

# India, Russia, Pakistan call for representative government, urge Taliban to respect rights of Afghans

**Concerns over the stability of Afghanistan are growing as the country struggles with its economy and humanitarian crises under Taliban rule.**

Calling for a representative government in Afghanistan, the foreign ministers of India, Russia and Pakistan on Friday urged the Taliban to respect the rights of all Afghans.

The ministers were speaking at the day-long meeting of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Indian coastal resort state of Goa, just ahead of a meeting scheduled over the weekend in Pakistan between the foreign ministers of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan.

“The unfolding situation in Afghanistan remains at the centre of our attention. Our efforts should be directed towards the welfare of the Afghan people,” Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said.

“Our immediate priorities include providing humanitarian assistance, ensuring a truly inclusive and representative government, combating terrorism and drug trafficking, and preserving the rights of women, children and minorities,” he said.

No country has recognised the Taliban who took over Afghanistan in August 2021, after a 20-year insurgency against U.S.-led forces, with a speed and ease that took the world by surprise, following which President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

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