



PAYF Webinar

Afghanistan Five Years On: A Look Through the SAT Study

Concept Note

Five years since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan on 15 Aug 2021, the country continues to face significant political, social, economic and security challenges, with developments inside Afghanistan carrying wider implications for South Asia. *South Asia Times'* latest study, **"Taliban 2.0: The Five Year Ledger,"** examines the trajectory of Taliban rule across governance, human development, media freedom, security, the economy, narcotics, diplomacy and regional relations. The study highlights the continued exclusion of approximately 1.1M secondary-age girls from education, a sharp contraction of Afghanistan's media sector, the presence of more than 20 militant organisations and the emergence of synthetic drugs alongside the decline in poppy cultivation.

Recognising the importance of informed regional dialogue, **Pak Asia Youth Forum (PAYF)** is organising a webinar titled **"Afghanistan Five Years On: A Look Through the SAT Study"** on **Tuesday, 29 Sept. 2026**. The webinar will explore the SAT study's findings and examine Afghanistan's evolving political and social landscape, security and economic challenges and implications for neighbouring countries, with particular attention to youth, girls' education, media and civic space, militancy, narcotics, Pak-Afghan relations, migration, trade and diplomatic engagement.

The discussion aims to facilitate a constructive exchange among diplomats, policymakers, researchers, academics, journalists and young stakeholders on Afghanistan's trajectory and its implications for regional stability and connectivity. As a youth-centric diplomatic platform committed to strengthening people-to-people ties across South Asia, PAYF seeks to encourage dialogue beyond conventional state-to-state perspectives and consider the role of youth, education, economic opportunity and regional engagement in shaping Afghanistan's future.