

# India and Central Asia Economic Rapport: Proceeding Positive Path

Rasmita Sahoo

(UGC/NET) Research Fellow Academy of International Studies  
JMI Central University Delhi

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**Abstract**—India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently concluded a visit to the five Central Asian Republics (CARs), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (6-13 July, 2015). The visit to all five CARs, the first by an Indian Prime Minister since Jawaharlal Nehru's visit in the 1950s to what were then the five Soviet Socialist Republics of Central Asia, clearly highlights that in addition to engaging with East Asia through the 'Act East' policy, for India, strengthening ties with the Central Asian region remains a foreign policy priority. With a focus on energy, trade and connectivity, Modi's visit to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also sought to strengthen cultural ties between the two regions, and deepen cooperation on climate change and counter-terrorism. India and the Central Asian region share a long history. Moreover, however the relationship was from time to time stamped by misuse and even genocidal levels of violence Central Asia's various intrusions into the Indian subcontinent made prepared for a persisting exchange of items and musings between the two areas. Central Asia is another geopolitical creation which has a fundamental part to play in the coming years. It is in the midst of three super civilisations—the Islamic, the Christian and the Buddhist and is seen by various masters as a champion amongst the most feeble locales of trickiness between them India as an expanded neighbor of CARs has major geostrategic and monetary side interests here. The future prospects for support between Central Asia and India in the field of essentialness security have all the earmarks of being crucial. The subject of Indo-Central Asian relations is not another. Close commitments of history have always joined the two, with this zone being recognized as India's "enhanced neighborhood". It is relevant to underline that the many years old relationship between the two areas has created through social affiliation. A couple of parts of the lifestyle, civilisations and academic histories of the two areas suggest that they grew not in detachment, but instead through relative social headway. In bleeding edge times, nevertheless, the importance of Central Asia to India is not just civilisational and recorded, yet rather in like manner geopolitical and money related. Central Asia is of unprecedented basic noteworthiness to India. There is colossal expansion for down to business and profitable engagement between the two. The focal point of relationship between the Central Asian Republics (CARs) and India can be described by the criticalness of Central Asia for peace and quality in our general vicinity. Notwithstanding India's available under-commitment in CARs; these countries offer phenomenal open entryways, which if benefitted would help in blending India's short and whole deal outside plan destinations in this area.

It is in this context that the present paper identifies the evolving Indian interests in Central Asian Republics. It also examines the avenues of cooperation with these countries with which India shares many common interests.

**Keywords:** cultures, civilizations, counter-terrorism, geo-political, natural gas, oil pipelines, Caspian sea, trade, foreign policy.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

By paying official visits to five Central Asian countries including Russia within the span of a week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi surpassed his predecessors and put Eurasia firmly in India's zone of interest. July, 2015 visit has allayed fears that Central Asia is of secondary importance to India and will go down in the annals of India-Eurasia relations as a red-letter visit.

## 2. CARS TOUR OF PM NARENDRA MODI

- Uzbekistan (6-7 July, 2015)
- Kazakhstan (7-8 July, 2015)
- Turkmenistan (10-11 July, 2015)
- Kyrgyzstan (11-12 July, 2015)
- Tajikistan (12-13 July, 2015)

The array of issues Modi discussed with Central Asian leaders, the bilateral declarations and pledges they jointly made in press conferences, the mutual agreements signed and the camaraderie he has developed during his maiden visit are testimony to his initial success in Central Asia. Significantly, Modi met the Central Asian leaders twice within a week first in their respective capitals for delegation-level talks and then at Ufa in Russia during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. The penultimate stop in Modi's tour was Turkmenistan, a gas-rich country that was ruthlessly ruled by its first president, Saparmurat Niyazov. He changed Ashgabat into a shimmering marble city and highlighted the oil's change and gas industry. Animated by the convictions of non-game plan, he took after positive absence of inclination as the establishment of his remote methodology, yet allowed the

Taliban to use his organization's resorts on the Caspian Sea. His successor, Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, has continued with his harbinger's methodologies. This is the country from where two vital pipelines to India are organized. Modi's examinations with individual Central Asian pioneers and what's more within the SCO will have huge bearing on what's to come. Without security, progression gets the chance to be cushy, and change is Modi's mantra. There is a limitless expansion for encouraging two-sided ties in guideline and English-lingo instructing from schools to universities, therapeutic administrations, tourism, agriculture and agro-planning business endeavors, pharmaceuticals and medicine delivering, materials, petrochemicals, mining, military interest and unit get ready, and other brought together fields. Coordinated effort in the field of uranium extraction is creating with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

The close-by trade and social linkages between the Indian subcontinent and Central Asia, whose beginnings can be taken after to the Indus valley human advancement, diminished after India's package in 1947 as New Delhi wound up without a quick region foyer to the region. This suggested that stock from India bound for the Central Asian region, instead of encountering Pakistan and Afghanistan, would need to take any more courses which by and large incorporated the sea course to Iran and after that overland through Iran, rendering New Delhi's passages to the region less competitive. Moreover, the Indian government office in Tashkent expected a paramount part in urging people to-people contacts amidst India and the more broad Central Asian region.

### **3. INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA: MULTIDIMENSIONAL INSIGHT**

India and Central Asia have deep historical ties, common cultural and political values as well as similar economic tasks from the very beginning. The relations between both the ranges have been re-set up on the new geopolitical condition. Both the areas have seen for whole deal budgetary and political association progression change and achievement of India. Kazakhstan is the greatest and wealthiest country in the locale. India saw the flexibility of each state and developed key relations. Remembering the final objective to invigorate these key ties a couple of strange state visits amidst India and Central Asia have been exchanged constantly. India is ending up being more discriminating for its system of improvement and coordinated effort with each state. Both the countries are endeavouring to take an interest each other in separate and multilateral structures within the arrangement of such affiliations UN, CICA, and SCO. Both countries have general points of view on answer for distinctive issues. Kazakhstan exceedingly respects India's dynamic and valuable position in Kazakhstan's drive – Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) planned for development of a dialog in Asia and course of action of Continental Security Systems. Kazakhstan has transformed into the first country to support and propel the benchmarks

close Panchashila (Principles of calm conjunction). The Principles of the CICA figured in 1999 by part state of this affiliation are skirting on recognized to measures of Panchashila grasped in 1954. Both the areas clearly extended their cooperation in security and money related circle arranging them as need heading within the structure of these multilateral techniques. According to Kazakhstan, India has essential potential for money related and political region in Central Asia. India regarded the part's decisions states of the SCO to develop the spectator's part and communicated its desire to more successfully tune in the SCO works out.

India and Kazakhstan have a commonplace position in various present issues of International administrative issues. Establishment of imperative relationship between the two countries, as it was started in the midst of the President's visit of Kazakhstan to India in January 2009, makes authentic necessities for recognizing of all potential for pleasant amidst India and Kazakhstan. The overall public of Kazakhstan and India have a long standing tradition of close and generous relations that will be further joined due to both countries adherence to the objectives of strength, larger part control government, secularism and peace. The dialog on security issues, both districts was fundamentally connected through exchange of experts of the two countries in the circle of fight against terrorism. There are piles of ethnic and religious social occasions living in both countries. In this matter, India and Kazakhstan request blend of pleasant relations and correspondence between all zone of the overall population as the principle conceivable method for the fight to come against obsession and harshness. Both states dependably talk against outside tries to destabilize the overall population. Complementary interest in this field has been connected by grasping multilateral reports within the arrangement of the UN and this system is maintained by both countries. Republics of the Central Asian region are enormous to India's objective of accomplishing key significance in its more broad neighbourhood. India has successfully settled key relationship with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Closer resistance cooperation has supplemented money related and outstanding ties in raising the profile of two-sided exchange the center of India and regional assistants Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. This example is also at risk to add to impression of India as an associate for gatekeeper acquisitions by Central Asiannations. Regardless of the way that Afghanistan is as a rule considered bit of Central Asia, it has not been tended to in this report in light of its extraordinary region and late history which set it isolated from nearby neighbours. India's engagement in Central Asia has been changed under various power frameworks of "expanded neighbourhood", "fast and imperative neighbourhood" and "look north approach". The shock of Soviet separating and changes in post-nippy war world legislative issues influenced India's Central Asia methodology. India demonstrated a position of security in its engagement in Central Asia. After the separating of Soviet

Union, Central Asia was described as the turn of geopolitics and the play zone of the "new Great Game" in which Russia, China, the United States and the European Union are the standard players. Other vital players are Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. This made Central Asia an issue territory of fighting all inclusive and regional contacts with changed key and money related targets. It should be seen that India is waiting behind the significant powers in Central Asia to the degree developing her geopolitical space and fiscal distractions are concerned. Given the changing advancement of geopolitics, and indispensable, money related and security environment in the range, India need to develop an all the more significant essential coordinated effort and budgetary engagement in Central Asia. In the new key association, India, disregarding her social and civilizational ties with Central Asia, stayed confused and reluctant for admiration to this locale for quite a while. Of course, a couple of enhancements that were happening in her neighbourhood furthermore in overall administrative issues compelled India to light up its needs in Central Asia. These needs are reflected in India's attempts to make mollifying relations; money related coordinated effort, trade and hypothesis, and imperativeness interest with Central Asian countries. Along these lines, the going with relevant request rise: why Central Asia is basic to India; what the a piece of India is in the new inconceivable diversion orchestrated in Central Asia; and how far India could achieve as for her "look north technique" needs around there. It is much of the time battled that Indian engagement with the Central Asian region has been so low recently that it scarcely legitimizes thought. Most examiners on Indian remote method fight along the lines that paying little mind to the way that Central Asia could go about as the reason for Indian area into Afghanistan, where India has greatly gigantic interest and has caught up on them; Indian game plan in the locale stays unclear and tasteless. Likewise, this despite the fact, that Indian support for the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan was guided through Tajikistan. Most chats on India's relations with the Central Asian Republics moreover weight on India's failure to change over the goliath sensitive constrain that it acknowledges in the region into any certified purpose of hobby. Any person who goes to these zones would be aware of the empathy and gratefulness that the all-inclusive community have for India, its traditions and society. Deplorably, and rather than the entire dialog on the basics of 'fragile power', this triumphant of 'hearts and minds' in the statements of Joseph Nye has not by any stretch of the creative ability implied advantage likewise as India has been concerned in the latest a quarter century. It is battled that a possible reason behind this could be that India saw no point of inclination in changing over this 'sensitive power' to hard reality. The uplifting unmistakably needs to start from the state concerned and evolving over 'sensitive power' obliges all around arranged strategies. The ability to shape the slants of others, to be "engaging" for impersonating ought to be worn down.

India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister went to the SCO summit social affairs of June, 2006, August, 2007, and August, 2008, which indicates the hugeness that India annexes to meeting its imperativeness needs.

#### 4. INDIA'S TRADE WITH CENTRAL ASIA

Given its geostrategic location, Pakistan offers lucrative port access to landlocked Central Asia through Gwadar, which combined with Karachi, offers the most brief course to the Arabian Sea.<sup>20</sup> Pakistan is additionally trying to position itself as a critical vitality travel passage that would serve as an outlet for Central Asian vitality to stream into business sectors in South Asia. This can possibly build Pakistan's influence over the CARs. Supported and more profound engagement in the business division will be a viable approach to counter Pakistan's impact in Central Asia.

The rising significance of this district has been because of the locale's key significance for India on a few fronts: India's squeezing vitality prerequisites, CAR's nearness to Afghanistan, and an expanded Chinese vicinity in the area. In December 2012, talking at an occasion sorted out by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), India's External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid highlighted that India could soon import 90 percent of its oil and more than half of its gas and coal necessities. Focal Asia's vitality sources are in this way prone to stay alluring to India. Second, with the 2014 drawdown of worldwide troops in Afghanistan and India's stress that potential following flimsiness could affect Indian security, having cordial relations with Afghanistan's neighbors from the Central Asian Republics to China and Iran, is additionally to India's greatest advantage. Third, late Chinese ventures have included gaining key stakes in oil and gas fields in Central Asia. As India makes more noteworthy attacks in Central Asia's vitality part, there is an improved probability of Beijing and New Delhi winding up in vital rivalry with one another for comparative vitality assets. The developing significance of the Central Asian locale to Indian remote arrangement was shown when India divulged its vital guide - the 'Join Central Asia' strategy in July 2012. Looking to reinforce reciprocal relations and assist India with developing as a noteworthy player in Central Asia, the Connect Central Asia strategy extensively plots the part that India can attempt in the area. With a lucid advancement motivation at its core, the arrangement plans to better incorporate the Central Asian Republics with the Indian monetary framework and add to Central Asia's improvement. This 'Unite Central Asia' approach imagines agrarian help, utilization of India's IT information base, closer military ties, foundation advancement, activities in advanced education and building of healing centers with imperative restorative help as the key divisions for Indian engagement. For instance, the approach tries to set up a Central Asian e-arrange that would help limit building in the wellbeing and instruction parts of Central Asia by joining Indian clinics and colleges to Central Asia to embrace tele-pharmaceutical and tele-training tasks. The

strategy likewise imagines setting up a Central college in the locale. This period of Indian engagement goes for an undertaking driven methodology that could bring about an increment in the volume of Indian awards to the Central Asian Republics.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Closer development cooperation between India and Central Asian countries would prove beneficial to both, since Central Asia could access appropriate technologies and knowledge from India and India could access the rich natural resources and upcoming markets in the regions. Aside from the advantages a more engaged India offers Central Asia, for India, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan's continued support for India's bid for full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and its lobbying for a permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) serves as a welcome indication that many in the region wish to see India play a significantly bigger role. India's efforts to capitalize on such attitudes will almost certainly bode well for its broader strategic and development cooperation aspirations.

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