperation between his country and India in tackling terrorism in the region, he said, "We have successful experiences. India also has successful experiences. We can share (experiences) and learn from each other."

Later, on July 1, Spanta delivered a talk on Afghanistan's foreign policy at the Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) before leaving for home.



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anand Sharma prior to a meeting in New Delhi on June 30.

India, which has already committed \$600 million for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, is engaged in a number of developmental and

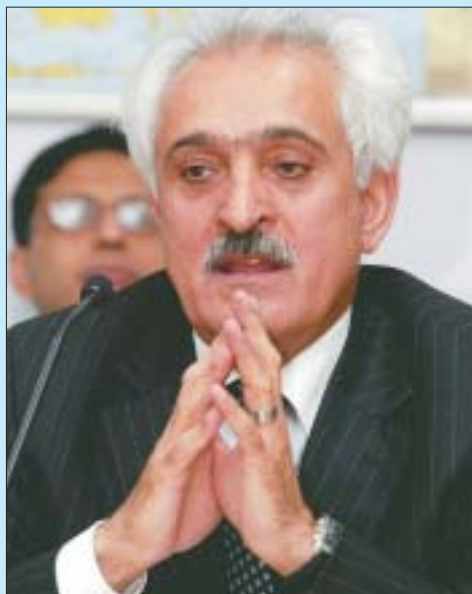
reconstruction projects in that country in various fields like infrastructure, healthcare, the social sector and education. ■

A fghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta delivered a talk on 'Afghanistan's Foreign Policy, Regional Relations and Future Perspectives' at Indian Council for World Affairs in New Delhi on July 1. Excerpts:

■ "...Afghanistan is determined not only to be a bridge between Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East and East Asia, but also a bridge between the Islamic world and the family of democracies, including the United States, the European Union, Japan, and India..."

■ "The relations between our two nations have been characterised by continuing friendship, cooperation, mutual respect and mutual contribution in almost every field from literature, poetry, architecture, religion, politics, to art and music. In fact, one cannot narrate the history of Afghanistan without recalling its numerous interactions with India, and vice versa. From the beginning of a new chapter in India's long history, the emergence of the republic in 1947, Afghanistan and India

HIGHLIGHTS OF DR. SPANTA'S SPEECH AT INDIAN COUNCIL FOR WORLD AFFAIRS



Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta delivering a talk on 'Afghanistan's Foreign Policy, Regional Relations and Future Perspectives' at the Indian Council for World Affairs in New Delhi on July 1.

have continued to strengthen their relationship."

■ "...from the beginning of a new chapter in Afghanistan's history following the toppling of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, in 2001, India has been among the most generous and sincere friends of Afghanistan. The symbol of India and Afghanistan's friendship is India's commitment to construct the building of the new Afghanistan Parliament, which is due to be completed by 2010..."

■ "I... thank again the people and the government of India for their consistent, generous and sincere support for Afghanistan during the last four years..."

■ "...I characterise Afghanistan's relations with India as an enduring partnership entailing cooperation in different areas such as security, economic, culture, and trade... As the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, I am determined to bring our relations to a still higher and strategical level. I am confident our desire to strengthen our relations is also shared by India..." ■