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President Putin says economic projects could “stabilise Afghan economy”

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National Security Advisor Ajit Doval at the 5th Multilateral Security Dialogue on Afghanistan, in Moscow, on February 8. | Photo Credit: ANI

India reiterated its call for an “inclusive and representative” government in Afghanistan on Wednesday, with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval declaring that the people of Afghanistan



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would "continue to guide" India's policy towards Kabul. He highlighted the heightened threat of terrorism because of the presence of terror groups like Daesh, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed in the Af-Pak region and sought security cooperation between the member states in the dialogue. He emphasised that Afghan territory should not be used for terrorism and that the natural resources of Afghanistan should be utilised "first for the welfare of Afghanistan".

'Representative regime needed'

India has not recognised the Taliban administration in Kabul. However, a technical team stationed at the Indian embassy in the Afghan capital has been overseeing the humanitarian assistance that India has been providing over the past year. Mr. Doval's presentation stated that "an inclusive and representative dispensation is in the larger interest of Afghan society".

His remarks came days after the India's Union Budget presentation, which allocated ₹200 crore for the development and humanitarian needs of the Afghan people.

The meeting was also attended by Mr. Doval's counterparts from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The third round of the dialogue had been held in Delhi under the chairmanship of Mr. Doval in November 2021.

'Stay vigilant on terror'

The visiting delegates met Mr. Putin who cautioned that the world should not underplay the significance of the Afghan conflict because of other disturbances that are taking place elsewhere. "Obviously, there is a lot of potential for conflict in the world today. There are many conflicts here, not far from Russia, including on the Ukrainian track. We are well aware and we realise this perfectly well, but this does not reduce the significance of the situation in Afghanistan. This has always been important for us and now it is important more than ever before because we do not want more points of tension on our southern borders," said the Russian President.



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ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui, Secretary of the Security Council of Tajikistan Nasrullo Mahmudzoda, Turkmenistan's envoy to Russia Batyr Niyazliyev, and Secretary of the Security Council of Uzbekistan Victor Makhmudov. The Russian hosts were represented by Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Nikolai Patrushev and Mr. Putin's aide Yury Ushakov.



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