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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) looking at the Torana Gate at Little India, in Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. Pic by Syarafiq Abd Samad

KL, Delhi to fight terrorism

GLOBAL THREATS: Najib, Modi reaffirm nations' commitment to battling extremism

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**AZURA ABAS
AND FAZLEENA AZIZ**
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

MALAYSIA will join forces with India to fight violent extremism and terrorism.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said both countries shared the same position on counterterrorism and would discuss defence cooperation, including joint production, as India had a dynamic and strong defence industry.

"We will work together to defeat violent extremism and terrorism,"

Najib said in a joint press conference with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Najib also expressed Malaysia's appreciation for India's help in the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, which went missing with 239 passengers and crew on board.

Modi had a bilateral meeting with Najib at the Prime Minister's Office here yesterday.

He echoed Najib's position for stronger cooperation in defence and security.

Modi said attacks across the world and non-stop terrorist attempts in India and Afghanistan were proof of

the global nature of terrorism.

Modi praised Najib's leadership in combating extremism and radicalisation and his rejection of links between terrorism and religion.

"This is a great contribution to an important aspect of our global efforts against this challenge.

"We will also strengthen our defence cooperation and advance maritime security and disaster response in our region.

"I am pleased that we have agreed to upgrade our joint exercises and set up a SU-30 forum," he said, adding that the level and complexity of joint military exercises would be

raised, and collaboration in training and defence equipment boosted.

Modi said both countries had also agreed to cooperate in cyber security.

In a joint statement on enhanced Malaysia-India Strategic Partnership released in conjunction with the meetings, Malaysia and India agreed to continue sharing information and best practices to address challenges posed by terrorism and traditional and non-traditional threats.

Both countries reaffirmed their mutual interest to uphold peace, prosperity and security in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. **Additional reporting by Tharanya Arumugam**