Undefined role: On India-Afghanistan bilateral relations

India must be clear on how it wants to shape Afghanistan’s destiny under the Taliban

By holding the Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan, chaired by NSA Ajit Doval this week, New Delhi has sent out three strong messages: one, that it wishes to remain an important and engaged player in the future of Afghanistan; second, that with the exit of U.S.-NATO troops, the ideal solution to the situation is through consensus in Afghanistan’s extended neighbourhood including Russia; and third, that the Afghan humanitarian crisis should be the region’s immediate priority and political differences can be set aside to help. It is the last message that spurred New Delhi to invite the NSAs from China and Pakistan, despite the LAC standoff and deep differences with the Imran Khan government over Kashmir and cross-border terrorism. By declining the invitation, Beijing and Islamabad have made it clear that they do not intend to assist India in its Afghan engagement, further demonstrated by the Khan government’s churlishness in refusing India road access to send wheat and medicines to Kabul. To that end, the Delhi Declaration issued by the eight participating nations, including Iran and Russia, is a milestone in keeping India inside the discussion on Afghanistan. The declaration goes farther than the previous such regional discussion of SCO countries in Dushanbe in September, in its strong language on terrorism, terror financing and radicalisation. It also expands on the need for an inclusive government in Kabul that will replace the Interim Taliban regime, and promotes a national reconciliation process.

While the consensus over the Delhi Declaration is a creditable feat, it does not paper over all the differences between India and the other countries over their far stronger engagement with Kabul. For instance, Turkmenistan sent a Ministerial delegation to discuss connectivity with the Taliban, while Uzbekistan accorded the visiting Taliban Deputy PM full protocol and discussed trade, transit and the construction of a railway line. Russia and Iran still maintain their embassies in Kabul, and a “Troika-plus” U.S.-China-Russia-Pakistan engagement is taking place with the Taliban Foreign Minister, in Islamabad this week. With the “normalisation” of ties with the Taliban regime growing, New Delhi must now consider how far it wishes to go in its engagement with Afghanistan. On the one hand, India has publicly held talks with Taliban officials twice and expressed solidarity with Afghans, but on the other has refused practically all visa seekers, made no monetary contribution to the humanitarian crisis there, and has made no bid to continue with plans for trade and connectivity with Afghanistan. India’s desire to lead the discussion on Afghanistan’s destiny, as demonstrated by the NSA dialogue, is a worthy goal for a regional leader, but can only be fulfilled once the Government defines more clearly what it wants its Afghan role to be, despite all its differences with the regime now in power.
Vocabulary

1. Undefined (adjective) – unspecified, unexplained, अपरिभाषित

2. Destiny (noun) – future, fate, fortune भाग्य

3. Hold (verb) – conduct, have, organize आयोजित करना

4. Chair (verb) – preside over, take the chair of, अध्यक्षता करना

5. Send out (phrasal verb) – to send something to a lot of different people.

6. Engaged (adjective) – attached, involved संयुक्त

7. Player (noun) – participant

8. NATO (noun) – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 and is a group of 30 countries from Europe and North America that exists to protect the people and territory of its members.

9. Ideal (adjective) – perfect, best possible आदर्श

10. Consensus (noun) – agreement, harmony, concord आम सहमति

11. Extended (adjective) – wider, comprehensive व्यापक

12. Neighbourhood (noun) – region, zone, area, पड़ोसियां

13. Humanitarian crisis (noun) – A humanitarian crisis is a generalised emergency situation that affects an entire community or a group of people in a region, मानवीय संकट

14. Difference (noun) – disagreement, difference of opinion मतभेद

15. Set aside (phrasal verb) – cancel, overrule, overturn, reverse रद्द करना

16. Spur (verb) – incite, goad, provoke उकसाना

17. Standoff (noun) – deadlock, stalemate, impasse गतिरोध

18. Cross-border (adjective) – Passing, occurring, or performed across a border between two countries. सीमा पार से

19. Decline (verb) – Politely refuse (an invitation or offer) मना करना

20. Make clear (phrase) – clarify, elucidate, स्पष्ट करना

21. Intend (verb) – desire, want, wish इरादा करना

22. Assist (verb) – help, aid सहायता देना

23. Demonstrate (verb) – reveal, bespeak, indicate प्रदर्शित करना

24. Churlishness (noun) – the quality of being rude, unfriendly, and unpleasant चुलबुलापन
25. **To that end** (phrase) – For that reason उस वजह से

26. **Milestone** (noun) – turning point, critical point, historic event, महत्वपूर्ण मोड़

27. **Farther** (adverb) – at a greater distance, more distant आगे

28. **Radicalisation** (noun) – The action or process of causing someone to adopt radical positions on political or social issues. कट्टरता

29. **Expand (on)** verb – elaborate on, enlarge on, go into detail about विस्तार से कहना

30. **Inclusive** (adjective) – with everything included, comprehensive सम्पूर्णता

31. **Interim** (adjective) – provisional, temporary अस्थायी

32. **Regime** (noun) – government, authorities, system of government शासन

33. **Promote** (verb) – encourage, further, advance, assist को बढावा देना

34. **Reconciliation** (noun) – resolution, settlement सुलझाना

35. **Creditable** (adjective) – commendable, praiseworthy, laudable विश्वसनीय

36. **Feat** (noun) – achievement, accomplishment उपलब्धि

37. **Paper over** (phrase) – cover up, hide, conceal छिपाना

38. **For instance** (phrase) – As an example. उदाहरण के लिए

39. **Delegation** (noun) – delegates, representatives, envoys, प्रतिनिधिमंडल

40. **Accord** (verb) – give, grant, present स्वीकार करना

41. **Visiting** (adjective) – (of a person) on a visit to a person or place आंतरिक

42. **Embassy** (noun) – consulate, legation, ministry दूतावास

43. **Troika-plus** (noun) – The U.S.-Russia-China-Pakistan grouping on Afghanistan peace process.

44. **Take place** (phrasal verb) – happen, occur, come about घटित होना

45. **Normalisation** (noun) – The process of bringing or returning something to a normal condition or state. सामान्यकरण

46. **Consider** (verb) – think about, contemplate विचार करना

47. **On the one hand** (phrase) – Used to introduce a point of view, fact, or situation, followed by another that typically contrasts with it. एक ओर

48. **Solidarity** (noun) – unanimity, unity, like-mindedness, agreement एकजुटता
49. **On the other hand** (phrase) – Used to introduce a contrasting point of view, fact, or situation. वहीं दूसरी ओर

50. **Seeker** (noun) – A person who is attempting to find or obtain something.

51. **Bid** (verb) – try to obtain, try to get कोशिश करना

52. **What** (pronoun) – The thing or things that
Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the give word

1. Consensus
   A. Bucolic
   B. Quixotic
   C. Bane
   D. Harmony

2. Standoff
   A. Eminent
   B. Deadlock
   C. Rigorous
   D. Complement

3. Reconciliation
   A. Equitable
   B. Kinetic
   C. Abject
   D. Resolution

4. What is the antonym of ‘Solidarity’?
   A. Disagreement
   B. Fatuous
   C. Laconic
   D. Agrarian

5. Idioms and phrase – Paper over something
   A. Disguise an awkward problem instead of resolving it.
   B. To a great or extreme extent
   C. Be determined to punish or harm someone, especially in retaliation
   D. Take positive action to achieve one's aim

6. Para jumble based on Editorial: Caught in the crossfire
   P. Six other fishermen have reportedly been detained, while one injured person managed to return to Indian shores
   Q. This is the first such killing by the PMSA in the last six years though conflicts over fishing rights
   R. are not infrequent along the International Maritime Boundary Line between the two countries
   S. An Indian fisherman was killed in firing by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) off Gujarat on November 7
   T. India has termed Pakistan’s action deplorable and “in contravention to all established international practices and bilateral understandings”.
   A. SQRPT  B. PQRST  C. SRPQT  D. RTPSQ
The Supreme Court of India continues to question the ………………… progress in the ongoing probe into the October 3 violence during a farmers’ protest at Tikonia in Lakhimpur-Kheri district, a situation that reflects poorly ………………… the Uttar Pradesh police and administration. In its latest expression of dissatisfaction, the Court has indicated that it would like a retired High Court judge to monitor the investigation and has sought the State government’s response. The Court’s apprehensions are not without basis. A large number of witnesses coming forward ostensibly to help the police have ended up giving “exculpatory evidence”, that is, their statements are in favour of some suspects. Another source of doubt about the fairness of the probe is that an overlap is being sought to be created between two FIRs registered in relation to the incidents: one relating to the mowing ………………… of four farmers and a journalist covering the event by vehicles suspected to be part of the convoy of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister Ajay Mishra; and another ………………… retaliatory violence by the crowd, in which three persons were killed.

7. A. tardy B. chronic
   C. Bourgeois D. Substantive

8. A. over B. above
   C. on D. to

9. A. over B. up
   C. down D. above

10. A. slandering B. Adulterating
    C. Refuting D. concerning
Answers


Explanations

6. An Indian fisherman was killed in firing by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) off Gujarat on November 7. This is the first such killing by the PMSA in the last six years though conflicts over fishing rights are not infrequent along the International Maritime Boundary Line between the two countries. Six other fishermen have reportedly been detained, while one injured person managed to return to Indian shores. India has termed Pakistan’s action deplorable and “in contravention to all established international practices and bilateral understandings”.

7. **Tardy** (adjective) – slow सूक्ष्म

8. **Reflect badly on** (phrase) – blemish the reputation of, damage the reputation of प्रतिष्ठा को कलंकित करना

9. **Mow down** (phrasal verb) – Recklessly knock down someone with a car or other vehicle. कुचल कर निकलाना

10. **Concerning** (preposition) – about, regarding के विषय में

Explanation of other important words

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<tr>
<th>Sr.NO</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Bucolic</td>
<td>adjective Charmingly rural; rustic; country like ग्राम्य</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quixotic</td>
<td>adjective Romantic or idealistic to a foolish or impractical degree विलक्षण</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bane</td>
<td>noun Poison; torment; cause of harm फटकार, लानत, शाप</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>Eminent</td>
<td>adjective Well known and respected; standing out from all others in quality or accomplishment; outstanding. विख्यात, प्रसिद्ध</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rigorous</td>
<td>adjective Strict; harsh; severe कड़ा; कठोर</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complement</td>
<td>verb To complete or fill up; to be the perfect counterpart जोड़ना, पूरक जोड़ना</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>Equitable</td>
<td>adjective Fair न्यायसंगत</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kinetic</td>
<td>adjective Having to do with motion; lively; active सक्रिय</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|       | Abject  | adjective Hopeless; extremely sad and servile; defeated utterly bummered out नितांत, हतोत्साह, नकृष्ट
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Fatuous</th>
<th>adjective</th>
<th>Foolish; silly; idiotic</th>
<th>बुद्धिहीन, मूर्ख</th>
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<tr>
<td>Q7</td>
<td>Chronic</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>Constant; lasting a long time; inveterate</td>
<td>स्थिर, सतत, नित्य</td>
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<td>Q10</td>
<td>Slander</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To speak badly about someone publicly; to defame; to spread malicious rumor</td>
<td>बदनामी</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adulterate</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To contaminate; to make impure</td>
<td>मिलावट करना</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Refute</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>To prove to be false; to disprove</td>
<td>झूठा ठहराना</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definitions:**
- **Fatuous** - Foolish; silly; idiotic
- **Laconic** - Using few words, especially to the point of seeming rude.
- **Agrarian** - Relating to land; relating to the management or farming of land.
- **Chronic** - Constant; lasting a long time; inveterate
- **Bourgeois** - Middle class, usually in a pejorative sense; Boringly conventional
- **Substantive** - Having substance; real; essential; solid; substantial
- **Slander** - To speak badly about someone publicly; to defame; to spread malicious rumor
- **Adulterate** - To contaminate; to make impure
- **Refute** - To prove to be false; to disprove

**Translation:**
- **Fatuous** - बुद्धिहीन, मूर्ख
- **Laconic** - संक्षिप्त
- **Agrarian** - कृषि संबंधी, भूमि-संबंधी
- **Chronic** - स्थिर, सतत, नित्य
- **Bourgeois** - सूढ़िवादी, संपत्तिजीवी
- **Substantive** - मौलिक
- **Slander** - बदनामी
- **Adulterate** - मिलावट करना
- **Refute** - झूठा ठहराना

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