

3.4 India and Taliban

What is the issue?


The return of the Taliban in an Afghanistan abandoned by both its fleeing President and the US forces infuses a perilous complexity into India's strategic environment.

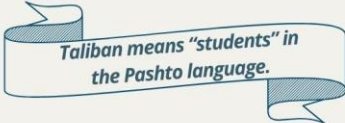
What is the brief history of Taliban?

- The Taliban, or –students in the Pashto language, originally comprised students from the Pashtun areas of Afghanistan who were a faction of the jihadis (–holy Islamic warriors) that were funded and armed with shoulder-launched anti-aircraft
- Stinger missiles by the US in the later stages of the Soviet–Afghan War that ended in 1989.
- Their ranks were regularised in 1994 through the madrassas (religious seminaries) of Pakistan that were largely financed by Saudi Arabia and which not only preached a hard-line form of Sunni Islam, but also the handling of arms and munitions.
- Within two years, the Pakistan-trained Taliban gained power in Afghanistan, which they proclaimed an Islamic Emirate, while enforcing a virulent interpretation of Sharia, or Islamic law.
- Their hostility towards India draws from Pakistan's historic enmity with India.

What is the significance of Indo-Afghan relation?

- India and Afghanistan, perforce, had to establish two air corridors–Kabul– Delhi and Herat–Delhi–as Pakistan denied India an overland route to Afghanistan.
- The air links helped bilateral trade touch US\$ 1.4 billion, comprising US\$ 900 million worth of Indian exports and US\$ 500 million worth of Afghan exports.
- Afghan exports have mainly been fresh and dried fruit, while India's have included pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, sugar, cement, and computers and peripherals.
- The India–Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) of 2011 further strengthened India's commitment to assist in the rebuilding of Afghanistan's infrastructure and institutions.
- India's largesse has extended from schools and hospitals to dams, and road and power infrastructure.


IAS PARLIAMENT
 Information is Empowering
 A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative



A BRIEF HISTORY OF TALIBAN TAKEOVER OF AFGHANISTAN

1979
Soviet invaded Afghanistan. Mujahideen fighters with U.S.'s support, repelled Soviet in 1980s. Subsequently, civil war erupted for control of the country.

1994
Taliban was founded by Mullah Mohammad Omar, a local imam in Kandahar, as a faction for gaining control.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2001
9/11 attacks in the U.S. by Al-Qaeda, killing nearly 3,000 people.

2002
Transitional govt government led by Hamid Karzai is established in Kabul.

MAY 2, 2011
Bin Laden killed in Pakistan by US Special Forces.

2014
NATO ended their mission leaving responsibility to the Afghan army. Taliban seized more territory.

AUGUST, 2021
Kabul finally fell to the Taliban.


1996
Proclaimed an Emirate with a harsh interpretation of Islamic law.

OCTOBER 7, 2001
US President George W Bush launches "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan, after the Taliban refuses to hand over al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

2003-2008
Taliban regroup, Bush sends more troops.

JUNE, 2011
Obama announces troop withdrawal.

APRIL, 2021
Biden declared US troops would leave Afghanistan. Taliban continued to target Afghan forces and were in full control of a number of districts.


 SINCE 2004

www.shankariasacademy.com
www.iasparliament.com