

Afghanistan aims to double trade with India

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Afghanistan is hopeful of doubling bilateral trade to \$2 billion with India by 2020 and seeks private investments and cooperation in various fields, a senior government official said.

“Our bilateral trade with India is \$1 billion at present and is expected to reach more than \$2 billion by 2020. We seek private investment and cooperation from India in the field of agriculture, mining, heavy industries, education, health-care, energy, IT and transportation,” the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's ambassador to India, Shaida Mohammad Abdali, told reporters here.

As part of economic development in the war-ravaged country, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), India and government of Afghanistan announced the second annual “Passage to Prosperity: India-Afghanistan International Trade and Investment Show” which will be held between 12 and 15 September in Mumbai. More than 600 representatives from Afghanistan, India and international businesses are expected to attend the trade show. During the event, Afghanistan's textiles, carpets, gems, and jewellery will be on display for international buyers. Afghanistan vendors will also be able to sell their sample products directly to consumers.

“Passage to Prosperity” will help develop economic ties between Afghanistan and international markets, and further advance trade integration, Afghanistan's ambassador to India said. PTI