

# PM: India wants peace in Afghan

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Following the jibe last week by US President Donald Trump on India's development efforts in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had conveyed to the US President on phone earlier this week that India's development efforts in the strife-torn country is an important part of the peace and reconciliation efforts in that country, top government sources have said.

Sources said PM Modi had conveyed directly during the phone call to President Trump the importance of India's development efforts in improving the lives of the Afghan people.

Meanwhile, the MEA on Friday — when asked about India's position on the Pakistan-backed Afghan Taliban — said New Delhi has always stood for an "inclusive"



Narednra Modi

Afghan peace process which is Afghan-owned, Afghan-led and Afghan-controlled.

New Delhi is backing the Afghan government which is in favour of peace talks with the Taliban. However, New Delhi's position has been that it does not want to engage directly with the Taliban.

New Delhi's view also has been that Pakistan has played a "destabilising" role in Afghanistan.

The MEA was asked about India's position following the recent comments of Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat who had supported talks (by concerned parties) with the Taliban but without any preconditions.