# Chaman-Spin Boldak Border Crossing: Overview

# 1. Geographic and Strategic Location

- Chaman Border Crossing is one of the major international border crossings between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- It connects:
  - Chaman town in Chaman District, Balochistan (Pakistan)
  - Wesh and Spin Boldak in Kandahar Province (Afghanistan)
- It forms part of a key route linking the **provincial capitals**:
  - Quetta (Pakistan) ↔ Kandahar (Afghanistan)
- Lies along the **Durand Line**, the disputed international border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

# 2. Economic and Human Significance

- Around 10,000 people cross daily for trade, work, and family visits, mainly from Pakistan into Wesh, Afghanistan, and return the same day.
- It serves as a vital trade and transit route, particularly for goods moving between South Asia and Central Asia.
- The crossing facilitates local cross-border markets, small-scale traders, and the movement of agricultural productsRegional Overview

# 3. Spin Boldak City (Afghanistan)

- **Spin Boldak** (Pashto: بولدک سپین) is:
  - A city in Kandahar Province,
  - The administrative capital of Spin Boldak District.
- Current Mayor: Lutfullah Latifi (as per recent records).
- Connectivity:
  - North: Connected to **Kandahar city** by highway.

- South: Linked with Chaman and Quetta in Pakistan.
- Border Feature: The Wesh-Chaman crossing is located in the southeast of

# 4. Demographics and Ethnic Composition

- The border area (Spin Boldak-Chaman) is primarily inhabited by **Pashtun tribes**.
- Major tribes:
  - Noorzai
  - Achakzai
- These tribes share strong ethnic, cultural, and familial ties across both sides of the border, facilitating informal trade and movement

Spin Boldak.

# 5. Political and Security Context

- On 14 July 2021, during the Taliban's 2021 offensive,
  - Taliban forces captured the Afghan side of the Wesh-Chaman crossing.
  - This occurred before their eventual takeover of Kabul in August 2021.
- Control over this crossing provides strategic leverage in trade revenues, cross-border movement, and customs control.

# 6. Symbolic and Structural Features

- A "Friendship Gate" was constructed in 2003 at the crossing.
  - It is a brick, double-arched gate, about three stories tall.
  - The side facing Balochistan (Pakistan) bears slogans:
    - "Proud Pakistani"

#### • "Pakistan First"

 The gate symbolizes bilateral cooperation but also underscores national identity and border control.

# 7. Operational Details

- The official operational hours:
  - From morning to sunset.
- The crossing is used for:
  - Trade transit.
  - Passenger movement, and
  - Bilateral official interactions between customs and border authorities

# 8. Strategic Importance for India and UPSC Relevance

- For India's perspective:
  - Part of the broader
     Afghanistan-Pakis
     tan dynamics,
     influencing regional
     security.
  - Crucial in the context of India's connectivity projects (like Chabahar Port and INSTC) that seek alternatives to routes through Pakistan.

#### UPSC Relevance:

 Topics: India and its Neighbourhood Relations, International

Borders, Afghanistan Crisis 2021, Trade and Connectivity, Security Challenges in South Asia.

### **Facebook**

<u>Instagram</u>

# **Youtube**

