

PAK - AFFAIRS

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Q: The geostrategic calculus of Pakistan is seriously affected by the presence of Taliban at the western border. What problems do the new Taliban regime pose for Pakistan and the region.

Introduction:

The western border of Pakistan is always based chaos, since the British raj in subcontinent. The "duand lime" is the debatable issue between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The geostrategic calculus of Pakistan is indeed seriously affected by the presence of Taliban at the western border. The new Taliban regime came into power in 2021 poses significant challenges for Pakistan. The recent killings in Pakistan, engagement between India and Afghanistan, and ignorance of Pakistan's calls for support by Taliban to request to reduce the threat of TTP are ~~sh~~ alarming for Pakistan. Pakistan need to take significant measures to secure the western border.

An Overview of Pak-Afghan Relations:

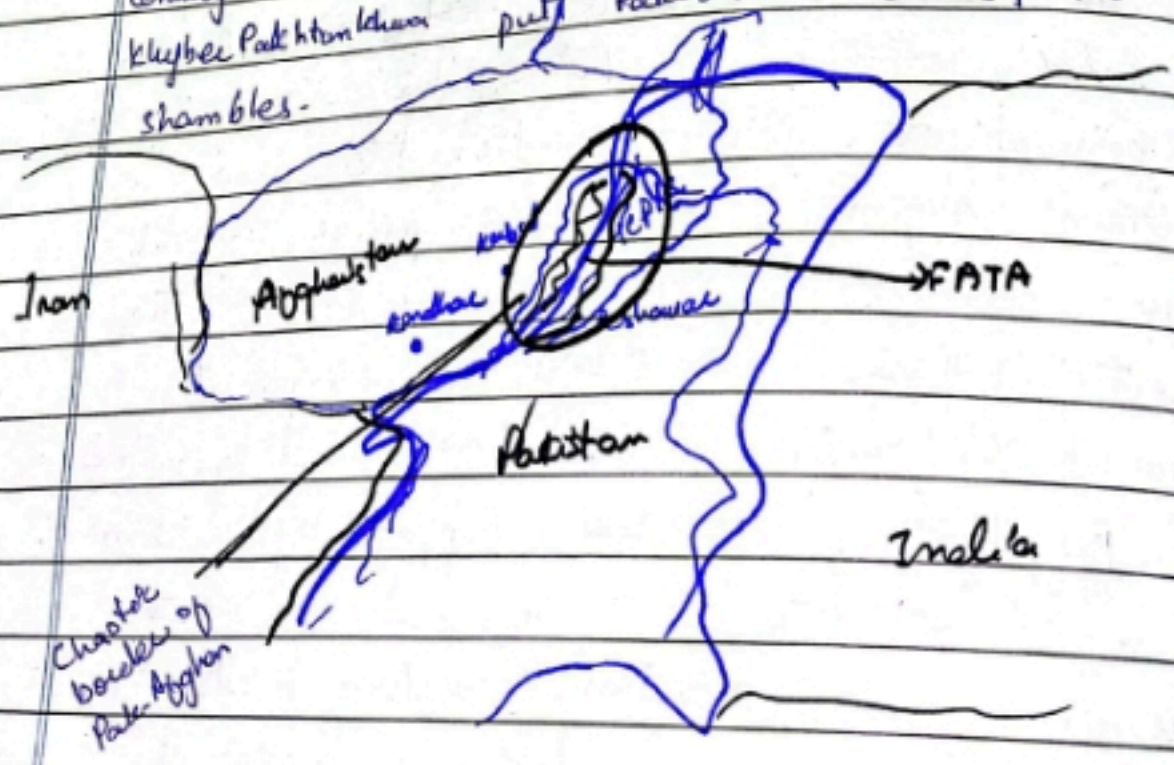
Pak-Afghan relations never been friendly throughout the history. Whenever Afghan

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government came into power in Afghanistan, they strengthen their ties with India. On the contrary, whenever Taliban government came into power in Afghanistan they engaged with Pakistan more -

Presence of Taliban at Western Border and its impacts on Pakistan:

The surge of Taliban in late 20th century and their ties with tribal belt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa put Pakistan's security in shambles.



Rg: During the war on terror, the Taliban took shelter in districts of FATA and NWFP border of Pakistan becomes transit for Taliban.

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Surge of Terrorism from Afghanistan took Pakistan into Account?

When Taliban and terrorists used Pakistan as a safe haven India propagated the idea and painted the scenario to show Pakistan as a terrorist country. This worsen image of Pakistan is one of the main problems due to the presence of Taliban etc Western border.

New Taliban regime and response of Pakistan:

Pakistan followed the trend and celebrated the Taliban government in Afghanistan. The Khan administration in 2021 showed the positive response towards new Taliban regime.

2024 has been described as "Deadliest Year" of Pakistan in the decade: (ref: CRSS)

CRSS reported that 2,526 individuals were killed in attacks throughout 2024. Amongst those fatalities were approximately

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700 security personnels, more than 900 civilians, and around 900 armed fighters. This represent the highest death toll in nine years, surpassing the previous peak of 2,432 deaths that was recorded in 2016.

December Airstrikes of Afghanistan from Pakistan and statement of PM - Shehbaz

December airstrikes on Afghanistan was the ^{with} answer from Pakistan in response to the killings. The link of these killing are directly connected to TTP. PM Shehbaz stated:

"We will not allow TTP to kill innocent civilians - This is our red-line"

Taliban response to Airstrikes

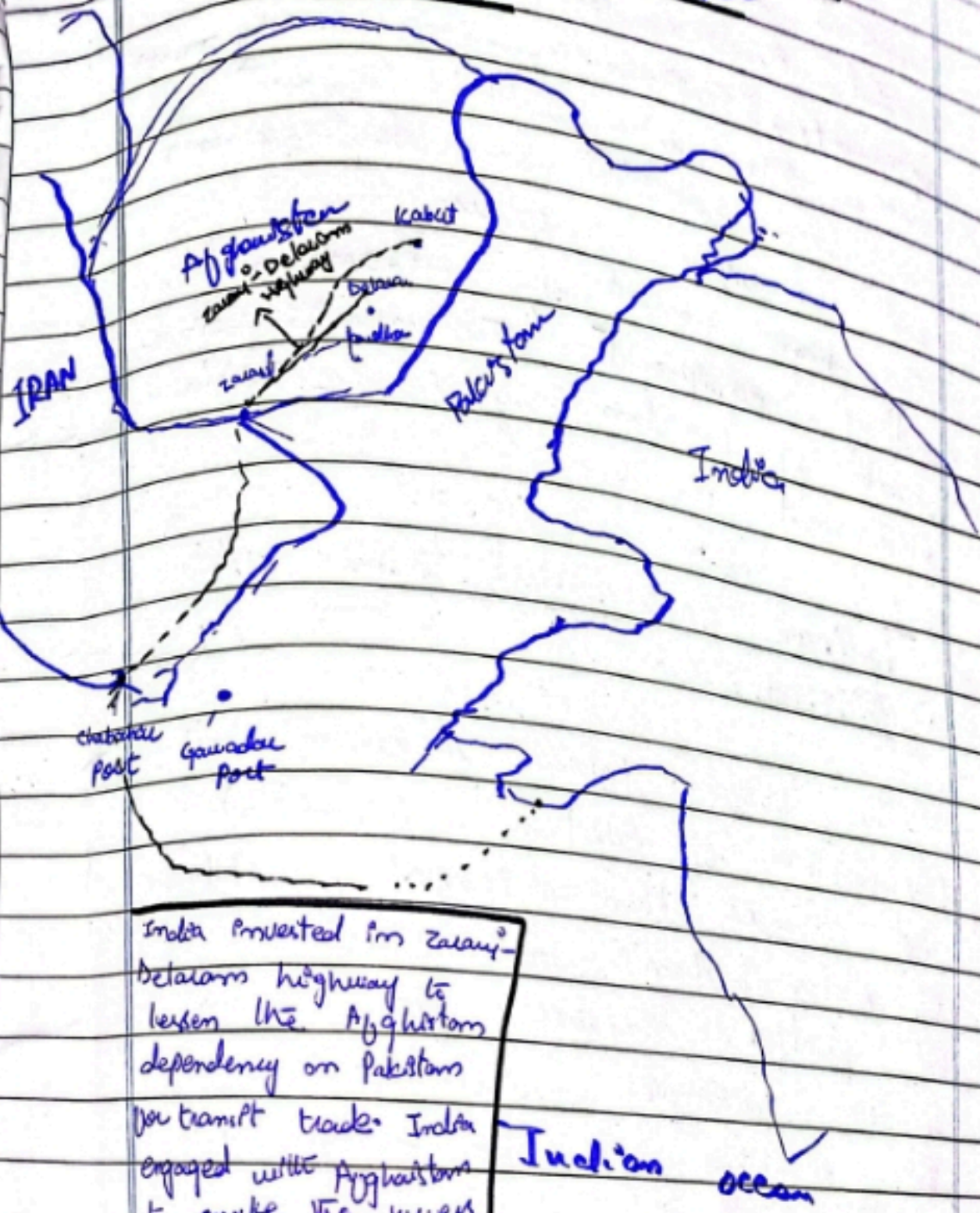
They responded that,

"This cowardly attack will not go unanswered."

This statement may cause a significant challenge to Pakistan's

national security. Because
and global actors involved in
tactics. new regional

Indo-Afghan New Engagement: A Challenge for Pakistan



India invested in Zaranj-Delaram highway to lessen the Afghanistan dependency on Pakistan for transit trade. India engaged with Afghanistan to make the success of Zaranj-Delaram highway so that both the countries can easily bypass Pakistan. Thus, Pakistan will face multi-pronged

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Pakistan's National security is at stake because of America's military supplies to Afghanistan

Afghan - Taliban strength has been increased because when Doha talks ended, America left the huge military equipments. Furthermore, 23000 tonnes, 30,000 arms, \$7bn dollar military equipment has been provided to militants by NATO and American suppliers. This huge amount of weapons and military equipments threatens the national security of Pakistan by Afghan - Taliban government.

Taliban government talks with Pakistan:

The dialogue between Muhammad Saadi (representative of Pakistan in Afghanistan) and Amrullah Khan Muttaqi (representative of Afghan - Taliban) about terrorism seems not fruitful. Because after few days of these dialogues mistakes prove that relations are not going well.

India and Afghanistan dialogues and its impacts:

On 8th of January 2025, the Foreign Secretary of India met with Ameeul Muttasir in Delhi. After the meeting, India released a statement that, "they condemned the Pakistan's airstrikes on Afghanistan" and recognized that initially India did not recognize the new Taliban regime.

Taliban released the statement, "New Delhi is a significant regional partner" after the meeting.

International Engagements with Afghan-Taliban Government Isolating the Pakistan

These international engagements with new Taliban regime isolating the Pakistan from East and West. The support of America and India Afghan engagement can acquire the bargaining chip of Pakistan to control Taliban.

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New Taliban Regime Pose a Threat to Chinese Investment in Pakistan:

The attack on Chinese at Karachi port impacted negatively on CPEC phase II. China slow down their investment due to security concerns.

Beijing's growing pressure on Islamabad to protect Chinese nationals and investment targeted by TTP likely accelerated Pakistan's decision to resort the matter through military action.

Conclusion: After the departure of America, India is filling the vacuum in Afghanistan. India is engaging to less the trouble from Pakistan's part in response Taliban ensured India that their country will be safe from Afghanistan's side. On the other hand, they continuously killing the civilians and military personnels in Pakistan. Pakistan need to resort National Action Plan to safeguard the national security from Taliban.