

Afghanistan's wary neighbours

Afghanistan's immediate neighbours are concerned that with around 3.5 million Afghans internally displaced and 2.2 million refugees seeking sanctuary, instability could spread throughout the region

■ **Pakistan:** Received almost 1.5 million refugees in 2020. Government of Prime Minister **Imran Khan** (below) backs Taliban with military support. Khan has welcomed new regime, claiming that Taliban broke shackles of "slavery"



— **TAPI:** Proposed 1,800km Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India natural gas pipeline

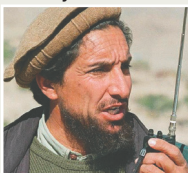


■ **Iran:** Hosted 780,000 Afghan refugees in 2020. President **Ebrahim Raisi** refuses to denounce Taliban. Reformists support **National Resistance Front** in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley

■ **Turkmenistan:** No commitment to take refugees. Has avoided openly criticizing new government in hopes that construction of U.S.-backed TAPI pipeline can continue

■ **Uzbekistan:** Will help transfer Afghan refugees to third countries. Neutral stance – will accept non-inclusive Taliban-only government

■ **Tajikistan:** Will accept up to 100,000 Afghan refugees. **Sep 2:** President honours **Ahmad Shah Massoud** (below) – devout enemy of Taliban



■ **India:** Hosted around 18,000 Afghan refugees in 1990s. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** (above) sees new terror threat. **2008:** Afghan Taliban-linked **Lashkar-e-Taiba** carries out coordinated shooting and bombing attacks in Mumbai, killing at least 174 people

■ **China:** Refugees not welcome. Beijing has close relationship with Taliban, pledging **\$31 million** in aid.



President **Xi Jinping** (above) has kept embassy in Kabul open while eyeing \$1 trillion Afghan mineral wealth. Wants to protect **Belt and Road** programme