



Security Threats Emanating from Afghanistan

Why in News

Recently, India engaged with the heads of the **government of Russia and Germany**, after the [restoration of Taliban rule in Afghanistan](#). Stability in Afghanistan is linked to the peace and security of the region and India is no exception.

- **Russia showed interest in working with India bilaterally, multilaterally** at the **UNSC**, and at other fora like **SCO** and **BRICS**, despite the differences between India and China on the Afghanistan issue, and on the role of Pakistan in facilitating the Taliban.



Key Points

- **Coming Back of Taliban Rule in Afghanistan:**

- In 2020, the **US signed a deal (at Qatar's capital-Doha) with the Taliban** that envisaged a full withdrawal of foreign soldiers from Afghanistan.
- However, the major flaw in that agreement was that it **excluded the Afghan government**.
 - Further, Taliban do not see the democratic government as legitimate ruler and they don't believe in the Constitution, rule of law, or democracy.
- Hence, immediately after the US troops withdrawal, Taliban seized major cities including capital Kabul in Afghanistan.
- This has raised various **concerns regarding cross-border terrorism, humanitarian crisis, and new geopolitical order**.

▪ **Threats for India Emanating from Afghanistan:**

- **Cross-Border Terrorism:** India is worried over the issue of cross-border terrorism, which can now rise after coming back of Taliban rule.
 - Groups such as the **Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed** which have close affinity with Taliban and enjoy Pakistan's support, threaten regional peace and security.
- **Religious Fundamentalism:** Like all radical groups, the Taliban will have trouble balancing its religious ideology with the imperatives of state interests.
 - Here, India faces a challenge to deradicalise the region for long lasting peace and stability.
- **New Regional Geopolitical Developments:** There can be formation of new regional geopolitical axis between China-Pakistan-Taliban, which may go against the interests of India.
- **Economic Losses:** Coming back of Taliban will jeopardise **India's investment in Afghanistan**. It will also hamper connectivity projects to Central Asia via Afghanistan.
 - For example, **Chabahar Port, International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC), TAPI Pipeline**.

▪ **India's Diplomatic Engagement Regarding Afghanistan:**

- Recently, India's **National Security Advisor** chaired a meeting of the NSAs of the **BRICS countries (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa)**.
 - The meeting also adopted and recommended the BRICS Counter Terrorism Action Plan for consideration by the BRICS Summit.
 - The Action Plan aims to further strengthen existing mechanisms of cooperation in areas such as:
 - Financing and combating terrorism,
 - Misuse of the Internet by terrorists,
 - Curbing travel of terrorists,
 - Border controls,
 - Capacity building,
 - Regional and international cooperation.
- At the 31st special session of the **UN Human Rights Council**, India raised various concerns over the serious human rights concerns and situation in Afghanistan.

Way Forward

- **Engaging with the Taliban:** Talking to Taliban would allow India to seek security guarantees from the insurgents in return for continued development assistance.
 - India can also persuade the Taliban to explore the possibility of its autonomy from Pakistan.

- **Fighting Global Terrorism:** There is a need for the global community to fight against the global concern of terrorism.
 - In this context, it high time to adopt the [Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism](#) (proposed by India at UN in 1996).
- **Regional Cooperation:** With the resurgence of Taliban, there is a convergence of interests between India and three key regional players — China, Russia and Iran — in seeing a political settlement in Afghanistan.
 - Thus, there is a need for cooperation from like minded countries on this front.

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