India's role in Afghanistan

Why in news?

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The upcoming visit of US Defence Secretary to India is expected to see discussions on larger Indian role in securing Afghanistan.

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What is the changing geo-politics?

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- The developments in Afghanistan in the 1970s and 1980s saw the United States deepening its partnership with Pakistan to the dismay of India.
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- The closer relationship of India with US since the early 2000s, however had disagreements with regard to Afghanistan.
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- The recent US administration has demanded Pakistan to end its destabilising role in Afghanistan by providing safe havens to the Taliban and other terror networks.
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- US has also singled out India among the neighbours of Pakistan to play a larger role in Afghanistan.
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- India and US talking about collaboration in Afghanistan marks an important shift in the international relations of South Asia.
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What could India's role in Afghanistan be?

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- Security is today a precondition for development in Afghanistan which is fighting against the Pakistan-backed Taliban.
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- India and US are aware that stronger external military support is essential

for Afghanistan, for any effort on development to pay fruits.
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- India has recently announced its plans to expand security assistance to Afghanistan by training police officers, as part of a UNDP project.
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- The earlier fear of straining the relationship with Pakistan and the US resistance for India's role in Afghanistan are all changing now in favour of India.
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- India should thus capitalise on this developing regional politics for its benefits.
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- As a regional power with high stakes in stabilising its north western frontiers, Delhi will inevitably have to do more in Afghanistan.
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- Finalising the talks on India-US security cooperation in Afghanistan, when the US defence secretary visit India, can help India to have a more defining role in Afghanistan.
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Source: Indian Express

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