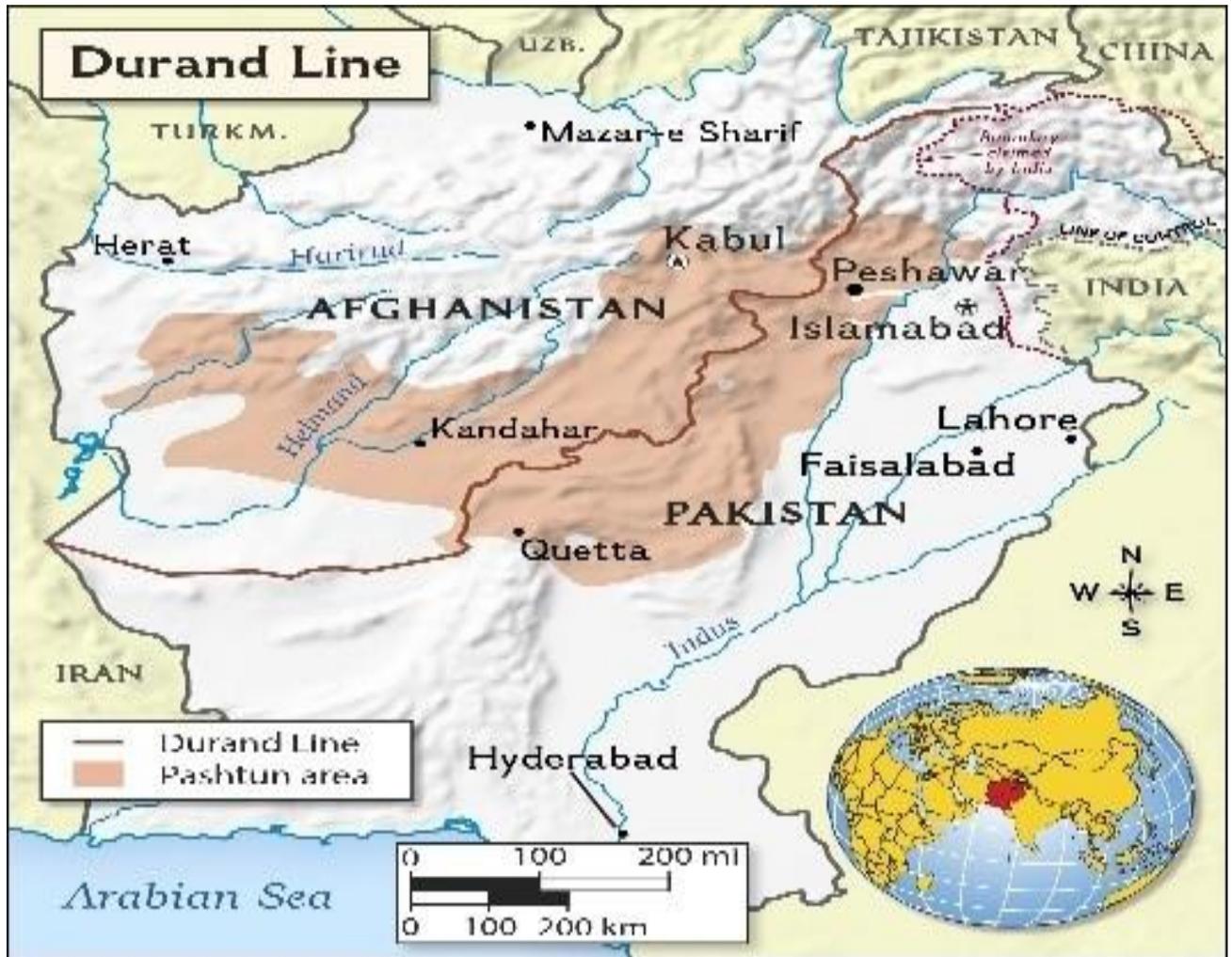


Place in News - Durand Line

Context: Recent cross-border confrontations between Afghanistan and Pakistan along the Durand Line have resulted in the deaths of over 80 soldiers from both nations, rekindling tensions regarding the contested border.



14 Oct 2025

About the Durand Line:

- The Durand Line serves as the international land boundary between Afghanistan and Pakistan, extending approximately 2,600 km (1,600 miles). It delineates the spheres of influence that were agreed upon between British India and the Emirate of Afghanistan in 1893; however, Afghanistan has never formally acknowledged this border.

Location:

- The line stretches from the Karakoram Range in the northeast (adjacent to China) to the Registan Desert in the southwest (near Iran). It traverses significant geographic and strategic landmarks such as the Khyber Pass and Spīn Ghar (White Mountains). The border intersects 12 Afghan provinces and 3 Pakistani provinces — Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Historical Background:

- **Anglo-Afghan Context:** The border was established in 1893 through an agreement between Sir Henry Mortimer Durand (Foreign Secretary of British India) and Emir Abdur Rahman Khan to delineate spheres of influence.
- **Post-Independence Legacy:** Following the establishment of Pakistan in 1947, the country inherited the line; however, Afghanistan disputed its legitimacy, voting against Pakistan's membership in the United Nations.



- **Pashtunistan Movement:** The border has divided the Pashtun tribes, intensifying calls for an independent Pashtunistan and ongoing cross-border tribal conflicts.

Physical Features:

- The line traverses a variety of terrains — from high-altitude ranges in the east (Karakoram, Hindu Kush, Spīn Ghar) to deserts and plains in the west (Registan, Baloch Plateau). It encompasses strategic passes such as the Khyber Pass (a route for trade and invasion) and the Wakhan Corridor, a narrow strip that separates Pakistan from Tajikistan. The region is predominantly inhabited by Pashtuns, characterized by strong tribal, cultural, and kinship connections that extend across both sides.