

INDO-AFGHAN BOUNDING: AN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

India has strong historic and cultural relations with Afghanistan since far the time of Harppan civilization. Our sacred book, 'The Rig Veda' and various other literatures give us clues of their mutual ties. 'Alexander the great' conquered Afghanistan (in 329-327 BC) while on his way to India. Various dynasties of that time India were Maura Dynasty, Kushan Dynasty and Mughal Empire etc. That made their influence on Afghanistan. Due to its historical links, Afghanistan has always been in the focus of India's regional policy because of the geostrategic location.

KEYWORDS: *Bilateral Relations, Recession, Custom Procedure, Non Tariff Barriers, Trade & Investment Pact.*

Introduction

India has cordial bilateral relations with Afghanistan since 1947, and it was strengthened by the signing of the 'Friendship Treaty' in 1950. Various agreements and protocol signed by Pro-Soviet regimes in Afghanistan to promote cooperation with India. After Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1970 Indian influence inversed, as India increased its investment by participating in industrial, irrigation and hydro plastic projects in Afghanistan. The period during 1978-1989 witnessed the birth of the Taliban and death of Soviet backed government of Afghanistan. Massive western resources were channeled to Mujahedeen group through Pakistan General Zia-ul-Haq, the military dictator of Pakistan at the time, promoted the so called 'Jihad' against the Soviet Presence in the Afghan motherland. The rise of Afghan Mujahedeen against the Soviet invasion caused the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan leading to the disintegration of the Soviet Union in the year 1991. In April 1992 Najbullah in Afghanistan and as a result it reduced Indian Influence in the region of Afghanistan. Later in the same year Burhauddin Rabbani established a pre-dominantly non-partition government and India again become active in Afghanistan is economic as well as political development and also provided human and technical assistance to the Afghan Government. In the year 1996, India's influence again reduced due to eradication of Rabbahni's government as Taliban gained upper hand over it, but still India remained keenly interested in bringing stability in the region. The 9/11 attacks on US, led to the war in Afghanistan and India provided economic assistance of US\$ 1.2 billion for Afghanistan's reconstruction development in the year 2001. As per Indian Officials, there are currently about four thousand Indian workers and security personal working on different relief and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan. According to FICCI Study on 'India-Afghanistan Economic Relations', Afghanistan offered a hub of Business opportunities from construction to agro business and from energy to mining. A lot of sectors, specific opportunities exist in Afghanistan in the areas such as agro business and agro processing, construction of construction materials, energy and natural resources, textile and carpets, transport and logistics, chemicals and pharmaceutical product, banking and financing services, real estate and tourism, privatization of fifty plus State owned Enterprises (SOEs) and hydrocarbons. FICCI's study also states that their bilateral trade will be 30 US\$ billion by 2012. Since 2006 to cop up with the increase in the incidences of kidnapping and attacks on India, the Government of India sent country's mountain trained paramilitary forces to guard its workers. There are

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