# Af-Pak Relationship

## Why in news?

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- Imran Khan, newly sworn-in Prime minister of Pakistan received a goodwill message from the president of Afghanistan.
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- Both the states are suffering from the terrorism they once helped nurtured.
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## What are the issues of various countries in the region?

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- The north-south national divide continues to be a decision-making obstacle for Afghanistan.
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- While for Pakistan, the presence of India in Afghanistan is an issue to be solved.
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- The American view of Afghanistan has changed.
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- America plane to leave after setting up a strategic bulwark against China in the region with India’s help.
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## How Pakistan is affected?

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- It has been looking more closely at the increasingly hostile Pashtun terrorists inside its own tribal belt.
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- Actions taken to clean up the sanctuaries of terror have hurt the local population.

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- The affected local population is staging protests now.
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- However, regular terrorist attacks on the Shia of Quetta and Chinese workers in Balochistan signal penetrations that Pakistan can no longer tolerate.
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- Further Pakistan also keeps on hinting at the Indian presence in Afghanistan.
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## What are the roadblocks in the better relationship?

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- Afghanistan has never really accepted the Durand Line as the frontier separating “the nation”.
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- However, non-Pashtuns of Afghanistan would readily accept the Durand Line.
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- Pakistan has ignored the non Pashtuns of the Afghanistan
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- The US is to leave the region.
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- The Taliban refuse to talk to the US but are travelling in the region discussing the conflict.
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- Their attack on Ghazni before Eid left the city helpless for days.
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- The Taliban refused the truce Ghazani offered.
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## What is the recent development?

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- Zalmay Khalilzad is going to be the new American special envoy to Kabul.
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- Khalilzad is a Pashtun from the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.
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## What does the appointment of new special envoy mean?

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- The US is not happy with the situation developing in favour of China and Iran.
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- So USA is sending Khalilzad as its troubleshooter.
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- As Khalilzad is in Kabul, Pakistan is going to find it difficult to engage with Afghanistan on the lines it is familiar with.
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- Though the new Prime Minister of Pakistan known to be a leader capable of taking tough decisions, he has learned to be “flexible” on the Taliban
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- As head of its ruling party, he had to deal with the province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa where the Taliban terrorists can kill people.
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- Taliban has financially supported religious schools connected with the killers in the province.
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## What lies ahead?

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- With new leadership in Pakistan the relations between the two countries will be closely watched.
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- However with a not so friendly special envoy assisting the President of Afghanistan in Kabul, Pakistan has to engage with all stakeholders to stabilize the region.
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**Source: Indian Express**

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