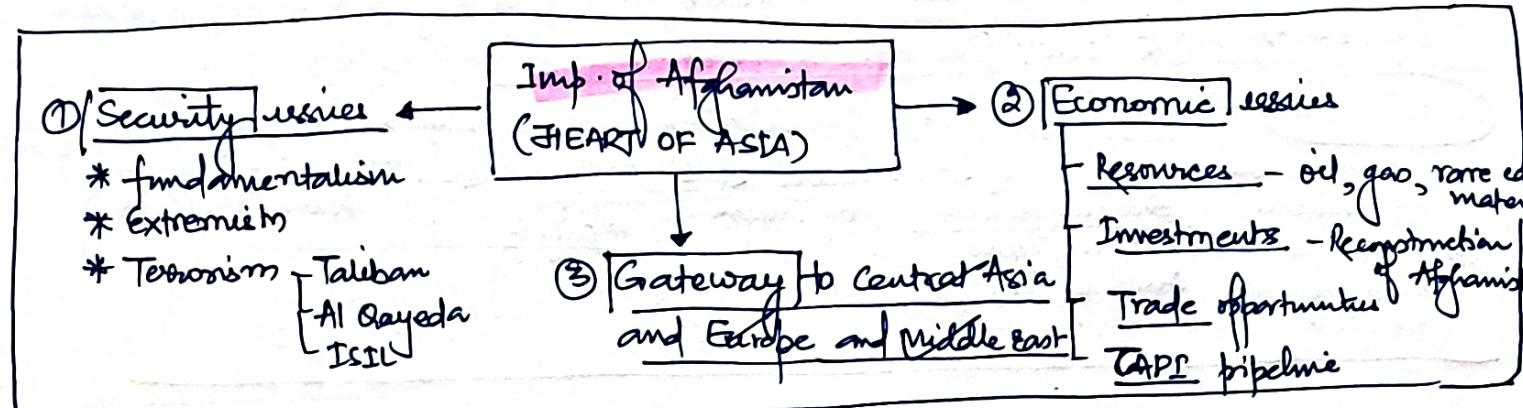


India - Afghanistan relations

* historical and cultural links
 (shared cultural, social and economic values and commonalities)

- Mahayanas
- Manjusas
- Mughals

India-Afghanistan Friendship Agreement
 (King Zahir)

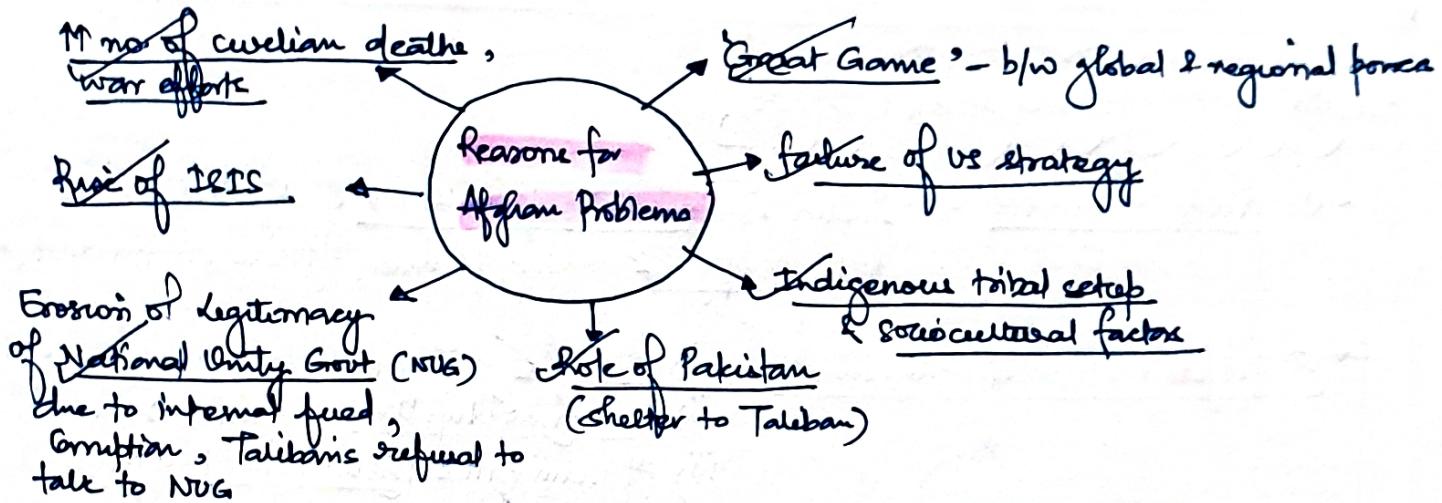
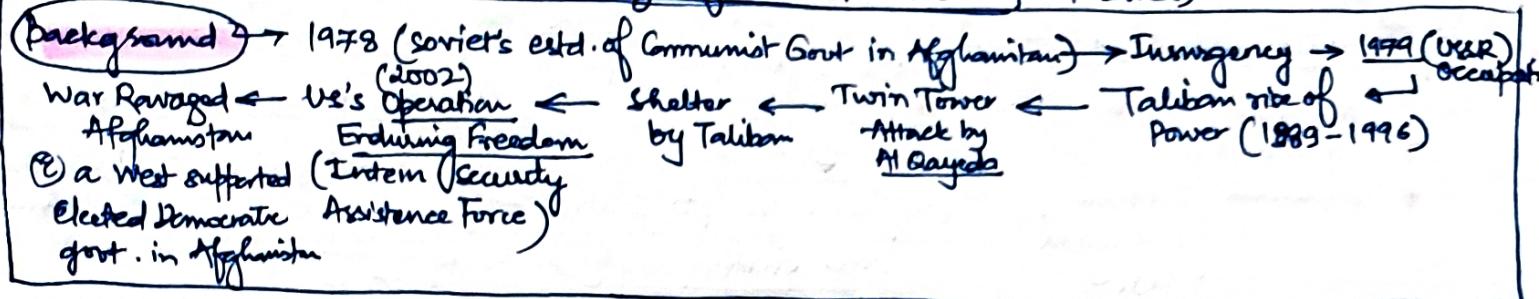


India's interests and recent efforts

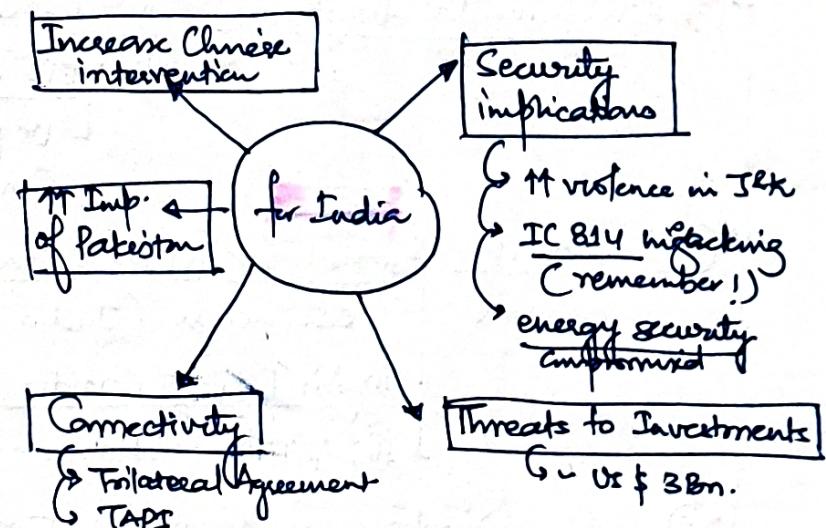
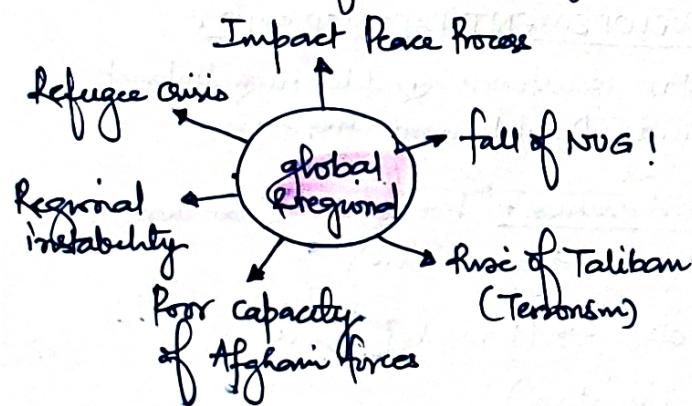
- ① Trade relations - India is 2nd largest Importer of Afghan goods
India exports - textile, pharma, tobacco, iron & steel, electrical
- ② Infrastructure development - i) 218 km - Tazray Delaram Highway
 ii) I-A friendship Dam - Sabra Dam
 iii) Afghanistan's Parliament Building
- ③ Developmental assistance - i) India is 6th largest donor to Afghanistan
 ii) NEW DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP - US \$ 2Bn assistance + 116 High Impact Community Development projects.
- ④ Connectivity - i) Trilateral Transit & Trade Agreement' based on Chabahar sea access (India - Iran - Afghanistan)
 ii) Air Freight Corridor (2017) → ↑ market access
 iii) APTTA (Pakistan - Afghanistan)
- ⑤ Indian Diaspora in Afghanistan - ~ 3000 Indians (P2P contacts)
 ↑ Cultural / sports exchange / Education
 Bollywood movies
 Scholarships / educ. opportunities
 Cricket
- ⑥ Strategic Partnership
 - STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT'
 - Security forces Training
 - 3 Mi² Attack Helicopters

US - Taliban Peace Deal and its impact on India

↳ 18 yrs long war → US's wastage of money and lives ^(in 15000 people) → want to withdraw from Afghanistan → rise of Taliban Hegemony! vs a via democratically elected govt. in Afghanistan (Ghani - Abdullah partnership)
 (AMERICA FIRST POLICY; "wastage of blood & treasure" for America)



Consequences of withdrawal of USA



Efforts required by India

India needs to recalibrate its stand on Taliban and Afghanistan and must try to directly interact with Taliban. India should try to promote the notion of "AFGHAN LED, AFGHAN OWNED, AFGHAN CONTROLLED" process where effective power sharing happens b/w Taliban and democratically elected govt. to ensure stability and regional peace which is essential to promote India's national interests.

Note - Recently 6+2+1 dialogue was called upon by UN Secretary (China, Russia, Pak participated but India was not invited) - India needs to assert its role in Afghan peace process

Three 'red lines' by India before engaging with Taliban

- Any negotiation with Taliban requires '3 preagreed conditions'
 - i) Inclusivity of all initiatives & processes
 - all sections of society
 - democratically elected govt.
 - ii) respect constitutional and political mandate
 - iii) no ungoverned spaces to harbours terrorists and their protege.

Russia sponsored peace Conference with ~~Afghanistan~~ Taliban

- India participating
- aka 'Moscow format'