

## A STUDY TO UNDERSTAND THE REDEFINING INDIA'S ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN

**Shallu Devi**

Research Scholar

Email : [shalludevishallu7@gmail.com](mailto:shalludevishallu7@gmail.com)

**Paper Received On:** 25 APR 2022

**Peer Reviewed On:** 30 APR 2022

**Published On:** 1 MAY 2022

### Abstract

*The geopolitical situation of Afghanistan is drastic and hence the demolition of the country has started after the comeback of Taliban and withdrawal of American forces. Recently, the third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi on September 10, 2021. (NSAs). In 2018 and 2019, Iran hosted the forum's initial two meetings. Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan agreed with India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval. There were two individuals who were absent. Moeed Yusuf, Pakistan's national security adviser, rejected the offer in writing, stating that "a spoiler (India) cannot be a mediator." Chinese authorities reported "scheduling problems." Given the current state of affairs in Pakistan, the refusal was not unexpected. China's absence indicates that Pakistan would continue to direct China's Afghanistan strategy. So, this is found to be a known situation for Indian leaders but these situations forces India to stay updated with the developments and hence modify their role in Afghanistan. The paper aimed to understand the redefining role of India in Afghanistan and hence it tried to determine the situation, strategies, plans and actions of India with Afghanistan. After a details exploratory examination, it has been found that yes, ofcourse, the role of India is changing but the recent developments has gave a significant power to Indian leadership which can help in creating betterment facilities for the welfare of people of both the nations in coming future.*

**Keywords** – Afghanistan, India, policies, strategies, decisions, Pakistan, China, Relationship, Trade



[Scholarly Research Journal's](http://www.srjis.com) is licensed Based on a work at [www.srjis.com](http://www.srjis.com)

## Introduction

### Background

The research paper is designed to include detailed information in a form of explaining the different factors of the relationship between India and Afghanistan by using redefined roles of India in Afghanistan. After the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, many countries are facing

challenges in trading, politically supportive of Afghanistan. The rule of the Taliban has removed many nations to be part of the political relations with Afghanistan (Gupta, 2013). This suggests redefining the roles different nations have in Afghanistan. To focus on this, the research paper aims to deliver detailed information on the relationship between India and Afghanistan by focusing on redefined roles of India in Afghanistan.

On 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021, The Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan at the National Security Advisers Level was conducted which was hosted by Delhi. The first two meetings in this forum by the Iranian initiative were held in Tehran in 2018 and 2019. From different countries, NSA reverted positively to the Indian NSA. Some of the countries didn't show up and Pakistan rejected the invitation. Pakistan NSA stated in their media interviews that Indians cannot work as "Peacemaker". On the other hand, in the terms of relations with India and China, the Chinese authorities state the difficulties in scheduling the meetings (Noonari, et al. n.d.). Pakistan and Chinese relations have raised the expectation for India about their absence (Sheraz, 2014).

New Delhi met with the NSA and said that the terrorist attacks in Kunduz, Kandahar, and Kabul were bad and that India is against these kinds of crimes. The meeting also agreed that Afghanistan could never be a safe place for global terrorism to take place because of its geography. The meetings emphasised the rights of women, children, and minor communities of the country to provide them with a better living place. It also condemned the United Nation's non-responsive actions toward the Taliban access in Afghanistan (Ganguly, 2011).

This paper is emphasised to provide information about the redefined role of India in Afghanistan. In this paper, the provided information leads to the details about India and Afghanistan's relationship over politics trade, etc. However, the research paper will include various facts about India's role in Afghanistan and their matter of politics. The paper suggests the basic message of the meeting where India was no longer a part of the land as they revoked their embassy on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 from Afghanistan. The issue of presenting the ongoing meeting with the unions will be discussed in this research paper. This research paper will include a review of existing kinds of literature explaining the relationship between India and Afghanistan by providing the redefined role of India in Afghanistan. Furthermore, the use of secondary data for this research will explain the methodology used and its successful interpretation in the research paper. The research will further include findings and analysis of

the data collected. The conclusion of the research will be based on the findings of the data collected.

## **Literature review**

### **India's Role after 2001 Taliban Regime in Afghanistan**

In the report by Sood (2021), History depicts that India opened its embassy again in Afghanistan after the ouster of the Taliban regime in 2001. In the early 1990s, India has been avoiding and was absent from Afghanistan as it turned into a war zone because of fights carried out between Mujahideen Groups. In the year 1996, the Indian embassy closed all its operations from Afghanistan as the Taliban reached for the Kabul regime. India supported the Northern Alliance with Iran and Russia against the Taliban to resist them from entering. In the year 1999, the Taliban hijacked Indian Airlines flight IC814 which was en route to Delhi from Kathmandu (Sood, 2021). It was then ended after the negotiations are done between India and the Taliban. This also resulted in anti-Taliban perception in India. In the same year, increasing illegal access of trained militants was also spotted in Kashmir.

With the Taliban gone, the Northern Alliance was in charge of a lot of things in Afghanistan, so India was welcomed. Saxena (2021) wrote in their study that Afghanistan's biggest regional development partner was Afghanistan, even though it wasn't a donor. India has spent nearly US\$3 billion (S\$4.08 billion) in the last two decades on humanitarian aid, infrastructure development, and rebuilding governance capacity, with a special focus on improving the skills of people who work for the government. Many hospitals and medical camps were set up across the country to help people who needed prosthetics and minor surgery (Sinha, 2017). The infrastructure projects that includes transmission lines that let electricity from Uzbekistan be brought in, a road link, a machine shop, TV uplink, and downlink systems, a new parliament building, cold storage units for local agricultural products, and a new parliament building.

Further, Chaudhuri & Shende (2020) illustrated that, in addition to receiving scholarships for college and university education, almost as many Afghan students complete short-term professional courses (such as information technology and accounting) as well as basic skills training courses (such as refrigeration, electrical repair, plumbing, etc.). India trains Afghan civil servants through the United Nations Development Program. The graduates who completed their education in India returned to help rebuild Afghanistan. Local NGOs and district-level officials were involved both in proposing and implementing over 400 small

development projects through funds provided by India. Women's enterprises have been revived through specialized skills-building programs.

For example, Afghanistan can only get to Karachi through Pakistan, which makes it more dependent on them. India came up with a way to get from the Afghan border town of Zahidan to the Iranian border town of Chabahar. India also built a 200-kilometer road in Afghanistan. Afghanistan regained its old role as a crossroads between East and West Asia and Central Asia, which was part of a larger plan to bring back the country's cultural history. Chabahar played a big part in making this area more connected. The Indian government also helped Afghanistan join the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Ministry of External Affairs, 2009). This is how it worked: India had very little to do with Afghanistan's security sector and did not sign the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Afghanistan. This was mostly because of the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which relied on communication lines and supply lines through Pakistan to do their jobs. Indian defence training facilities were used more often when the Afghan Army grew. India has also been giving the Afghan Army three helicopters to help them.

Afghanistan and the international community acknowledged India's development role. There was one exception – Pakistan – which tried hard to limit India's role and presence. India was often targeted by the Taliban as the insurgency grew. In 2008, a suicide attack occurred on the Indian embassy in Kabul, in which Indian highway workers were kidnapped and killed. Four Indians were killed in the bombing (Ministry of External Affairs, 2009). There was evidence that pointed to the Haqqani group, which Admiral Mike Mullen described as "a veritable arm of ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence)" in a briefing to the US Senate Armed Services Committee.

### **Research Significance**

The research significance to the various researchers, politicians, and media and government authorities of both the countries is that it will provide data about Afghanistan and India's relationship in the upper crust and in delivering the factors which redefine the role of India in Afghanistan. The research will review the various research papers and existing works of literature to assess the redefined role of India in Afghanistan (Sood, 2021). This research is significant to understanding the role of India post-2001 Taliban rule which will determine the relationship between both the countries and their terms of partnership and political relations.

## **Research Methodology**

This research uses the qualitative methodology in which the quality of data is focused by providing the information in the form of secondary data collected from different forms of information. These could be works of literature of existing research, newspapers, media and headlines, articles and journals, or interviews analysis. The information collected in a different form is presented in the paper and analysed further in the paper below. This methodology delivers detailed information from a confirmed source and is easily available to the researcher.

## **Taliban Come Back**

In 2001, the US stayed in Afghanistan for two years, and it was there right away without any information. The Afghans have been happy to see the U.S. Military at first, except for the Taliban. The U.S. stayed in Afghanistan with the help of the rest of the world. Even though the US said it wasn't building a country, a new constitution, elections, and new judicial and army structures were set up. In short, a new system of governance was set up.

According to Tangirala (2021), in the new constitution, the presidency was given more power, but there was no parliament, judicial system, media, or civil society, so the new constitution didn't change anything. It led to more corruption and a decrease in governance. Because different countries were in charge of different parts of the project, there was a problem with coordination between the donors. When the country was split into three parts, the police were in charge of each part. Italy ran the judiciary, and the UK ran the counter-narcotics part. Afghanistan is home to more than 80% of the world's illegal opium, which was the result of a lot of money being spent on the country (Ministry of External Affairs., 2021). This was a huge mistake because Afghanistan's donors didn't work together. Because of this, they agreed to pay for projects led by foreign experts who don't know anything about the ground in Afghanistan.

## **Methodology**

This research paper is designed with a qualitative research method in which the information collected and analysed is by using qualitative methodology. The qualitative methods of research are market research methods that focus on collecting the information through an open-ended or conversational approach (Question Pro., 2022). To collect the information for this paper, a deep-going thorough of research, news articles, journals, and books have been considered. Under this research, various methods of qualitative research have been used to present the paper effectively.

The detailed information for defining the role of India in Afghanistan is focused. As a matter of determining the relationship between two countries, India and Afghanistan, it is needed to learn and value their history. This research paper starts with a history of relations between Afghanistan and India. To assess the information, books, news articles, journals, etc. were collected to get the relevant information. This research is a descriptive data presentation to make the paper more relevant to the research conducted. The research also includes findings and analysis which are presented based on collected information through various papers and sources of information. However, the research findings and conclusion are also presented considering the various sources of information.

## Results

Citation	Aim	Findings
Price (2013)	This study delivers the information related to political relations of Afghanistan with Neighbour countries.	Doha was presented as a peace agreement, which led to the impression that the Taliban had become a moderate political party. In their first move, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan was replaced with the Islamic Republic, and the old flag was brought back.
Sood (2021)	This study includes Taliban's role in destroying Afghanistan.	The Taliban is a well-known political force in today's world, having attended conferences in many capitals and showing they have power militarily, having waged a successful insurgency against the United States. However, they are not unified.
Mohajan (2018)	This study also presents Taliban's impact on Afghanistan and its society.	Despite the Taliban's ideological stability, Afghanistan has changed significantly over the last two decades. The population has grown from 21 million to 38 million; the median age of the population is 18.5 years; it is a young population.
Snyder (2012)	In this paper, the Afghanistan's story and its political instability is highlighted. It also highlights the role of India and other nations in preparing its future.	As part of Mullah Barader's appointment as a deputy prime minister, the Doha group that was led by Mullah Barader in the past appears to have been side-lined. News of a showdown between him and the Haqqanis, who have had de-facto control of the eastern part of Afghanistan as well as the all-powerful interior ministry and intelligence, appeared. Some hard-line clerics have been ascended to ministry positions, but the commanders of the militants who did the actual fighting are still waiting for the fruits of office to be able to maintain control over their troops.
Sood (2021)	This research is presented to determine the condition of Afghanistan after the Taliban took over their control.	Approximately two-thirds of the population is younger than 30 years old and lived in a conservative but open society that relied heavily on television, mobile phones, and patchy Internet access. Salary income is non-existent. As of yet, pledges of humanitarian assistance have not materialised, as have reserves abroad.

## Conclusion

An insurgency seems to be easier than governing for the Taliban. Faced with disgruntled cadres, a lack of resources and governance experience, confronting a hostile IS-K, battling a looming humanitarian crisis, and dealing with pockets of resistance, they must manage multiple challenges. Despite not being invited, they welcome the Delhi Declaration and have consistently indicated they would welcome the reopening of the Indian embassy. Due to the Haqqani influence, and by extension, the ISI, the Indian government is unwilling to take any chances (Snyder, 2012). India, however, belongs to the region and cannot disengage. 50,000 metric tons of wheat and medical supplies have been offered as part of this humanitarian effort. According to Pakistan, once the modalities are finalized, they will be allowed to travel overland. Pakistan will be unable to veto Indian participation at forums where Doha or other forums are common venues for diplomatic engagement with Afghanistan (Ahmadb, 2020).

This paper informs about the relationship between India and Afghanistan after the Taliban overtook the country's governance history. India keeps a distance from the country but it has a lot of responsibility towards Afghanistan for being the neighbour country. India keeps its hands open for support and helps when it is needed. The political situations may vary from government to government or the economic situations of both countries. It is considered a strong relationship between both countries (Mohajan, 2018). Moreover, India helped Afghanistan in reconstruction and rehabilitation in the past. India and Afghanistan signed a strategic partnership in 2011 which strengthen the countries.

## References

- Ahmadb, A. C. K. (2020). *US-Taliban Peace Deal and India-Afghanistan Relations*. Editorial Board, 9(10).
- Chaudhuri, R., & Shende, S. (2020). *Dealing With the Taliban: India's Strategy in Afghanistan After US Withdrawal*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace..
- Ganguly, S. (2011). *India's Role in Afghanistan*. CIDOB Policy Research Project "Sources of Tension in Afghanistan and Pakistan: A Regional Perspective", Janvier 2012.
- Gupta, S. (2013). *India redefines its role*. Routledge.
- Ministry of External Affairs. (2009). *India and Afghanistan: A development Partnership*. Online Available at- [https://mea.gov.in/Uploads/PublicationDocs/176\\_india-and-afghanistan-a-development-partnership.pdf](https://mea.gov.in/Uploads/PublicationDocs/176_india-and-afghanistan-a-development-partnership.pdf) Last Accessed on- 19th April 2022
- Ministry of External Affairs. (2021). *Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan*. Online Available at- [https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34491/Delhi\\_Declaration\\_on\\_Afghanistan](https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/34491/Delhi_Declaration_on_Afghanistan) Last Accessed on- 19th April 2022
- Mohajan, H. K. (2018). *Qualitative research methodology in social sciences and related subjects*. *Journal of Economic Development, Environment and People*, 7(1), 23-48.

Noonari, M. A., Pasha, M. A., & Noonari, I. A. *INDIA'S ROLE AS A REGIONAL POWER: IMPLICATIONS FOR PAKISTAN-CHINA ALLIANCE.*

Price, G. (2013). *India's policy towards Afghanistan* (p. 10). London: Chatham House.

Saxena, C. (2021). *The American Exit, the Fall of Afghanistan and the Indian Dilemmas.* *Counter Terrorist Trends and Analyses*, 13(4), 8-13.

Sheraz, U. (2014). *Afghanistan mineral resources and implications on India's future.* *Futures*, 56, 94-97.

Sinha, S. (2017). *Rising Powers and Peacebuilding: India's Role in Afghanistan.* *Rising Powers and Peacebuilding*, 129-165.

Snyder, C. (2012). *A case study of a case study: Analysis of a robust qualitative research methodology.* *Qualitative Report*, 17, 26.

Sood, R. (2021). *Redefining India's role in Afghanistan.*

Tangirala, P. R. (2021). *India's Role in the Reconstruction of Afghanistan: Challenges and Prospects.*