

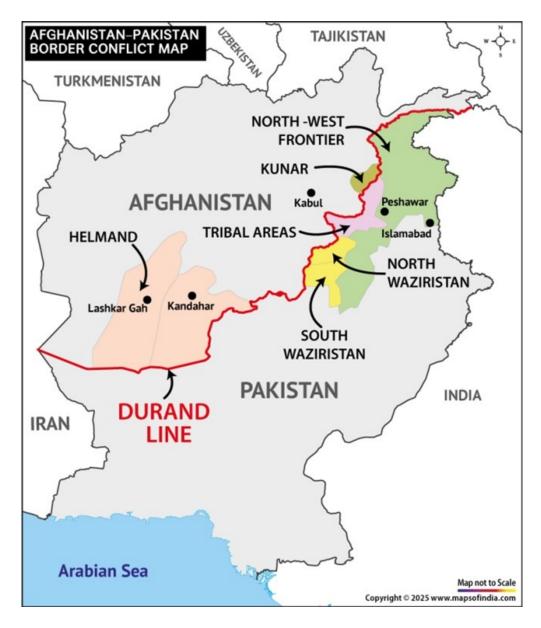
Durand Line

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | International relations | History

Why in news?

Conflict has flared once again, the Taliban claimed that Pakistan carried out air strikes inside its territory, killing 10 people near the Durand Line.

- **Durand Line** It is the international land border that stretches for about 2,600 km **between Afghanistan and Pakistan**.
- It stretches from the border with Iran in the west to China's border in the east, spanning through the Karakoram range to the Registan desert.



- Established in <u>1893</u>, an agreement between the British (Sir Henry Mortimer Durand) and Abdur Rahman Khan, the thenemir of Afghanistan.
- Anglo-Afghan Wars (1839 1919)

| Year | Events | Significance |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1839-1842 | 1 st Anglo-Afghan War | Britain invaded to block Russian expansion southward. Pashtun forces resisted, forcing British retreat. |
| 1878-1880 | 2 nd Anglo-Afghan War | Britain invaded again and won. Afghanistan's sovereignty weakened, paving way for external control. |

| 1879 | Treaty of Gandamak | Signed by Yaqub Khan. Britain took control of Afghan foreign policy in exchange for protection and promises of non-interference in internal affairs. |
|-----------|--|---|
| 1893 | Durand Agreement | Delineated the boundary between Afghanistan and British India. |
| 1894-1896 | Survey of the Durand Line | Joint Afghan-British teams mapped the frontier - divided Pashtun tribal lands, gave Balochistan to British India, and created the Wakhan Corridor as a buffer between Russia and Britain. |
| 1919 | 3 rd Anglo-Afghan War & Treaty of Rawalpindi | After Abdur Rahman's death (1901) and Habibullah's assassination (1919), Amanullah Khan rose to power, launched the 3 rd Anglo-Afghan War. Treaty of Rawalpindi - Restored Afghan control over foreign policy but reaffirmed the Durand Line. |

Post-Partition Dispute (After 1947) -

- Pakistan's stance Considers the Durand Line the official international border.
- **Afghanistan's stance** Rejects it, fueling disputes and crossborder tensions.
- **Pashtun identity** The line splits Pashtun tribes, demanding a sovereign state of Pashtunistan.
- **Security** Conflicts, fencing projects, and ceasefire negotiations keep the frontier volatile.

McMahon Line - De facto border between China and India in the Eastern Sector & **Radcliffe line** - Border line divides India and Pakistan.

References

- 1. The Hindu | Durand Line
- 2. Britannica | Durand Line

