NEW DELHI - India and Iran have agreed to expand connectivity beyond Chabahar Port, not only to link it with a Railway line to Zahidan, but to connect it with the 7,200-km-long International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) – a multimodal network for moving freight between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.

In a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, it was noted that Iran will hold an early meeting of the INSTC Coordination Meeting in Tehran. In a joint statement issued by the two countries here at the end of deliberations, both sides were confident of the challenging the consequences of terrorism, and in expressing the need to identify and address conditions conducive to terrorism as well as extremism.

Both countries also agreed to intensify and diversify consultations and coordination, including suitably supplementing their cooperation on Chabahar. They also called upon the countries in the region to come forward for enhancing regional connectivity and take steps to do away with the obstacles on land transit.

The Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Sunday unveiled its four-year strategic plan that will boost reforms in the ministry and within the structures of the Afghan National Police (ANP).

The new plan is expected to be rolled out from Kabul and Herat provinces and within four years, the plan will be extended to all provinces across Afghanistan. (More on P6-L)