
IS AFGHANISTAN'S NEW TALIBAN REGIME A THREAT TO INDO-PAK BORDER DESIGNS: STRATEGIC TALKS, REPATRIATION LANDSCAPE, AND DIPLOMATIC COVENANTS

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ABSTRACT

The sobriquet of Taliban has always been taken for the impending nemesis of terror-buildout, and its takeover of Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US-NATO Army as US President Joe Biden declares discontinuation, is as much a reason of international political paralysis as it is a source of threat to the cultural, economic and sociopolitical hegemony of the nation itself. This paper provides an elaborate account of events that have been unleashed on the democracy and sovereignty of Afghanistan - long-cherished gift of India, by Islamist invaders as the nation surrenders to kneel under the militant coup. Surpassing the scopes of treaties, covenants, and mutual negotiations, the militant coup is supposed to have restored the anarchic horrors in Afghanistan dragging the nation 20 years back in time, meanwhile its radical outlook and a peace-pacing embodiment this time has also raised a token of hope, seconded by China.

The author addresses an intimate exchange of diplomatic policies in the paper, and questions the long cry of communication between India and the new governing regime of Afghanistan in terms of its various channels of trades and interaction. This essentially amounts to the withered circumstances of Afghanistan, the ruin that the country's shortly-saturated peace has gone through, and records the unfathomable quantum of Afghans attempting to pry from their native land through various commercial take-offs leading to an absolute stampede on the airports. The paper entails the

repatriation policies and successful evacuations performed by the Indian government, its take on accommodating Non-Sikh/Hindu origins within Indian asylums, and does a comprehensive study on the decisions effectuated by the MEA of India which has put the world out of order. This necessarily includes the pre-engagements of Taliban with Pakistan, an alleged shelter-neighbor of anti-India forces, and recounts the possible border threats India may face during the Taliban's regime, through the land of Afghanistan. The author has employed doctrinal methodology and has obtained majority of information from the routine news updates.

The Rage Of Taliban And The Ruin Of Afghanistan

Eclipsing Afghanistan's Democracy, the Taliban militancy restoring from the withdrawal of NATO forces, captured Kabul fleet-footed on August 15, followed by their complete acquisition of the nation on May 1, 2021, ensnaring major cities. Giving way to the seizure of the country's Governor house, and confiscation of the Indian gifted Afghani parliament, an intimidating scenery of Taliban Islamic extremists headed by Abdul Ghani Baradar, patrolling across the territories of the nation, surfaced over the web, officially calling-out the 20-years of warship, days after the US-military forces pulled-off from the country.

The withdrawal of the US army was fully accomplished by August 30, consummating the 2001-2021 peace-covenant which was agreed upon by the US and the Taliban to put an end to the war on Afghanistan's land, hoisting the objectives of maintaining harmony, repudiating the illegitimate presence of terrorist organizations as Al-Qaeda on regions of Afghani land investigated by Taliban, and keeping a room for future bilateral negotiations on a ceasefire between the two nations, without considering Afghan government's presence. Ever since the extendibility of the treaty was phased out by US President Joe Biden, the country hasn't been able to prevent the insinuation of warlike conditions on its land, after the Taliban's immediate takeover.

Dethroning the presidential rule of Ashraf Ghani, the military coup of Taliban upturned an intriguing triumphalism of 'Islamic emirate', given to which Afghan's administration and police forfeited to futility, resigning from their positions, no resistance offered. This decontaminated the land of Afghanistan, for the Taliban to penetrate, patrol, and mob around the checkpoints, and localities, among which one of the noticeable regions to travel the highlights, is that of the Green Zone, primarily sheltering all the embassies, bureaucratic offices, international organizations and fortifying workshops, that witnessed footfalls of heavily-fortified Islamist insurgents encircling the regions with a wolves' eye! Without any resistance, or precisely surrendered resistance, the militant forces frictionlessly intruded and wretched the entire nation within its fist in a mere span of 10 days, consequentially capsizing the government and consecrating the presidential palace. While Mr. Ashraf Ghani, seems to have abandoned the nation, having absconded privately in the wake of escalating tensions, we witness that the Taliban's chieftain, post-autonomy-seizure, ordains the militants to discipline their insurrection, and reassures the Afghans to hold on to their calmness, as there's no intent, and in practice, no reprisal to be anticipated from the militants, for they'll be retaining the peace and dignity of the

citizens. However, the ongoing landscape of their treatment towards Afghani women poses an incontrovertible contrast to the gender sensitivity and the diacritical peace-keeping they're wanting to ensure. They've further instilled guarantees of gorging any supposed exploitation of Afghanistan's land by militant unions such as Al-Qaeda, against the US and the allied nations. China has been the primary frontier in seconding the Taliban's commitment towards building a friendly rapport worldwide.

Dawning into absolute haywire, an unfathomable amount of Afghanis have been witnessed trying to flee away through airports, leading to massively chaotic, disheveled, and overcrowded circumstances, as can be broadcasted from the airports. Countries like Germany, France, and Australia have been scrambling to evacuate the maximum of their citizens, officials, and personnel out of the capsized spaces, through chartered flights and special aircraft with the US having obtained over 6,000 people out.

Multiple rounds of fire shots by the US-NATO invigilating airport security, dispersing off the crowd-induced rampage were witnessed. While the rampant exodus of Afghanis seeking refuge, by almost bombarding themselves into the US evacuation flights were the cases on Kabul airport, several incidents of Afghanis overrunning the tarmac to manageably make it through the hinging hope of evacuation also came out, with a handful of incidents recorded of almost 5 men losing their grips off the evacuating aircraft and falling-off to death. Taking into purview the scrimmage, the airport authorities closed ways for any commercial flights to ply completely, following which there came a momentous halt in the repatriation process of various countries including India. In short, the casualties caused to men clinging on by the Aircraft's wings had fraught the Afghani crowds who were overrunning the lanes at Hamid-Karzai airport, which led to a suspended wait for the resumption of the commercial airways. The havoc hasn't satiated but is evidentiary as Afghans distraught with the Taliban's agitation encircle airports almost every day, in the hope to mobilize escape from any possible flight landings. Amidst the only things calibrated, was the situation of unpredictability in Kabul, with kneeling administration, suspension of commercial airways, and Afghans being terrorized to offset the cost of their 20 years of celebrated sovereignty.

People who've safely deboarded flights outside Afghanistan predicated of how things have disastrously taken turns, and the situations within days of Taliban's advancement had worsened, with banks and essential stores being shut in totality, and the government that had registered trust within the peoples' minds to have irresponsibly scampered, abandoning the democracy

and its citizens over the streets looming bare-handed. The struggle to avail Visas was enormous and widespread!

India's Redressal And Repatriation Policy

The first recourse of repatriation from Afghanistan contained 129 pupils back to India. Notably, 40 diplomats and various personnel have been safely escorted from Afghanistan to India. After the mysterious escape of the Afghani President, and the fall of the government, India on 15th August, sent Air India aircraft AI 243 into northern Afghanistan, in Mazar-e-Sharif, which proceeded after a struggle of passage following the flights of various nations mantling the ground, it had to hover around before opening the entrance to the pupils, on August 16th.

Designing another scope of repatriation, India on 16th August has again rendered the fleet of its military aircraft C-17 Globemaster which was in enormous talks, to evacuate the 140 citizens left, bringing them back safely. This included 120 embassy staff stuck alongside Indo-Tibetan border security personnel, with four media persons, and 16 civilians from the Kabul airport. The rescue aircraft boarded all the citizens spending an overnight at the airport, exactly at 6 a.m., and reportedly took a rather long route, avoiding flying over Pakistan airbase, through Iran, crossing the Arabian sea to land at the back of Gujarat. On August 24, another evacuation flight mounted to repatriate 78 people, including 25 Indian nationals and the rest, Afghani Sikhs, Hindus, and residents via Dushanbe under its operation Devi Shakti. India has officially landed around 800 subjects safely back to India, while somewhere around 20 Indians had to be letup behind. The hindrances put up by the Taliban on streets, encroaching travel routes have heavily taxed countries trying to repatriate their toiling nationals.

Diplomatic evacuation by the Indian intelligence could be significant of the temporary cessation of diplomacy-related talks and missions being carried in Afghanistan.

What Plans Does MEA Have For Extra-Indian Evacuation?

Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, and the National Security Council, following conversational briefings, had intimated a responsive stance towards escorting-off the stranded Indians especially the Hindus and the Sikhs being in reciprocal touch with their religious organizations operating within Afghani territories, amidst the crisis outlaid by the

subversion. With around \$3 billion invested in Afghanistan so far, India had committed renditions to grant refugee eligibilities to Afghans who've partnered with India in its mutual educational, people-to-people, and other developmental initiatives, and along with the commoners who might desperately seek one!

India has administered statements, that it genuinely recognizes the relationships with Afghans, and their desperation to return, after they've lost the potential to even retaliate, and currently, though in an unidentifiable manner, India would retain its rigidity in constantly connecting, aiding, and evacuating Afghans. The ministry further stated, that the trailing Afghans who've been previously linked with India, had undergone academics, and training or have families acquiring a prominent space in India, would unconditionally be brought back here, alongside safeguarding those who strongly expect a retaliatory course of reprisal from the Taliban.

Further, the course of drastic deteriorations being denounced by the US President Joe Biden has been meticulously monitored by the India ministries, looking to which the formerly operational Indian embassy, during the past few weekdays has outsourced and thereby effected the issuance of over dozens of Afghani passports and Indian VISAs to the Afghans before Taliban's advancement towards the capital.

The officials have given predicaments about Indians mainly engineers, and laborers deployed at the construction and infrastructural consignments, alongside the media personnel in Afghanistan, to be put under the loop by the Embassy advisors and stringently indicated to board commercial flights booking prompt arrival to India, many of whom have already had flown back here, accounting to somewhat 1,500 people. According to the UNHCR reports, as many as 11,736 refugees have been officially registered between August 1 to September end, to be sheltered within the Indian Asylums. Among these, recorded the newly fled registrations, renewal of previously closed cases, some businessmen, students, and other pleas on medical visas. To them, adequate cash-based reliefs, and other necessities have been regularly provided. The officials also reported having been in touch with the communities who're seeking refuge in India, alongside circulating emergency numbers to connect with instant assistance.

Is India Welcoming Afghans, Indiscriminately?

Following momentous briefings, the Indian government has had declared the issuance of electronic visas, e-Emergency X-MISC Visa, especially destined to facilitate prompt application acceptance of Afghans.

This criterion would be welcoming all those who wished to flee to India, granting them a migration-life of about 6-months and extendable, irrespective of their religious backgrounds, solely on humanitarian grounds.

Apart from what has been pinpointed into the ministerial tweets issuing notices to the Indian ambassador in Afghanistan, and personnel employed under him, to dislodge and take an immediate move to India, the arrangements regarding extra-Indians have been primarily worked out.

The major hindrances cited by the External affairs ministry S. Jaishankar are the inoperative airspaces of Afghanistan, stating that though successful rounds of diplomats' repatriation have been worked out, evacuating civilians would be a face of challenge.

Provided the resumption of commercial flights to begin on Tuesday, MEA, India has instituted MEA 24x7 special Afghanistan cell, to aid with the outbound immigration of Afghans on grounds that India hasn't, and wouldn't abandon Afghans who're in desperate wait of migration. Approximately 130 calls have been routinely facilitated everyday pertaining to assistance and registrations.

The Recognition Of The Taliban's Governance And The Strategic Talks That Surround India's Take On It.

The warmth yet to impact the global governance and stoke political debates, is the recognition of the Taliban's governance over Afghanistan. Considering the Taliban to soon observe gubernatorial positions legally, acknowledging its administration would put a staunch question on a cosmopolitan level further influencing the choices of international trade, logistics and immigration policies. In the situations splurging out of the escape of President Ashraf Ghani, an inevitable crisis of recognizing the new rule, and rejuvenating relationships have been put upon the face of the globe. The commemoration of 'Islamic emirate', and raising the Taliban's flag atop the Presidential house deserting Afghanistan's national flag, has propelled more ambiguities in line with its recognition worldwide.

As it's sought to strike universal bodies, with countries deriving equations to recommence relationships and trades with Afghanistan's new regime, or choose not to, it would particularly be a patch of difficulty for India to register Taliban's legitimacy in its senses.

India, having primarily contributed to bricking the institutionalization of democracy and constitutionalism in Afghanistan, and had gifted the country, its parliament, might back-off from considering business or logistical relationships with it. Given the mutual proximities of trysts with Afghanistan, and its close concerns towards the femininity and the minority of the nation, it would be a step of the involute agreement for India to recognize the forcefully established anarchy of Taliban, capping the victory through a military coup.

The unequivocal repatriation of diplomats was a firm indictment of India calling-off diplomatic relationships with the country, initially. India has, in the previous month withdrawn Consulates from Kandahar, and Mazar-e-Sharif, and has officially terminated its missions in Jalalabad and Herat shutting their services down by August 10.

The reason being the autocracy, and military enforceability of the Taliban's government, and the pro-Pakistan liaisons nurtured by it, which might adversely turn around a potential threat of terrorism, infiltration, and resurrections within Indian territories. But the covenants were to be locked-in, to resume the evacuation of civilians out of Afghanistan through commercial airlines, at that moment.

The emerging question is, whether or not India postulates the stamp of recognition, the underhand channels initially pulled-on, have to be widened and made more inclusive of talks pertaining to the ongoing security and diplomacy of Indians in Afghanistan, utilization of afghan airspaces, transit trades, and reaching humanitarian aid to the country.

Given to how impressionable and in an acquired state of mind the Taliban is of Pakistan's influence, the impact, relationship, and mutuality of Indian governance are susceptibly going to witness tangible setbacks, and the hold of bilateralism may not prevail the same between the two nations, anymore. In resonance with the unpredictability, India's engagement with the Taliban has to be prompted after deliberation on Pakistan.

In a staunch effort to not let the IC-814 hijacking incident recount itself, government officials are incessantly planning makeshifts on channelizing primary talks with the Taliban, to not lose the codes of communication this time.

But, the extent of threat subconsciously imposed by Taliban on India is its preoccupation with Pakistan secret groups, and that the fact that anti-India forces can navigate through the Taliban channels to gather Afghanistan's momentum ambushing India, was, and is currently undeniable. It was equally unpredictable to identify the masquerade or prevent the spontaneity of such attacks against India.

Strategic Choices With Afghanistan

The larger questions that the government faces are about how its strategic channels in Afghanistan will change, given the Taliban's proximity to Pakistan's establishment, and the concerns that anti-India terror groups could occupy space in Afghanistan to carry out terror attacks against India. India's influence with the new government is likely to be considerably curtailed as compared to its pro-US-led Kabul government relations, since Pakistan's influence over the Taliban remains unhindered, and the government will have to reconsider whether to now engage Pakistan directly as well. In the past few months, security officials and diplomats have made initial, furtive contact with the Taliban in Doha, and the MEA said it is engaging "various stakeholders" in Afghanistan. The significant loss of communication with the new rule has been faced by the government with massive criticism at home.

The official meetup deemed as the first political engagement with the Taliban, India's ambassador to Qatar Deepak Mittal instituted discussions with a leading member, Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanekzai on arguably their request, at Doha the political office of Afghanistan on August 31. On being established talks about the possible threats India perceives Taliban's internal connection with the Pakistani secret agencies as, and that it being likely to be exploited in insinuating bad border climate for the Indian military, the Taliban assured of addressing things positively, without letting such threats raise security concerns in India, however leaving specific ends unknotted. The safety of Indians left behind on Afghani land was also brought to redressal. It genuinely reflected the motives of the Taliban towards restoring its economic and political treaties with India. However, the terrorist entities conniving against India in Kashmir regions are the most likely to be courage-capitalized, looking at the championship of Taliban's supremacy over Afghanistan.

Other strategic issues involving future connectivity, which India had sought to do via Chabahar port in Iran, must also be considered in the longer term.

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