
INDO AFGHAN RELATION AFTER 9/11

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ABSTRACT

India and Afghanistan have very closed cultural, economic, political and security relations. Relation between India and Afghanistan can be traced back to Indus valley civilization. India and Afghanistan relationship is not limited to the government in New Delhi and Kabul, and has its foundation in the historical contacts and interchanges between the peoples of two nations. 1 following the 9/11 attacks and the consequent US lead war in Afghanistan , US campaign for international war against terrorism and “Operation enduring freedom” started by the US in Afghanistan against the Taliban govt in November 2001 , provided India a chance to prosecute its foreign policy goals of attaining a dominant position in the region and emerging as global power. Therefore , post 9/11 India escalated its efforts to re establish its influence in Afghanistan which had been marginalized with the establishment of Taliban led govt in 1996 the main focus of this paper is to examine the developing indo afghan relation in the post 9/11 .2 India’s main focus has been to assist the Afghan govt & political procedure in the country as mandated under the Bonn agreement of 2002. India has started an extensive assistance program in Afghanistan Since 2001 wherein it has promised US \$ 750 million toward construction efforts. new Delhi has emerged as one of the Afghanistan’s top six donors, having extended a US \$ 500 million aid package in 2001 and slowly or gradually increasing it ever since .3 Post 9/11 Indian attempts in Afghanistan to re establish its influence have been generally focused on three aspects -: a greater role in the reconstruction process and economic development -: building linkage with central Asian states -: and attempts to marginalize Pakistan influence in Afghanistan. 4

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To study and analyze the relation between the two countries.
- 2 To study the developmental role in Afghanistan after 9/11.
- 3 To study the impact of our relation on other countries.
- 4 To study and analyze the interest and objectives of relation between two countries.
- 5 To study and examine the connection and relation with south Asian countries.

KEY WORDS: Afghanistan, India, relation, South Asian, after 9/11, Soviet, development.

INTRODUCTION:

The existence of human being in the sub continent is traced back to 4000 years ago. Relation between the people of Afghanistan and India trace back to Indus Valley Civilization. Afghans because of its geostrategic location neighbouring Pakistan, Iran and Central Asian States after the disintegration of USSR, Afghanistan has remained the centre of Indian Regional Policy. After the independence from the clutches British Empire, India has enjoyed warm and friendly relation with Afghanistan. These relations were strengthening by the signing of the "FRIENDSHIP TREATY" in 1950. India signed various agreement and protocols with Pro-soviet regimes in Afghanistan to boost cooperation to enhance Indian influence. The soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 provided another chance for India to promote its relation with Afghanistan. The rise of Mujahidin in Afghanistan against the Soviet invasion supported by the US and Pakistan. After The withdrawal of soviet troops from Afghanistan, disintegration of soviet union in 1991 and the formation of a Government by the Mujahidin in April 1992. These were the incidence that led to the first example of diplomatic isolation of Indian influence in Afghanistan. India did not recognize the Taliban Government because of his contention towards Pakistan, and India closed its embassy in September 1996. Meanwhile the Non Peshtuns troops opposing the Taliban Government and form the Northern alliance as a part of India's efforts to maintain its influence in Afghanistan and counter Pakistan's assistance to the Taliban Government, India established and boost relationship with the Northern Alliance.⁵

The incident of 9/11 in the U.S. on 11 September 2001 shocked the whole world and the consequent US crusade for international war against terrorism and "OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM" launched by U.S. in Afghanistan against the Taliban Government in November, 2001.

This incident provided a chance to India to prosecute its foreign policy goals of attaining the dominant position in the region and becoming gradually as a global power. For this purpose after 9/11, India escalated its efforts fully established its influence in Afghanistan, which had been marginalized with the establishment of Taliban led Government in 1996.

Indo Afghan Relation Post 9/11

After a Painful and bloody incident of 9/11 the US crusade for international war against terrorism and the US action against the Taliban Government in November, 2001 was a favourable in disguise for India, as it provided a great chance to re-establish its influence in Afghanistan. Mr. Jaswant Singh, the Indian External affairs Minister. During his visit to U.S. in October 2001, emphasized that International Community should support the Northern Alliance Government in Afghanistan.⁶ The Indian special envoy for Afghanistan, Satinder Lambah, visited Kabul in November, 2001 and opened liaison office in Kabul. Subsequently, in December 2001 Mr. Jaswant Singh reopened the Indian Embassy in Kabul. Various top officials of the Northern Alliance Government visited India in December 2001. Later the Boon conference in December 2001 that established an interim Government in Afghanistan and Mr. Hamid Karzai elected as interim president.⁷ India supported Hamid Karzai as the President of Afghan. Hence supported to the New Set up, India announced US 100 Million Dollars Reconstruction aid to Afghanistan.⁸ after Boon conference in December 2001, India has been involved in the training programme, health sector, rural development, educational development and infrastructural

development. Projects in the Afghanistan January 2007. Indian external affairs "Pranab Mukherjee" during visit to Afghanistan commenting on the nature of in the Indo-Afghan relation. Indian Afghan bilateral relations are fast developing into the partnership which is very special to us. We are glad to be able to contribute to the construction and rebuilding process of Afghanistan.⁹ Indian external affair Minister Sushma Swaraj first visits to Afghan, during her visit in September, 2014. She discussed further enhancing defence security assistance to Afghanistan.

Afghan National Defence Minister LT General Tariq Shah visited India in April 2018. During his visit he met external minister Sushma Swaraj and exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan. He deeply appreciated the positive and constructive support by India for economic development and reconstruction in Afghanistan. He stressed that the people and Government of Afghan would like India to continue to play greater role in Afghanistan. After 9/11 Indian attempts to re-establish major role in construction of war torn country and economic development building linkage with the Central Asian States and attaining to marginalize Pakistan's influence in Afghanistan.¹⁰

INDIA'S MAJOR ROLE IN RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AFGHANISTAN

India is among the major contributors to war-torn Afghanistan's reconstruction process and is helping in different areas including infrastructure, education sector, and health care social welfare training of Afghan's Civil and Army officials including diplomats, road, building and dams. In Afghanistan, there are approximately 3500 to 4000 Indian Nationals working in various private and public sectors reconstruction.¹¹

India has provided funds and assistance in the construction of Much needed infrastructure, 4000 km roads in Afghanistan, most particularly the Zarang - Dilraram highway and most important the Salma Dam and electricity transmission lines, the Afghan Parliament Building.¹² India is also involved in developing and promoting the mining sector in Afghanistan. In February 2005, Afghan minister for mines, Meer Mohd Sadiq during his visit to India requested India's assistance in developing the inventory, exploration and utilization of mineral resources in Afghanistan. The Mr.Sadiq Said that Afghan has about 30 minerals, including coal, copper, zinc and gold.¹³

India is investing in a big way to promote trading and economic cooperation with Afghanistan. In March 2003 former president of Afghan Hamid Karzai visited India, during his visit India and Afghanistan signed the preferential trade agreement according to this agreement 38 items and products that Afghan export to India have been given to 100% tax concessions.¹⁴ In August 2005 Indian Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh visited Afghan during his visit both the countries signed two Memorandum of Understanding, MOU and agreement for cooperation. The agreement on cooperation in the field of healthcare and medicinal science on small development projects and MOU on cooperation in the field of Agricultural research and education as a part of attempts to develop integrated rural development, Mr. Man Mohan Singh announced the adoption of 100 villages in Afghanistan. Moreover in this context between the two countries Indo - Afghan Strategic relationship were officially established in October 2011. Now India is

the biggest regional donor to Afghanistan and 5th largest donor globally with our US 3 billion in assistance. India has done significant work in the field of infrastructural development in Afghan near about 2000 public and private schools with every 1000 scholarship sponsored and supported by India.¹⁵ There are our 16000 Afghan students are studying in India moreover 4000 Afghan's national security forces officers have been trained in Indian Military institutions and expected increment of 50% in numbers of its officers will train in this year also. Nearly 2000 Afghan students are students studying in Indian Scholarships including for 500 Afghan Civil servants. More than 100 Indian supported small development projects are being implemented. India has also supported Afghan in Medical Field provided free treatment for more than 3.50 lacs in major cities like Kabul and Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat and Mazhar-E-Sharif. ¹⁶ Second meeting of strategic partnership counsel between India and Pakistan under the guidance of bilateral strategic partnership agreement 2001 was held in New Delhi on 11 September, 2017 between the foreign Ministers of two countries. The strategic partnership counsel discussed a range of bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. The outcome of the meeting in the area of political and security issues trade and commerce and investment development, cooperation and human resource development. Education culture was re-examined and positively evolved.

India's connection and relation with Central Asian States. The Central Asian region with its rich resources of energy oil-gas, tremendous mineral resources and also have a large consumer market is of geostrategic importance to India. India has extended its relation with CARS as a major strategic and economic interest.¹⁷ The future expectation for cooperation and relation between central Asian and India in the field of energy, security seen to be very important. Peace and stability in CARS and Afghan is the important factor for India's security.¹⁸ After the disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991 and the emergence of control of Central Asian Republics as sovereign states, India immediately after the Independence established diplomatic relations with them and was interested in promoting economic and cultural cooperation India was also concerned about PAKISTAN's influence in the Central Asian States. However India needed much the Afghanistan's link to hold its contacts and relation with Central Asian States after South Occupation the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the marginalization of Indian influence. India faced many challenges and problems in maintaining its influence in the Central Asian Region. However because of its close contacts with Northern alliance, India maintained some links with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. During the Taliban Government, India had established a hospital in Farkhor on Afghan and Tajik border and provided assistance to the Northern Alliance after the incident of 9/11. India's interest in Afghanistan is based on the fact that Afghan could be developed as a bridge between India and Central Asia. In April 2006 Afghan President Hamid Karzai during his visit invited Indian companies to invest in Afghanistan. He said we will be happy for the Indian companies in Afghanistan to produce their goods and to have Afghanistan as a hub or launching pad for those products in Central Asia.¹⁹ In these circumstances, India provided assistance in building roads and infrastructures connecting Afghanistan with the Central Asian States. Around 4000 km roadways in Afghan most important Zaranj-Dilaram highway, the Salma Dam the electricity transmission lines and Afghan parliament building. India is also involved in developing Turkmanistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India (Tapi Gas Pipe Line Project) besides, Iran Pak and India (IPI Gas Pipe Line).²⁰ Chabhar Port is also important for India and Afghan which open and route to Afghanistan and Central Asia. India has committed to 500 US Dollar to the project. The port will open new trade

route to Afghan, will bypass Pakistan. Moreover India is the fourth country to have base in Central Asia. The base is strategic importance to India a base at Ayni allows India rapid action to any rising threat from changing volatile Afghanistan, Pakistan. New Delhi have a limited but significant power to inject special forces in hostile/opposite forces threats as and when the situation demands in the time of military action with Pakistan. India would be able to strike Pakistan from rare Tajik territory.²¹

MARGINALIZING PAKISTAN'S INFLUENCE IN AFGHANISTAN

During the Taliban Government in Afghanistan, Pakistan gained influence in Afghanistan, whereas India was marginalized because of its support to ousted Rabbani Government and Northern alliance. After the bloody incident of 9/11, The US crusade for war against terrorism provided India a chance to cut off Pakistan and to support and persuade the International Community who declare Pakistan a "Terrorist State". After 9/11 incident immediately offered full cooperation and airbase facilities for the US Military operation in Afghanistan and waged a complaint against Pakistan. The then Indian Home Minister L.K. Advani in the statement on 16th September, 2001 said "The war world can't disregard the fact that over a decade, Pakistan and now Taliban have been promoting terrorism."

They have been giving safe shelter and protection to all those indulge in terrorist violence.²² India did not succeed in its attempt to persuade the International Community who declare Pakistan a terrorist State. However India's efforts are the support of Northern Alliance to prevent the formation of an Afghan Government by Pro-Pakistani element. India is also concern about the re-surgence of Taliban would be clearly threat to Indian Security particularly in state Jammu and Kashmir.²³

However despite Pakistan repeated refused India and Afghan have been blaming Pakistan on sponsoring Cross Border infiltration along the border with Afghanistan and of sheltering terrorists on its soil. Moreover Pakistan has expressed its serious concern regarding the opening of four Indian consulates, besides the embassy in Afghanistan. Pakistan blaming that through this consulates India is evolved in underground activities aimed at destabilizing Pakistan.

CONCLUSION:

India's Afghan policy should be analyzed in the circumstances of the Principles and perception of overall Indian foreign policy. Most important Hindus holy Books like Vedas, Gita and the works of eminent Hindu political thinkers have influenced the process of foreign policy Conceptualization in India. One of the most important eminent political thinkers was Kautilya, whose idea a political circle of neighbour has shaped or determined. India's regional policy according to Kautilian philosophy, Neighbours' are considered as enemies and an enemy's immediate neighbour as a friend.²⁴

Consequently, as a part of this philosophy taking advantage of the differences between the Afghanistan and Pakistan regarding the Durand line. India was able to establish friendly relation with Afghanistan in 1947. After the bloodiest incident of 9/11 the US started operation in Afghanistan against the Taliban Government, US and NATO forces defeated the Taliban. India

got a chance in Afghanistan to re-establish and strengthen its influence in the country and in the Central Asian republics. In this regard, Indian attempts have been to infiltrate all sectors in Afghanistan to make them dependent on Indian Support; this making Afghan a launching pad for it's in the Central Asian States.

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