

CENTRAL ASIA MEET FORMS AFGHAN GROUP

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests

“The leaders emphasised that connectivity projects deserve priority attention and could be a force-multiplier for trade and economic cooperation and contacts between countries and people,” it added, but did not directly refer to the blocks on transit trade imposed by Pakistan.

The leaders discussed possibilities of increasing Indian trade with the region beyond the currently low levels of about \$2 billion, welcoming options over sea provided by Iranian ports including the Chabahar port terminal managed by India and the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) through Bandar Abbas that is promoted by Russia and Iran, and which is due to include both Chabahar and Turkmenistan's Turkmenbashi port.

Notably, the statement recorded that President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov had “stressed on the importance of TAPI gas pipeline project” that runs from Turkmenistan's Galknyshk oil fields near Mary (Marv) through Afghanistan and Pakistan to India, but did not record any support from India on the project. The TAPI project, inaugurated in 2015, has run into issues over India-Pakistan tensions and the situation in Afghanistan, though the Taliban officials recently said they hope to restart work on the pipeline in September 2022.

[Our code of editorial values](#)

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com