

# India acknowledges: Taliban hold positions of power, authority

written by iasexam.com | 13/09/2021



In its first clear and official reference to the Taliban as a state actor, India acknowledged in a joint statement with Australia Sunday that the group holds “positions of power and authority across Afghanistan”.

This reference is a step forward for the diplomatic establishment, but falls short of officially recognizing the Taliban administration as the government of Afghanistan.

## **Key Highlights**

- Recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had described the Taliban as the “dispensation” in Kabul during his remarks after the 2+2 talks with Australia involving Foreign and Defence ministers.
- The joint statement said: “(The) Ministers also expressed deep concern about the situation in Afghanistan. Ministers called for the Taliban to guarantee safe passage for foreign nationals and Afghans wanting to leave the country.”
- It said: “They reiterated calls on those in positions of power and authority across Afghanistan to adhere to counterterrorism commitments and human rights, in accordance with UNSCR 2593.”

- The UN Security Council Resolution 2593 — issued on August 30 under India's month-long presidency — emphasised that Afghanistan must not allow its soil to be used for terrorism-linked activities.
- In another unusual move by India, the joint statement outlined reports of violations of human rights.

**SOURCE:** *The Indian Express*