



According to sources, Indias participation in the project has been lacklustre due to Pakistans involvement ever since the project was envisaged.

Out of the total 1,814 km., the pipeline will run for 214 km in Turkmenistan, 774 km in Afghanistan along the Kandahar-Herat highway, 826 km in Pakistan through Quetta and Multan and finally reaching the settlement of Fazilka, in India located near the India-Pakistan border.

In November 2014, a consortium the TAPI Pipeline Company Ltd. (TPCL) was incorporated in the Isle of Man, a British Crown dependency. Though all the other countries have begun their ground work, India still seems to be pondering over the strategy on its participation in the project, sources said.

Apparently, Pakistan has asked Turkmenistan to slash gas prices by linking it with Brent crude oil rates under a revised pricing formula for shipments through TAPI pipeline. According to sources, the consultants will float a tender to derive a price on which transportation tariff will be added that will become a key factor for the deal.

In July last year, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had visited Turkmenistan and held discussions with his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhammedov on the gas pipeline.

Meanwhile, the Turkmen President has also urged the business community of Uzbekistan to participate in the project.

The Saudis are also now taking keen interest in TAPI. The Saudi government is investing heavily in the project from the Saudi Development Fund.

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Kaynak/Source: