

India's Role in Geo-Political and Strategic Significance of Afghanistan

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ABSTRACT

The attack of 9/11 changed the eventual fate of Afghanistan, yet all basic partners in the region, significantly. From a regional "largely-overlooked" shrouded in the media, 9/11 carried the world to the helm of its affairs. With the US enormous organization of troops in Afghanistan, India showed this drive to "exhibit" its "soft-power" discretion in the world, particularly when the "helm of affairs" had chronicled as well as social profound root connections with the last mentioned. India's strategic intrigue was combined with a fortified international strategy as well as the "geographical connection" was a crucial for New Delhi especially in when the last was searching for roads for reinforcing monetary binds with the Central Asian countries. With an end goal to reestablish "dependability and security" in Afghanistan, New Delhi started undertaking various "foundation improvement activities" during post-Taliban years and from that point forward, keeps on supporting advancement of Afghanistan through harmony building, certainty advancement activities. As a significant player in South Asia, India's need in Afghanistan is to help the Afghan government set up after 2001. In any case, the political and security challenges after the announcement of US military withdrawal from Afghanistan have essentially affected India. Afghanistan is confronting a dual challenge on both security and political levels. On the security level, despite the fact that the counter-uprising estimates taken by both worldwide powers drove by the US and Afghan powers have gone on for over 10 years, Taliban and other Islamic fanatic gatherings keep on applying their solid political and security impact all over Afghanistan. At the political level, the new solidarity government, framed by Dr. President Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer, after the two terms of the administration of Hamid Karzai, shows potential divisions and vulnerability.

Keywords: Afghanistan, India, Geo-Political, Strategic, Relation

INTRODUCTION

The deplorable occasion of 9/11 changed not just the global political condition of the world yet in addition adjusted the security and political condition of South Asian region. An adjustment in Pakistan's international strategy towards Afghanistan was seen. Since Pakistan's development as a separate autonomous state, its question with Afghanistan on Durand Line has significantly affected the course of its international strategy towards Afghanistan. The issues in Afghanistan legitimately influence Pakistan in the domain of politics, financial aspects and society. The upset relations between the two states allowed to India to win the feelings of Afghanis after 9/11. India developed as

a solid regional player and built up great relations with Afghanistan by helping them. To make sure about its inclinations in Afghanistan India additionally settled great relations with Iran. They share some basic thought processes. Both the countries hate the Taliban system in Afghanistan and dreaded of the exportation of aggressors to their own dirt. So far friendly ties among India and Afghanistan consistently stay as a wellspring of uneasiness for Pakistan. India took an interest in Bonn Conference 2001 which underlined the base of political and protected structure for Afghanistan. India is viewed as a positive entertainer by a large portion of Afghans in spite of Pakistan.

Apart from this, Afghanistan's security issues convolute endeavors to develop the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline. As a result of the Taliban's capability to make a suitable government in Afghanistan, the US haggled with the Islamic system until 2001. The Taliban picked up noticeable quality by incapacitating warlords that were pursuing common war in Afghanistan. The US furnished huge numbers of these warlords during its intermediary war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan during the 1980's.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Yow Peter Raiphea (2013), The article illuminates India-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership marked on October 04, 2011 and its inductions drawn by Pakistan. It adjusts the points of view of Pakistan and Afghanistan towards this organization where Afghanistan sees the solid binds with India as a way to mollify the feeling of insecurity and equipped for helping the war-torn country to balance out the defenseless country by virtue of the weakening force battle foreseen in the force vacuum following the withdrawal in 2014 of the US and NATO forces while Pakistan is worry about the understanding and is very dubious of enclosure by India.

B. D. Hopkins (2008) in his book, *The Making of Modern Afghanistan* infers that the three maxims characterizing the Afghan political universe to which they turned were the clan, Islam and traditionalism. These were the regularizing orders on which political power rested, speaking to what David Edwards has named the 'ethical separation points' of the Afghan political network. Amin Saikal likewise contended that the three factors have without a doubt been the subject of much academic exploration and composing. Yet, this has been led with an emphasis on them independently, instead of in an integrative way that accentuates the supremacy of crossing point between regal polygamic-based force battles and major-power contentions, and mediations as contributing halfway to the sort of conditions which have kept the Afghan state feeble and defenseless against ideological fanaticism as a noteworthy result Afghanistan's authentic excursion taking a tempestuous and savage way, punctuated by just one significant stretch of relative harmony and dependability, that is 1930–1978, in the over a long time since the nation's combination as a recognizable political element, and its acknowledgment as such in the universal framework.

Curtis J (2016) expressed in her work "South Asia-Political and Economic Region" that South Asia is one of the old civic establishments in the mankind's history on the planet and individuals from various races exist together over the significant stretch of time. The distinctive cultural added substances make it not the same as different residents of the world. There are eight nations in South

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Asia and other fringe regions that have been affected by the center of the region. There are numerous contentions winning in the region however the nations attempting to illuminate them through South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation. The region is considered as the essential piece of the world and has huge impact in the worldwide governmental issues. The region confronted a few nonconventional challenges like fear mongering; tranquilize dealing, and intermediary wars. Regardless of these difficulties, the region has seen colossi's monetary development from most recent couple of decades.

Pattanaik (2012) It has been contended that India liberated itself from its Soviet-driven past. In addition, India had new procedures and arrangements towards the recently autonomous Central Asian states with bottomless vitality resources of gaseous petrol and raw petroleum. The numerous atomic tests in 1998 and the India-USA rapprochement added to India's expanding confidence. The USA nearness in Afghanistan has seen as a factor that is seen to have upgraded India's security.

Mohan (2013) the idea of the global legislative issues has adjusted profoundly following the times of the Cold War. The breakdown of the USSR laid a significant effect on India's international strategy. One of the examiners Raja Mohan has contended it gave India the decision "to reevaluate its international strategy" The Afghanistan-India relations were decayed after the Taliban government came into power. India didn't perceive the outrageous Taliban system which constrained India to close its government office in Afghanistan.

INDIA-AFGHANISTAN LINKAGES

India and Afghanistan have a solid relationship dependent on recorded and social connections. The relationship is not boundaried to the governments in New Delhi and Kabul, yet has its establishments in the recorded contacts and exchanges between the individuals. In recent past, India-Afghanistan linkages have been additionally strengthened by the Strategic Partnership Agreement, which was marked between the two nations in October 2011. The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between the different sides, entomb alia, accommodates help to help revamp Afghanistan's foundation and establishments, training and specialized help to re-construct indigenous Afghan limit in various regions, empowering interest in Afghanistan's natural resources, giving obligation free access to the Indian market for Afghanistan's exports support for an Afghan-drove, Afghan-claimed, expansive based and comprehensive procedure of peace and reconciliation, and upholding the requirement for a continued and long term commitment to Afghanistan by the global community.

India-Afghanistan relationship is portrayed by customary abnormal state exchanges. Our pioneers have met each other during bilateral visits just as uninvolved of universal occasions. On 25th December 2016, Prime Minister alongside an abnormal state appointment paid a visit to Afghanistan. During his visit he approached President Ashraf Ghani; he met Chief Executive, Dr Abdullah and Former President Hamid Karzai. During his visit he introduced the recently fabricated Afghan Parliament; reported 500 grants for the children of the martyrs of Afghan Security Forces and gifted our Mi-25 Attack helicopters to the Afghan Air Force

On 4 June 2016, Prime Minister visited Herat in western Afghanistan and he alongside President Ghani jointly introduced the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, prior known as Salma Dam. The fruition

of the dam task speaks to culmination of years of hard work by around 1,500 Indian and Afghan specialists and different experts in troublesome conditions. It likewise features India's preceded with promise to Afghanistan's reconstruction and development. Later on 22 August 2016, Prime Minister jointly introduced through video conferencing the reestablished Stor Palace in Kabul with President Ghani. During his speech Prime Minister said the 1.25 billion Indian individuals will consistently remain with Afghanistan in guaranteeing peace and prosperity.

- **Commercial Linkages**

The bilateral trade at for the year 2016-17 was USD 800 million approx and can possibly be extended further. Be that as it may, the trade linkages will understand its actual potential once the Wagah-Attari course is opened for bilateral trade. Up until now, the Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) has been prohibitive in this viewpoint. India is the biggest market in the area for Afghan items and the hindering of travel has influenced the free development of wares. One of the targets of structure Zaranj-Delaram street by India was to support bilateral economic linkages other than offering Afghanistan another outlet to a seaport. The initiation of the Dedicated Air Cargo Corridor in June 2017 between Kabul-Delhi and Kandahar-Delhi has given a crisp driving force to bilateral trade. The Air Corridor has guaranteed free development of cargo in spite of the boundaries set up because of the refusal of travel by Pakistan. During the Strategic Partnership Council meeting it was chosen to further strengthen the passageway and grow it to different urban areas in India. More than 1000 Tons of payload has just been moved in the Air Corridor since its initiation.

On 28 September 2017, Dr. Abdullah initiated the India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show. It gave an important stage to exhibit trade and venture openings in Afghanistan. The show created business worth US\$ 250 million and improved the B2B linkages among India and Afghanistan. The show presented the massive potential in the bilateral trade and further strengthened the commercial linkages among India and Afghanistan. The unmistakable Indian organizations doing organizations in Afghanistan are: (i) KEC – Electrical Transmission Lines (ii) Phoenix – Consultancy in Electrical Transmission (iii) AIPL – Establishment of Hydro Power Project in Helmand Province (iv) APTECH – Computer & Management Education (v) GAMMON INDIA – Power Transmission Line & Power Sub-stations (vi) KPTL – Power Transmission Line (vii) ANAAR GROUP (AIR INDIA GSA) (viii) Spice Jet.

- **Afghan Culture Linkages**

Afghanistan has been a significant exchanging and specialty place for more than 2000 years associating the civic establishments of Persia, Central Asia with India. India and Afghanistan share centuries old cultural heritage with deep-rooted linkages in the field of music, arts, engineering, language and food. In the field of music, in particular, most Afghan artists were prepared in the Patiala Gharana. Today, Indian movies, tunes and TV serials are well known with the majority, contributing significantly to the promotion of Hindi and acclimation of the masses with Indian socio-cultural value system.

- **Political and Cultural Linkages**

India and Afghanistan have a solid relationship dependent on recorded and cultural connections. The relationship isn't boundaries to the governments in New Delhi and Kabul, and has its establishments in the verifiable contacts and exchanges between the individuals. In recent past, Indo-Afghan linkages have been additionally strengthened by the Strategic Partnership Agreement signed between the two nations in 2011. The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between the different sides, entomb alia, accommodates assistance to help modify Afghanistan's foundation and institutions, instruction and specialized assistance to reconstruct indigenous Afghan limit in various territories, empowering interest in Afghanistan's natural resources, giving obligation free access to the Indian market for Afghanistan's exports support for an Afghan-drove, Afghan-claimed, wide based and comprehensive procedure of peace and compromise, and pushing the requirement for a continued and long haul pledge to Afghanistan by the universal community.

The Presidential decisions were held in 2014 in Afghanistan. After an extended discretionary procedure for two rounds of races and UN interceded audit process, a Political Agreement was signed between two leading contenders – Dr Ashraf Ghani and Dr Abdullah which prompted the arrangement of national solidarity government, initiated on 29 September 2014. The ceremony was gone to by our Vice President Dr. Hamid Ansari. Our steady signaling on the political inclusivity and peaceful transfer of power was tended to and increased in value by all segments of the Afghans. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his salutary message wholeheartedly respected the agreement between the two Afghan pioneers and referenced that intelligence they have indicated regards the solid democratic aspirations of the individuals of Afghanistan, which was likewise showed by the survey turnout. Prime Minister likewise passed on that India will stand relentlessly with the new government of Afghanistan as it precedes with the errand of structure a solid, created and peaceful country.

GEO-POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF AFGHANISTAN

For a long time, Afghanistan has been a characteristic corridor for conquerors and brokers that moved troops or products from West to East, between Middle East and India, and the different way. This was the way picked by Alexander the Great, 328 years before Christ. These days, Afghanistan is in excess of a corridor; it is an intersection of courses in Asia.

The political, monetary, social and military existence of the Afghan State, of 652.000 square km of surface, is molded by the Hindu Kush precipitous massif which has 600 km long and runs the entire nation from upper east to southwest. These mountains section a lot of an area and hinder interchanges between the different regions; moreover, the unforgiving mainland atmosphere during winter supports the clan's significance over the focal government and as often as possible compels the state activity to the capital and its whereabouts.

In the west: the plateaus of Persian Iran with its Shia impact and where there's likewise Sunni Muslims from the Arabian Peninsula. Afghanistan develops as one of the consequences of the Great Game; this is the name of the geostrategic contest that held the British and the Russian domains in Central Asia during the 19th century. As they were not able vanquish Afghanistan, these forces

concluded on leaving it as a nonpartisan state between both domains. The Wakhan corridor, situated in the Pamir Mountains, north-east of Afghanistan, and in the outrage of which is arranged China, is the most grounded sign of the purpose of anticipating a furnished encounter between these forces. China's outskirt, one of the most elevated of the world, stays shut during at any rate five months per year because of the snow. In any case, this path can have a significant role later on as vitality corridor for the design of the elective gas and oil channels to the present ones that transport vitality items to China.

In the 20th century, during the Cold War, Afghanistan was the situation of the contention of two other realms, this time the Soviet and the American domains. The United States arranged a circling methodology against the USSR's expansionism known as Kennan's regulation technique. Therefore, when the Soviet troops attacked Afghanistan in 1979, the Americans responded supporting the revolt that was battled to drive away the Soviets.

Although in the past Afghanistan could keep up a specific level of lack of bias thanks to its land circumstance, in the course of the most recent 31 years it hasn't known harmony. In 1931, the USSR and the King of Afghanistan marked a non-animosity arrangement, so as to strengthen the lack of bias. The dynamic of the Cold War made the USSR mediate politically in Afghanistan increasingly more regularly until 1979 when the Soviet troops crossed the outskirt with the appearance of securing the Afghan socialist Government right then and there.

Afghanistan is situated at the intersection of a few atomic forces intending to be local pioneers, for example, China, Pakistan, India, Russia and Iran. This gathering of neighbor nations awards Afghanistan an exceptional interest. Also, there are a few POL/MIL associations in the zone that add to its solidness and that we should consider when looking for Afghanistan's conflict goals. The way that Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are individuals from the CSTO and the SCO gives incredible soundness to this area in the North of Afghanistan. Notwithstanding the issues among Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, all these previous individuals from the USSR, alongside China, are resolved to battle against worldwide fear based oppression.

AFGHANISTAN'S STRATEGIC LOCATION: GEO-POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY

Afghanistan is situated in the South Western corner of Central Asia. Lying in the northern subtropical zone, it stretches out from 29°21'N to 38°30'N scope and from 60°31'N to 75° East longitude. It is bound rayed on the north by Russia, on the West by Iran; on the South and East by Pakistan; and in the extreme North-East (in the Wakhan district) by the People's Republic of China. Afghanistan's land territory (650,000 sq.kms.) is second just to Mongolia. It has the biggest population among the land secured states Asia. Afghan geography can be isolated into the accompanying locales: i) Mountain System ii) River Basins The River Basin:(a) The Oxus River Basin (b) The Kabul River Basin (c) The Seistan Basin(d) The Hari-Rud Basin. The focal mountain framework and its branches rule the landscape of the nation. It shapes the fundamental watershed for the significant rivers of Afghanistan.

With Hindukush in focus Salang extend transversing west and southwest towards the north of Bamian and the Mir Samir go after Charikar hole, bifurcates into the Paghman range and joins Koh-

I-Baba. The Safed-Koh or Spingar Mountain anticipating east-ward frames the Afghan boundary with Pakistan. The Salt range begins from the south-eastern side of the Safed-Koh and patterns a south-easterly heading to Kala Bagh in Pakistan. The Sulaiman Mountain starts from the Safed Koh. The Sulaiman range frames a significant watershed between the Helmand and the Indus rivers. KhwajaAmran range starts at the northern boundary of the Kabul plateau and expands north east towards the Ghilzai nation. It isolates Shorawak from Pishin and then from the northern boundary of Pishin and a short time later takes the name Toba, from a nation through which it runs.

The Kabul river valley, by a long shot is the most significant line of direct exchange course from Peshawar. The fundamental line of correspondence among Kabul and Peshawar is around 272 Kms. long. The significance of this gathering of passes is that, they not just framed the essential line of way to deal with the North-West Frontier of the Indian Subcontinent in the provincial period, yet additionally was basic travel course for the land-locked state. Tochi valley is likewise one of the significant and conceivable travel courses, though it has got restricted openness towards East - Central Afghanistan.

Seistan is ruled by mud and salt flats. The valleys of Helmand basins are profound and level. Beneath Girishk, the river Helmand gets its biggest tributary, the Arghandab which has three tributaries of Arghastan, Tarnak and Dari rivers. The Hari-Rudbasin is de-boundaryed in the north by the Parapomissus Mountain and Karakum desert, by the SiahKoh in the south, by the Band-I-Turkestan and Koh-I-Baba in the northeast and east. In its center course, Hari-Rud structures the boundary among Afghanistan and Iran. It is an extremely ripe territory comprised of alluvial and outwash plain. The Khwagar and Korukh rivers are significant tributaries of the Hari-Rud.

Physical alleviation has assumed a significant role in forming the idea of state exercises of Afghanistan with persistent consistency; it had affected the course of Afghan history. With its changed impacts it had influenced the authentic, political and financial advancement of the state. It has made intense territorial lopsided characteristics and rise of center zones which decided the political connection and connections of the various locales between one another.

The mountain framework has would in general anticipate any kind of social trades between the different various social gatherings possessing Afghanistan. As regions of every social gathering were physio-graphically restricted from others the social gathering built up their own customary political origination and association based on changing impacts of the physical condition they occupied. Anyway the inconsistent physical division among northern and southern Afghanistan empowered the geopolitical between relationships to have sweeping effect upon Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is a land-locked nation; therefore, a lot of its issues exude from its geo-political area. This intrinsic shortcoming of its encased area had extensive results on its improvement and presence. For quite a long time, it has confronted the persistent expansionist plans of different forces, and its neighbors. Afghanistan lay in the between the incredible exchange courses. As far back as the ascent of Soviet Union as an incredible power and the long existing interests of Great Britain; it turned into a zone of intermittent political and outfitted conflicts during the 19th century and contention during the 20th century. Afghanistan saw the threats presented by Britain and Russia to its free presence, yet it was discovered conflicting in the battle of the two basically European politico-regional

frameworks. Because of the dynamic forward approaches of Britain and Russia, both the interior and outside forces had undermined the steadiness, just as, the survival of Afghanistan as a free state. A circumstance, and in the new power condition, Afghanistan had no dynamic task to carry out.

‘ZERO-SUM’ GAME

India's job in post-9/11 Afghanistan has been a subject of extraordinary pompous arrangement considerations, on occasion verging on hypotheses. On one hand, India apparently plays a basic job in the reconstruction of the war-ravaged nation, and on the other, India's developing impact in Afghanistan because of its aid strategy is said to have expanded Pakistan's genuine or envisioned worries of enclosure in what it sees to be its “strategic backyard”. This “zero-sum” geopolitical competition among India and Pakistan, named by Western experts as the new extraordinary game, is viewed as a wellspring of further unsteadiness. Geopolitical contention keeps on forming Pakistan's reaction to the expanding bonhomie among India and Afghanistan. While Afghanistan looks towards India for greater cooperation, Pakistan seems decided not to permit such a situation and is consistently looking for available resources to recover its strategic profundity in Afghanistan. It normally observes any Indian nearness and impact in Afghanistan, even those procured through genuine methods, as unfriendly to its interests. It sees the exercises of India's developmental assistance and goodwill it has produced among the nearby Afghans with a suspicion bordering on paranoia.

Pakistan's military and intelligence establishment has consistently moved toward the different wars in and around Afghanistan as a function of its principle institutional and national security interests first and premier, adjusting India. For Pakistan, a flexible system in Afghanistan under Pakistani impact, or possibly a kindhearted Afghanistan, involves overriding strategic significance. For fears of expanded Indian impact in Afghanistan and past, Pakistan denies any overland trade and transit offices for Indian goods to Afghanistan in this manner convincing India to depend on the Iranian option. The secret report by previous US top authority in Afghanistan, General Stanley McChrystal summarized, and Indian political and economic impact is expanding in Afghanistan, including significant development endeavors and money related investment. While recognizing Indian exercises to a great extent advantage the Afghan people, the report brought up increasing Indian impact in Afghanistan is probably going to compound regional strains and energize Pakistani countermeasures in Afghanistan or India. Such reasoning discovers reverberation among western investigators, who set that the street to peace in Afghanistan runs through Kabul and Islamabad, yet Delhi too. This, thusly, functions admirably into the Pakistani risk recognition that India's presence in Afghanistan is expected to circle Pakistan.

With Afghanistan rising as a potential performance center of contention, India signaled that it was prepared to examine the bigger Afghan circumstance with Islamabad during foreign secretary-level talks. During the 1980s, the different sides talked about Afghanistan normally. In any case, with the changing geopolitical circumstance in the area, particularly after the ouster of the Taliban regime in 2001, Pakistan has over and over scrutinized India's developing profile in Afghanistan and has propelled a strategic battle planned for lessening New Delhi's impact in that nation. While India seeks after its aid strategy, it has stayed away from any military inclusion in Afghanistan, regardless

of interest communicated by Afghanistan. In April 2008, Afghanistan's Defense Minister, Abdul Rahim Wardak visited New Delhi and met with his Indian counterpart, A.K. Antony, to talk about conceivable military cooperation.

CONCLUSION

Afghanistan tries to iron out anti-India sentiments through economic development and claim a stronger grip over regional geopolitics. The story of India's economic diplomacy is a recent phenomenon. For generations of Indians, the begging bowl has been an important symbol of Indian diplomacy.

In the 21st century India has increased its influence in Afghanistan and Central Asia. India has entered into military cooperation with Central Asian states and should its desire to train Afghan army. For this strategic partnership agreement was important with Afghanistan. With it, there was great possibility that India could train and is training the Afghan army when American withdraw from Afghanistan.

Be that as it may, Afghanistan's security issues entangle endeavors to build the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline. As a result of the Taliban's capability to make a reasonable government in Afghanistan, the US haggled with the Islamic system until 2001. The Taliban picked up unmistakable quality by incapacitating warlords that were pursuing civil war in Afghanistan. The US outfitted a significant number of these warlords during its intermediary war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan during the 1980's.

The Central and South Asia districts can't be sufficiently inspected without altogether understanding the up and coming predominance that China is presently ready to practice over the whole zone. Any strategic origination or endeavors along the political, economic, security and social measurements sought after by little or bigger entertainers, by state and non-state on-screen characters or by multilateral associations, can't be effectively accomplished if China's historic ascendance in the locale isn't completely coordinated inside policy plan and along global, provincial and reciprocal engagements. Supporting the Afghan stand, India has been asserting that the peace process must be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled.

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