

**AFGHANISTAN AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF INTERNATIONAL INTERACTION**

**D. K. Shahi\***

\*Associate Professor,  
DAV PG College, Dehradun,  
Uttarakhand, INDIA

Email id: dkshahi.dehradun.india@gmail.com

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**ABSTRACT**

*The interaction of a country with other countries in the neighbourhood is fundamentally affected by geography (physical, cultural, economic and political geography). These geographies define neighbourhood interaction and international relations. It also defines the geopolitics of the neighbourhood. On the other hand, the social and economic dimensions of life in a country are also determined by many factors including geography, geopolitics and international relations.*

*The geography, geopolitics and international relations create new opportunities for intensified cultural and economic relations. At times it also creates challenges (constraints). It has geopolitical implications for the neighbourhood.*

*Some countries have geographical advantages while others have geographical disadvantages. This paper examines the challenges and opportunities of international interaction between Afghanistan and its neighbourhood.*

*On conceptual and theoretical premises, it does not support geographical determinism. But geography becomes determining factor at times, depending upon the situation (location) and composition of the neighbourhood. Thus, the fundamental influence of geography cannot be denied. Therefore, this research argues that neighbourhood geography has been a crucial factor in determining international relations.*

*This research is intended to deepen the understanding of the geographical situation of Afghanistan and its neighbourhood and geopolitical situation in the region.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Afghanistan, Neighbourhood, Geography, Geopolitics, International Relations.*

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