

# INDIA-AFGHANISTAN A HISTORIC AND TIME TESTED FRIENDSHIP





**India and Afghanistan have a strong relationship based on historical and cultural links.**

India has been, and continues to be, a steadfast partner in the reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan. The principal focus of India's development assistance has been to build capacities and capabilities of Afghan nationals and its institutions for governance and delivery of public service, develop socio-economic infrastructure, secure lives and promote livelihood.

India and Afghanistan have also agreed to identify products and measures to enhance bilateral trade; reaffirming the importance of connectivity and free and unfettered transport and transit access for Afghanistan.

India's support is guided by the needs and priorities of the Government and the people of Afghanistan; activities are undertaken in partnership with the Afghan government; and projects are spread across Afghanistan in wide range of areas. Both sides are on the pathway of an ambitious and forward looking next generation 'New Development Partnership'. In September 2017, India hosted the India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show in New Delhi. A high level of participation from the Indian corporate sector resulted in business propositions being signed between the respective private enterprises of the countries worth more than US\$200 million.



**“A billion of ties bind us through thousands of years of history but our partnership is based on vision of the future. A vision where our central challenge is poverty and inequality and insecurity, not at the sub-national level but at the regional level.”**

— President Ashraf Ghani



## India and Afghanistan established a Direct Air Freight Corridor

India and Afghanistan established a direct air freight corridor with the arrival of the first cargo flight carrying 60 tonnes of cargo from Kabul to Delhi on 19 June 2017. The inaugural flight was flagged off in Kabul by President of Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani and received in New Delhi by the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in the presence of Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar. The decision to establish an Air Freight Corridor between Afghanistan and

India was taken in the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ghani in September 2016 during the Afghan President's visit to India. The connectivity established through the Air Freight Corridor and now expanded to Kandahar-New Delhi sector also, will provide Afghanistan, a landlocked



country, greater access to markets in India, and will allow Afghan businessmen to leverage India's economic growth and trade networks for its benefit. It would enable Afghan farmers quick and direct access to the Indian markets for their perishable produce.

## Chabahar Port

Chabahar Port, located in the Sistan-Baluchistan province in Iran, is an important infrastructure development project being currently undertaken by both India and Iran for enhancing sea-land connectivity with Afghanistan and Central Asian Region. The Chabahar Port

Project involves construction of two terminals, one multi-purpose terminal (600 metres long) and another general container terminal (640 metres long). A Trilateral Transit and Transport arrangement between India-Afghanistan-Iran is envisaged to create a reliable legal framework to ensure smooth flow of goods and vehicles between Chabahar port and Afghanistan through Iran.

## First shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan

On 29 October 2017, External Affairs Minister of India and Foreign Minister of Afghanistan





through a joint video conference, flagged off the first shipment of wheat from India to Afghanistan that would be transhipped through the Chabahar port in Iran. The shipment is part of commitment made by the Government of India to supply 1.1 million tonnes of wheat for the people of Afghanistan on grant basis. The shipment of wheat is a landmark moment as it will pave the way for operationalisation of the Chabahar port as an alternate, reliable and robust connectivity

for Afghanistan. It will open up new opportunities for trade and transit from and to Afghanistan and enhance trade and commerce between the three countries and the wider region. Six more wheat shipments are planned to be sent to Afghanistan over the next few months.

### Road from Zaranj to Delaram

Construction of a 218 km road from Zaranj to Delaram for facilitating movement of goods and services to the Iranian border was completed in 2010. The highway will connect Iran with the Garland Highway, which links Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar-e-Sharif Herat and Kunduz.



### Afghanistan Parliament Building

Spread over 86 acres and built over 28,370 sq m area, the Afghan Parliament is India's gift to the people of Afghanistan. The project included construction of

the Parliament building, service block cum parking and reception office. The Afghan Parliament was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India jointly with President of Afghanistan on 25 December 2015. The sessions of both Upper House (Meshrano Jirga) and Lower House (Wolesi Jirga) are now being held in the new building.





**“When Afghanistan becomes a haven of peace and a hub for the flow of ideas,commerce, energy and investments in the region, we will all prosper together.”**

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi

### **Afghan India Friendship Dam**

The most important symbol of India’s assistance in the reconstruction of Afghanistan has been the construction of the multipurpose Afghan India

Friendship Dam (AIFD). The project implementation faced several challenges, including logistical and security aspects. The project was inaugurated jointly by the Prime Minister of India with the President of

Afghanistan on 4 June 2016. The Dam has an installed capacity of 42 MW and supplies water for irrigating 75,000 hectares of land. Since then, the project has been generating electricity and releasing water for irrigation.



### Small Development Project

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Afghanistan was signed on 28 August 2005 in the areas of Agriculture, Education, Labour, Rural Development and Public Health. The projects are being implemented through local bodies, non-Governmental organizations, charitable trusts and education and vocational institutes. The Small Development Projects were implemented in three phases –first in July 2006 comprising 50 proposals; the second in June 2008 comprising 51 proposals and the third in November 2012 comprising of 303 project proposals.

### India-Afghanistan: New Development Partnership

Under the rubric of India-Afghanistan New Development Partnership, the following assistance programmes have been initiated:

- 116 new 'High Impact Community Development Projects' in 31 provinces of Afghanistan, including in the areas of education, health, agriculture, irrigation, drinking water, renewable energy, flood control, micro-hydropower, sports infrastructure, administrative infrastructure.



- Construction of Shahtoot dam and drinking water project for Kabul, that would also facilitate irrigation.
- Low cost housing project for returning Afghans refugees in Nangarhar Province to promote resettlement.
- Road connectivity to Band-e-Amir in Bamyan Province that would promote tourism to the national park and economic development.
- Water supply network for Charikar city in Parwan Province.
- Establishment of Gypsum board manufacturing plant in Kabul to promote value added industry.
- Construction of a polyclinic in Mazar-e-Sharif.
- Assistance to Afghanistan in use of remote sensing technology, including in agriculture and resource management.
- Scholarship Scheme for 500 Children/ Dependents of Afghan National Defence & Security Forces (ANDSF) to be implemented by ICCR from academic year 2018-2019



and will run till the 500 slots are exhausted.

- Training, including to Afghan civil servants, defence and police personnel in Indian institutions.

### India-Afghanistan Scholarships Programme

Human resource development and capacity building initiatives, which constitute an important segment of India's assistance portfolio in Afghanistan, include:

- Following the reconstruction and renovation of Habibia School in Kabul, India is extending assistance for training and maintenance of the school.
- A Special Scholarship Scheme of 1000 scholarships per annum to Afghan Nationals



(administered by ICCR) has been very successful with 100% utilization.

- India offers 500 Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) slots to Afghanistan annually. The ITEC training is expected to address Afghanistan's

need to strengthen its administration and governance at national, provincial and district levels, including through sharing experiences and technical assistance in building capacities of civil administration and project implementation.



- The Afghanistan National Agricultural Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU) set up with Government of India assistance is contributing to capacity building in agricultural sciences. The Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) is involved in training, equipping and establishing the university.
- In the area of skill development, the Government of India has been providing education to Afghan nationals

in the field of agriculture through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) scholarships.

## Restoration of Stor Palace

The historic 100 year old Stor Palace located in Afghan Foreign Office premises in Kabul was restored to its previous splendour with India's assistance in 2016. The Stor palace was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India and the President of Afghanistan on 22 August 2016.





### **Doshi Charikar Substations**

At the Afghan Government's request, two additional power sub-stations at Doshi and Charikar were taken up to service the 220kV Transmission Line from Pul-e-Khumri to Kabul built by India earlier. The transformer capacity at Doshi was enhanced to meet the additional requirements of Doshi town and an additional bay was agreed for a 3rd 16 MVA transformer at Charikar sub-station. Both sub-stations have been completed and commissioned in 2016.

### **Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health**

The Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health IGICH - a 400-bed hospital is the main hospital in Afghanistan that caters to the well-being of children from all across Afghanistan. Annually

approximately 3 lakh children (2.5 lakh OPD and 50,000 IPD) get treated at IGICH. It was set up with Indian assistance in the 1970s.

A diagnostic centre has been set up at IGICH with financial & technical assistance from the Government of India, which includes supply and installation of all the equipment for the diagnostic centre — CT Scan machine, HVAC & Gas Manifold Systems, Digital X-ray machines, ICU equipment, OT Equipment, Imaging equipment, Ophthalmology equipment Hospital Furniture, Central Sterile and Supplies Department (CSSD) Equipment and EPABX.

H.E. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive Officer of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the then Ambassador of India in Kabul inaugurated the diagnostic centre on 17 September 2015.



“Our ties are as ancient as history.  
Over the mighty Hindu Kush and  
through the forbidding ‘Khyber pass,  
monk’, merchants and monarchs have  
linked us through knowledge, culture,  
religion, commerce and kingdoms.”

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi



**INDIA-AFGHANISTAN  
NEW AGE DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP**



# INDIA-AFGHANISTAN : NEW AGE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP



Afghan India Friendship Dam

**FARYAB**  
Construction of Intake and Irrigation canal and 8 class rooms

**SAR-E-POL**  
Construction of one Comprehensive Health Clinic, Primary School, 2 Bridges, Orphanage Dormitory, Library and 8 Class rooms

**JAWZJAN**  
Construction of 8 public toilets

**DAIKUNDI**  
Construction of 5 Comprehensive Health Clinic, Higher Education Institute Teaching building, 42 m long RCC Girder bridge and 132 m long retaining wall and a hostel

**SAMANGAN**  
Construction of Orphanage

**BAMIYAN**  
Construction of 24 Class rooms, 15m long RCC Dahan-e- tagab Bridge, 20.4 km road and 200m long Retaining wall

**BALKH**  
Construction of 2 Health Clinics

**TAKHAR**  
Construction of 44 Bore wells with hand pumps, 32 m RCC Girder Bridge and Drilling of 89 Bore wells

**BAGHLAN**  
Construction of Haji Saber bridge, 14 Class rooms, 25 m Long RCC bridge, 5.209 km Long road with 9 culverts and 26 m long RCC girder bridge

**KUNDUZ**  
Drilling of 57 wells for drinking water, 21 units of Bore wells and 40 Class rooms

**PANJSHIR**  
Construction of one Comprehensive Health Clinic, 2 Basic Health Clinics, 578.65 km Long wall, 20 m Long footpath RCC bridge, 8 Class rooms and 16 Classrooms for Accounting & Management Institute

**BADAKHSHAN**  
Construction of 40 m Girder Bridge, High School and Health Clinic



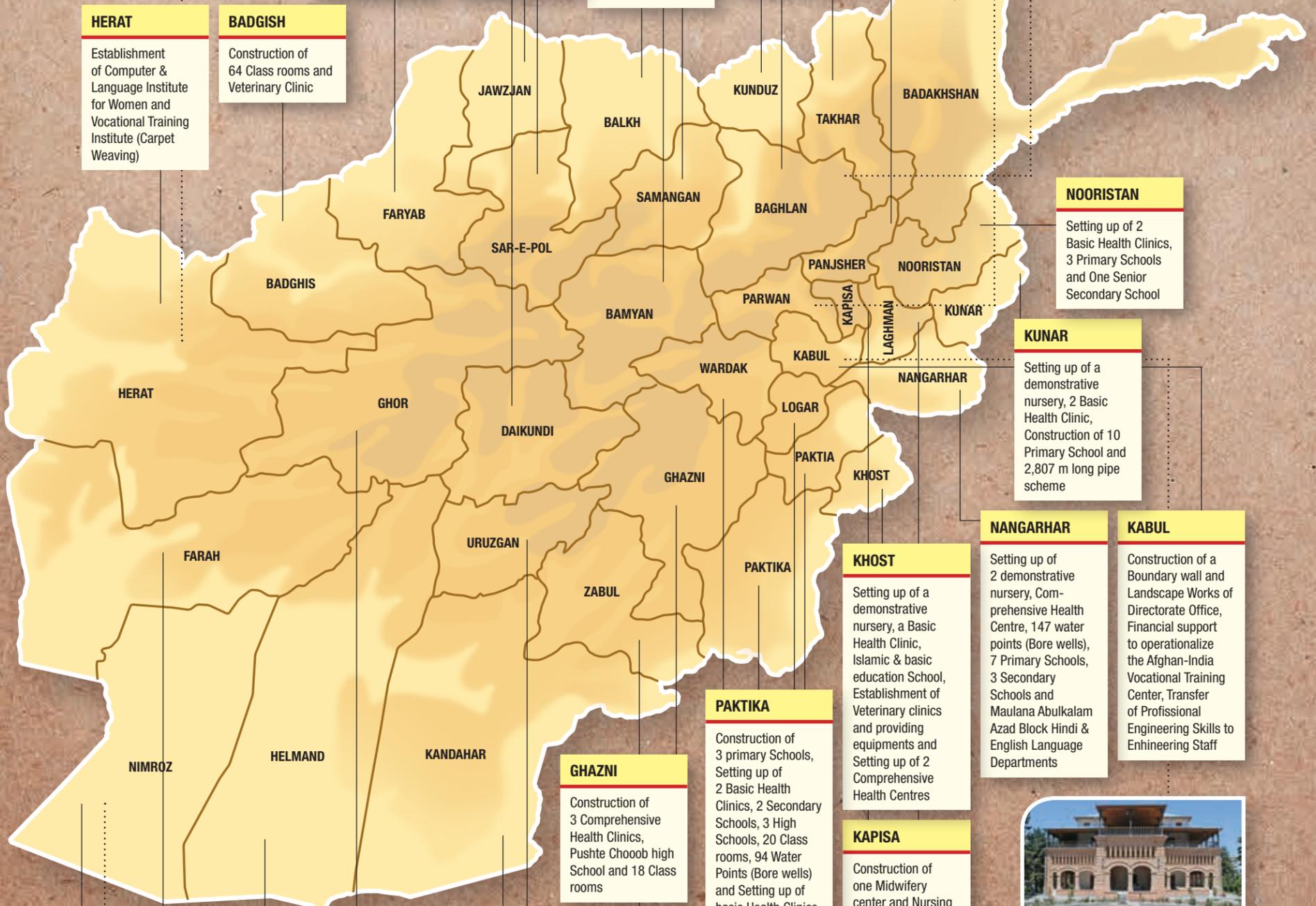
Doshi Substation



Charikar Substation

**HERAT**  
Establishment of Computer & Language Institute for Women and Vocational Training Institute (Carpet Weaving)

**BADGISH**  
Construction of 64 Class rooms and Veterinary Clinic



**NOORISTAN**  
Setting up of 2 Basic Health Clinics, 3 Primary Schools and One Senior Secondary School

**KUNAR**  
Setting up of a demonstrative nursery, 2 Basic Health Clinic, Construction of 10 Primary School and 2,807 m long pipe scheme

**NANGARHAR**  
Setting up of 2 demonstrative nursery, Comprehensive Health Centre, 147 water points (Bore wells), 7 Primary Schools, 3 Secondary Schools and Maulana Abulkalam Azad Block Hindi & English Language Departments

**KABUL**  
Construction of a Boundary wall and Landscape Works of Directorate Office, Financial support to operationalize the Afghan-India Vocational Training Center, Transfer of Professional Engineering Skills to Eneehering Staff



Restoration of Stor Palace



Habibia High School



Afghan Parliament

**KHOST**  
Setting up of a demonstrative nursery, a Basic Health Clinic, Islamic & basic education School, Establishment of Veterinary clinics and providing equipments and Setting up of 2 Comprehensive Health Centres

**KAPISA**  
Construction of one Midwifery center and Nursing dormitory, 550 m long Retaining Wall, 24 Class rooms, Drilling of 100 m deep well, water tank and landscaping works

**PAKTIKA**  
Construction of 3 primary Schools, Setting up of 2 Basic Health Clinics, 2 Secondary Schools, 3 High Schools, 20 Class rooms, 94 Water Points (Bore wells) and Setting up of basic Health Clinics

**LOGAR**  
Construction of Logar Higher Education Institute Teaching building, 4 storey Dormitory/ Hostel building for institute and 16 Class rooms

**WARDAK**  
Construction of a complex Institute of Administration and accounting and 30 Beds Hospital

**GHAZNI**  
Construction of 3 Comprehensive Health Clinics, Pushte Chooob high School and 18 Class rooms

**ZABUL**  
Construction of 41 water points (Bore wells) and Setting up of 35 water points (Bore wells)

**FARAH**  
Construction of 422 m projection wall

**GHOR**  
Construction of 30 Class rooms, Walkway and Grassing of football ground, Sport stadium, 2 x 11m Canal intake and 40 m long RCC bridge

**KANDAHAR**  
Construction of a Cricket Stadium, 30 Beds Hospital a Basic Health Clinics, Setting up of Comprehensive Health Centre and Establishment of Veterinary clinics and providing equipments

**URUZGAN**  
Construction of 2 Comprehensive Health Clinics and 16 Class rooms and Green House establishment/ installation

**NIMROOZ**  
Setting up of 3 Basic Health Clinics and Construction of 1 primary School and 8 Class rooms, 4 Comprehensive Health Clinic and Rehabilitation of irrigation canals

**HELMAND**  
Construction of 4 Comprehensive Health Clinics and 16 Class rooms



Road from Zaranj to Delaram