

AFGHAN TURMOIL

# Taliban enters Kabul, awaits 'peaceful transfer' of power

Taliban negotiators headed to the presidential palace for discussions, an Afghan official said

AHMAD SEIR, RAHIM FAIEZ, TAMEEM AKHGAR AND JON GAMBRELL  
Kabul, August 15

TALIBAN FIGHTERS ENTERED the outskirts of the Afghan capital on Sunday and said they were awaiting a "peaceful transfer" of the city after promising not to take it by force, but the uncertainty panicked residents who raced to leave the capital, with workers fleeing government offices and helicopters landing at the US Embassy.

Three Afghan officials told The Associated Press that the Taliban were in the districts of Kalakan, Qarabagh and Paghman in the capital.

In a nationwide offensive that has taken just over a week, the Taliban has defeated, co-opted or sent Afghan security forces fleeing from wide swaths of the country, even though they had some air support from the US military.

The lightning speed of the push has shocked many and raised questions about why Afghan forces crumbled despite



Smoke rises next to the US Embassy in Kabul on Sunday. Wisps of smoke could be seen near the roof as diplomats destroyed sensitive documents, two US officials said

## Afghan president leaves country

AFGHANISTAN'S EMBATTLED President Ashraf Ghani fled the country Sunday as the Taliban moved further into Kabul, officials said. His countrymen and foreigners alike raced for the exit, signalling the end of a 20-year Western experiment aimed at remaking Afghanistan. Ghani fled out of the country, two officials told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to brief journalists. Abdullah Abdullah, the head of Afghan National Reconciliation Council, later confirmed the Ghani had left in an online video.

— AP

years of US training and billions of dollars spent. Just days ago, an American military assessment estimated it would be a month before the capital would come under insurgent pressure.

Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen told Qatar's Al-Jazeera English satellite news channel that the insurgents are "awaiting a peaceful transfer of Kabul city." He declined to offer specifics on any possible negotiations between his forces and the government.

But when pressed on what

kind of agreement the Taliban wanted, Shaheen acknowledged that they were seeking an unconditional surrender by the central government.

Taliban negotiators headed to the presidential palace on Sunday to discuss the transfer, said an Afghan official who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. It remained unclear when that transfer would take place.

Acting defence minister Bismillah Khan sought to reassure the public in a video message. "Authority has been given to a delegation that will be going to Doha (Qatar) tomorrow to reach an agreement on Afghanistan," he said. "I assure you about the security of Kabul."

Earlier, the insurgents also tried to calm residents of the capital. "No one's life, property and dignity will be harmed and the lives of the citizens of Kabul will not be at risk," the insurgents said in a statement.

Despite the pledges, panic set in as many rushed to leave the country through the Kabul airport, the last route out of the country as the Taliban now hold every border crossing.

Rapid shuttle flights of Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopters near the embassy began a few hours later after militants seized the nearby city of Jalalabad. Diplomatic armoured SUVs could be seen leaving the area around the post.

# Biden orders 1,000 more troops to help departure

ROBERT BURNS AND JOSH BOAK  
Washington, August 15

US PRESIDENT JOE Biden has authorised an additional 1,000 US troops for deployment to Afghanistan, raising to roughly 5,000 the number of US troops to ensure what Biden called an "orderly and safe drawdown" of American and allied personnel.

US troops will also help in the evacuation of Afghans who worked with the military during the nearly two-decade war.

The last-minute decision to re-insert thousands of US troops into Afghanistan reflected the dire state of security as the Taliban seized control of multiple Afghan cities in a few short days. The militant and fundamentalist movement gained control of key parts of the country it governed until being ousted by US and coalition forces after the September 11 attacks. Biden had set an August 31 deadline for fully withdraw combat forces before the 20th anniversary of the attacks.

Biden attributed much of the chaos unfolding in Afghanistan to former President Donald Trump's efforts to end the war, which Biden said created a blueprint that put U.S. forces in a difficult spot with an emboldened Taliban challenging the Afghan government.



Members of the US Joint Forces on their way to Afghanistan

"When I came to office, I inherited a deal cut by my predecessor — which he invited the Taliban to discuss at Camp David on the eve of 9/11 of 2019 — that left the Taliban in the strongest position militarily since 2001," Biden said in a statement on Saturday. "I was the fourth president to preside over an American troop presence in Afghanistan — two Republicans, two Democrats. I would not, and will not, pass this war onto a fifth."

Biden didn't explain the numerical breakdown of the 5,000 troops he said had been deployed. But a defence official said in a media statement that the president had approved Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's recommendation that the lead battalion of the 82nd Airborne Brigade Combat Team assist in the State Department's drawdown.

Initially, 1,000 troops were in place to aid with the withdrawal, and administration officials quickly judged that total to be insufficient. An additional contingent of Marines arrived in Kabul as part of a 3,000-troop force intended to secure an airlift of US Embassy personnel and Afghan allies as Taliban insurgents approached the outskirts of the capital. The additional 1,000 troops approved on Saturday appeared to bring the total to 5,000.

Officials have stressed that the newly arriving troops' mission was limited to assisting the airlift of embassy personnel and Afghan allies, and they expected to complete it by month's end. But they might have to stay longer if the embassy is threatened by a Taliban takeover of Kabul by then.

# Taliban surge exposes failure of American efforts to build Afghan Army

JONATHAN LANDAY AND IDREES ALI  
Kabul/Washington, August 15

THE ROUT OF Afghan forces as Taliban fighters take one provincial city after another provides a stark answer to anyone wondering about the success of two decades of US-led efforts to build a local army.

Despite about \$89 billion budgeted for training the Afghan army, it took the Taliban little more than a month to brush it aside. Over the last few days, the insurgents have seized every major city in Afghanistan — from Kandahar in the south

to Mazar-i-Sharif in the north, Herat in the west to Jalalabad in the east.

They now stand at the gates of Kabul.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani praised security and defence forces in a televised address on Saturday, saying they had "a strong spirit to defend their people and country."

But still, there has been shock at the lack of resistance put up by many Afghan army units. Some abandoned their posts and others reached agreements with the Taliban to stop fighting and hand over their weapons and equipment.

In some instances, US officials say, provincial governors asked security forces to surrender or escape, perhaps in order to avoid further bloodshed because they believed defeat was unavoidable.

Where deals were not cut, Afghan forces still appear to have melted away. "Once morale goes, it spreads very quickly, and that is at least partly to blame," a US official said.

American officers have long worried that rampant corruption, well documented in parts of Afghanistan's military and political leadership, would undermine the resolve of badly paid, ill-fed and erratically supplied front-line soldiers — some



An Afghan soldier seen on a road in Kabul on Sunday

of whom have been left for months or years on end in isolated outposts, where they could be picked off by the Taliban.

Over many years, hundreds

of Afghan soldiers were killed each month. But the army fought on, without any of the airborne evacuation of casualties and expert surgical care

standard in Western armies, as long as international backing was there. Once that went, their resolve evaporated.

"Would you give your life for leaders who don't pay you on time and are more interested in their own future?" a second US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, asked.

It is an analysis shared by some in the Taliban movement.

One Taliban commander in the central province of Ghazni said the government forces' collapse started as soon as US forces started withdrawing "as they didn't have any ideology except fleeing the Americans." "The only reason for this unexpected

fall of provinces was our commitment and the withdrawal of US troops," he said.

The defeat highlights the failure of the United States to create a fighting force in the image of its own military.

On paper, Afghan security forces numbered around 300,000 soldiers. In reality, the numbers were never that high.

Dependent on a small number of elite special forces units that were shunted from province to province as more cities fell to the Taliban, the already high rate of desertion in the regular army soared.

As government forces started to fall apart, hastily

recruited local militias, loyal to regional leaders such as Marshal Abdul Rashid Dostum in the northern province of Faryab or Ismail Khan in Herat, also rushed in to fight.

Western countries had long been wary of such militias. Though more in line with the realities of traditional Afghan politics where personal, local or ethnic ties outweigh loyalty to the state, they were also open to corruption and ultimately proved no more effective than conventional forces.

Dostum fled to Uzbekistan as the Taliban advanced and Khan surrendered.

— REUTERS

## Pak closely watching evolving Afghan situation: Official

PAKISTAN SAID ON Sunday that it was closely watching the evolving situation in the neighbouring Afghanistan while making efforts for a political settlement, as the Tal-

iban insurgents entered Kabul and moved closer to retaking full control of the war-torn country. Foreign office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri issued a statement

about the current situation in Afghanistan where the Taliban control large areas of the country. "Pakistan is closely following the unfolding situation in Afghanistan. Pakistan will con-

tinue to support the efforts for a political settlement. We hope all Afghan sides will work together to resolve this internal political crisis," he said.

— PTI

### Reliance Communications Limited

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#### I. Extract from the Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2021.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
		30-06-21 (Unaudited)	31-03-21 (Audited)	30-06-20 (Unaudited)	31-03-21 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (net)	154	191	215	779
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and / or Extra Ordinary Items)	(75)	(28)	(76)	(200)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extra Ordinary Items)	(75)	(28)	(76)	(200)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extra Ordinary Items)	(76)	(25)	(81)	(211)
5	Profit / (Loss) after Tax from Discontinued Operations	(1,536)	(1,501)	(1,328)	(5,601)
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(1,630)	(1,533)	(1,404)	(5,771)
7	Equity Share Capital (Equity Share of Rs. 5 each)	1,383	1,383	1,383	1,383
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 5/- each) (Basic and Diluted) - Rs.				
	(Before exceptional Items)				
	(a) Continuing Operations	(0.28)	(0.09)	(0.30)	(0.77)
	(b) Discontinued Operations	(0.88)	(0.91)	(0.76)	(3.16)
	(c) Continuing and Discontinued Operations	(1.16)	(1.00)	(1.06)	(3.93)
	(After exceptional Items)				
	(a) Continuing Operations	(0.28)	(0.09)	(0.30)	(0.77)
	(b) Discontinued Operations	(5.58)	(5.44)	(4.83)	(20.33)
	(c) Continuing and Discontinued Operations	(5.85)	(5.53)	(5.12)	(21.10)

\*Not annualised for Quarter

#### II. Additional Information of Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2021.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended
		30-06-21 (Unaudited)	31-03-21 (Audited)	30-06-20 (Unaudited)	31-03-21 (Audited)
1	Turnover	94	102	141	483
2	Profit / (Loss) before tax	(79)	(46)	(90)	(252)
3	Profit / (Loss) after tax	(79)	(46)	(90)	(252)
4	Profit / (Loss) after tax from Discontinued Operations	(1,273)	(1,226)	(1,111)	(4,637)

III. The Consolidated Financial Results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.

IV. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the Company, [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and [www.rcom.co.in](http://www.rcom.co.in).

(Reliance Communications Limited is under corporate insolvency resolution process pursuant to the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. With effect from June 28, 2019, its affairs, business and assets are being managed by, and the powers of the board of directors are vested in, the Resolution Professional, Mr. Anish Navavaty, appointed by Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench, vide order dated June 21, 2019 which was published on the website of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench on June 28, 2019.)

Place : Mumbai  
Date : August 14, 2021

### CREST VENTURES LIMITED

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#### EXTRACT OF THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2021

(₹ in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2021 (Unaudited)	30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)	30.06.2021 (Unaudited)	30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	31.03.2021 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	609.91	689.20	2,650.98	1,333.32	1,394.51	5,489.23
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(231.10)	157.69	(1,754.81)	8.16	268.90	(886.50)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(231.10)	157.69	(1,754.81)	8.16	268.90	(886.50)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(279.36)	105.17	(2,021.09)	56.69	275.77	298.01
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(177.72)	144.59	(1,501.31)	154.85	311.96	803.88
6	Equity Share Capital	2,844.98	2,844.98	2,844.98	2,844.98	2,844.98	2,844.98
	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year)	-	-	28,754.23	-	-	54,952.62
7	Earning per share (EPS) (in ₹) (on Weighted Average number of shares) (Face Value of ₹10/- each)						
	Basic (in ₹)	(0.98)	0.37	(7.10)	0.20	0.97	1.05
	Diluted (in ₹)	(0.98)	0.37	(7.10)	0.20	0.97	1.05

**Notes:**

- \*After share of profit/(loss) of Associates
- The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on August 14, 2021.
- Previous quarter / year's figures have been regrouped / reclassified, wherever considered necessary.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Company's website viz. [www.crest.co.in](http://www.crest.co.in) and on the websites of BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited viz. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively.

For **Crest Ventures Limited,**  
Sd/-  
**Vijay Choraria**  
Managing Director  
(DIN: 00021446)

Place : Mumbai  
Date : August 14, 2021