

## India - Central Asia

- \* Historical, cultural and economic connections
- \* Silk Route; Mughals etc
- \* 5 countries - got independence in 1990s after USSR disintegrated
- \* Traditionally has been an area of Great Game (★★★)

**India** Consider central Asia as Strategic & Extended Neighbourhood  
Was one among the first countries to recognise their independence & estd. diplomatic ties.

4 major interests in Central Asia

- → ① Security
- → ② Energy
- → ③ Trade
- → ④ Mutual Coop. in various realms → medical field  
(★★★)

**Connect Central Asia Policy**

**Political** → India-Central Asia Dialogue (Track II) annually

**Strategic Cooperation** - military exercise, anti terrorism

**Multilateral engagements** via diff. foras → SCO, EEU, Custom union

**Connectivity** → International N-S Transport Corridor, air service

**People to people contacts**

**Trade** - India v/s China  
\$2 Bn || \$50 Bn + BRI } India needs significant improvement

**Imp. of Central Asia**

- ① Energy → Kazakhstan - largest Uranium producer, gas/oil reserve
- ② Strategic location (Asia-Europe) → Uzbekistan - gas, gold; Tajikistan - hydropower
- ③ Trade & Investment → Turkmenistan - 4th largest gas reserve
- ④ Security → Azerbaijan (Tajikistan), Turkmenistan - gas/border, construction, IT, pharma, tourism
- ⑤ neighboring Golden crescent (drugs, arms, trafficking)
- ⑥ Radical elements (Terrorism, Fergana Valley - Fundamentalism)
- ⑦ Stabiliz. of Afghanistan
- ⑧ Shanghai coop. framework

## Challenges

- ① India unable to take advantage of historical ties
- ② Landlocked countries → unstable Afghanistan → hostile Pak
- ③ Presence of China in the region  
China → problem of access for trade & other things
- ④ Radicalization & extremism in the region
- ⑤ Domestic problems of Central Asia

## Recent developments

① India became full time members of SCO (Central Asian countries also members)

- provide stable platform for interaction
- role in stabilization of Afghanistan
- USA declared the Imp. of Central Asian Region in its New National Security Strategy

② Int. N-S. Transport Corridor (INSTC) - 2000 (Iran, Russia, India) - ₹ 200 K

- Connect Indian Ocean - Persian Gulf - Caspian Sea
- 2016 - India approved a shipping cargo via INSTC

③ Chabahar Port - (Iran - India)

Add: Eurasian Economic Union: India negotiating compr. econo. partnership agreement  
Astana Int. Financial centre: India has scope of investment in region

- first phase completed
- connectivity to Iran

Afghanistan (Delaram - Zarang Highway)

C-Asia

④ Ashgabat Agreement

Int. transport & transit Corridor (Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

- Potentiate INSTC → Better connectivity to Europe
- India acceded to it.

② C-Asia

② Afghanistan

⑤ TAPI pipeline (Turkmenistan - 85% cost) Galkynysh field [start by 2020]

1240 km long

Afghanistan

Pakistan: Transit fees to be paid by India

financed by ADB

India (Fazilka, Punjab)

25% of Pak's need

33 Bon. cubic meter gas to be pumped annually

15% of India's need

Pros

Source of cooperation

re

Turkmenistan financially weak

Cheap energy

Area is unstable

dependable alternative source

India - Pak problems

economic opportunities, jobs