

Amid long-drawn trade negotiations, Trump praises India and Modi

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US President Donald Trump said India is an important strategic partner, and reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a "great friend".

"India is home to one of the world's oldest civilisations. It is an amazing country, and an important strategic partner for America in the Indo-Pacific region. We have a great friend in PM Modi," said Trump. His comment was put on social-media platform X by the US Embassy in India on Tuesday.

BTA TALKS

The comment is significant in the backdrop of the long-drawn India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA) negotiations that seem to be stuck over certain US demands, including market access for sensitive agricultural and animal/dairy products.

Last week, Modi and Trump spoke over the telephone at a time when a US trade team was in Delhi to discuss the BTA and the way ahead. A press statement issued by the MEA stated that Modi and Trump reiterated that the two countries would



US President Donald Trump

continue to work closely together to advance global peace, stability and prosperity. Modi, in a post on X on December 11, said he had a warm and engaging conversation with Trump.

"We reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations and discussed regional and international developments. India and the US will continue to work together for global peace, stability and prosperity," said the PM. A day later, the US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, put out a post on X on the call between the two leaders.

"President Trump spoke with Prime Minister Modi this morning. A great call between two friends. Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his support for the President's efforts to bring peace to Ukraine," he said.