

TALKS AND TERROR: ON AFGHAN PEACE TALKS

Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that creates huge inequalities. Pope Francis

GS-2:- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests

CONTEXT	The attack on Afghan vice presidential candidate Amrullah Saleh's office in Kabul on Sunday that killed at least 20 people and injured 50, including Mr. Saleh, is a grave reminder of the crisis the war-torn country is going through even amid attempts to find peace
Background	✓ There has been a continued 25 years of civil war in Afghanistan. An Afghanistan force and Taliban conflict has been sustained during this long time and damage social and economic life make peace elusive for Afghanistan. ✓ International efforts especially by US and NATO countries have been failed. They have spent hundreds of billion dollar and army services but no avail. ✓ However, today progress towards a peace process is increasingly seen as central to securing a just and stable future. ✓ In December 2018, Afghanistan, USA and Taliban has started talks over Afghanistan Peace Process in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The key stakeholders observed that the slow progress in the peace process remains productive.
PROBLEMS With AFGHANISTAN	✓ Afghanistan's crises are many. Half the country is either directly controlled or dominated by the Taliban. ✓ In the eastern parts, the Islamic State has established a presence and the group targets the country's religious minorities. ✓ The government in Kabul is weak and notorious for chronic corruption. Its failure to ensure the basic safety and security of civilians is in turn eroding the public's confidence in the system. ✓ At present, the government appears beleaguered. Its security agencies are strained by the prolonged war
AFGHAN PEACE PROCESS	<u>STAKEHOLDERS</u> There are a number of indigenous players with regard to Afghan peace process 1. The Taliban group – against whom the military action was taken post 9/11. ✓ The Taliban has at least four main branches whose relations range from pragmatic cooperation to active hostility. ✓ They are organized around decision-making bodies called "shuras," these branches oversee various commissions and operate across Afghanistan – often in competition with one another and sometimes even within themselves. ✓ Recently, they have engaged with countries like Russia and the US regarding peace process and withdrawal of troops from its soil. ✓ The Taliban does not recognize the present day Afghan government as legitimate government as they believe that it does not represent the will of the people. 2. The Afghan Government – ✓ they are the legitimate government recognized by the UN along with other countries. ✓ President Ashraf Ghani re-launched the Kabul Process in June 2017. The principal

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	purpose of the process is to ensure an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned, inclusive peace process where the people are fully in the driver's seat to address the multiple dimensions of ongoing war and violence in Afghanistan. 3. The Haqqani Network – the Haqqani network is the most ruthless, disciplined and organized subgroup within the Taliban. The Haqqani network is also a major impediment to the prospects of negotiations with Kabul. The network's leader favors a solely military solution to the conflict. The main base of its operation is in Pakistan. <u>EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS</u> 1. The US led NATO forces – the US and the allied countries have actively engaged with all the parties in the peace process including the political faction of the Taliban group. ✓ The US government has become wary of the long drawn war (which resulted \$900billion dollars in the past 17 years) and one of the most important agendas of the Trump administration is safe return of the American soldiers. 2. Regional powers- countries like Qatar and Russia have actively engaged with all the stakeholders of the peace process, including the Taliban. ✓ The headquarters of the Taliban is located in Doha from where they engage with the rest of the world. ✓ Russia a key stakeholder in the process – Russia has hosted talks with Taliban delegates and members of Afghanistan high peace council, as the Kremlin seeks a role as peace broker between Islamist rebels and the US-backed government in Kabul. ✓ Pakistan's destabilizing role in Afghanistan – Pakistan sees Afghanistan as potentially providing strategic depth against India. ✓ Pakistan may also view a weak and destabilised Afghanistan as preferable to a strong, unified Afghan state (particularly one led by a Pashtun-dominated government in Kabul.)
INDIA'S ROLE	✓ India an important player in the peace process – it has been acknowledged by all including the US and very recently by Pakistan that India is a key player in the peace process. ✓ The External Affairs Ministers have reiterated that in India supports all efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan which are inclusive and Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled. ✓ India had strictly refused to put boots on the ground previously and would maintain the status quo. Instead India has invested heavily in training security forces and supplying with necessary equipment. ✓ The key concern and challenge is the protection of the investment that India has made in Afghanistan
CONCLUSION	✓ The world has witnessed that 17 year old war has brought nothing but the demise of hopes and aspirations of the Afghan people in particular and the world community in general. ✓ It is high time to end this war by bringing up the permanent political solution through

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	Afghan Peace Process to ensure peace in Asia and the World.
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QUES:- ANALYSE THE ROLE INDIA CAN PLAY IN ESTABLISHING PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN , HOW IT SHOULD PURSUE FURTHER RELATIONS WITH AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AND TALIBAN ?

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