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India and Central Asia Relation: After Post Cold War Era

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ABSTRACT

India's relation with the Central Asia republics has always been good. The energy resources of Central Asia including the Caspian Sea region will play an important role in India's energy security strategy. Central Asian Countries have world class identity geographically because there are extensive deposits of minerals in large quantities here. The geostrategic location of the Central Asian states has made this region extremely fundamental. India has major geostrategic and economic interests in this region. This paper aims to explain how the future prospects for cooperation between Central Asia and India in the field of energy security seem to be very important. New energy sources India from Central Asia will play an important role in Indian energy strategy in the coming years. It is considered that improvement and advancement in connectivity within SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) will boost economic cooperation and integration in the SCO space. Although India's credit for projects in Central Asia and connectivity initiatives such as Chabahar port, the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline were important components of the dialogue. This paper aims to provides an overview of the evolving relationship between India and Central Asia in the aftermath of the Cold War. This study examines the multifaceted dimensions of their relationship, encompassing political, economic, cultural, and strategic aspects.

Keywords: India, Neighborhood, Central Asia, Political, Economic

Introduction

The international level Indian foreign policy calls "Extended Neighborhood" immediate and strategic neighborhood and "Look North Policy" as well as Connect Central Asia Policy. At the end of cold war radical change in the dynamics of international politics could be visible, India was among the first to established Diplomatic relations in 1992 with the republic of Central Asia. Five new Central Asia Republic Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, emerged, each with its own national identity problems and politics India wants to have good relationship with Central Asia because it has enough natural resources Hydropower, gold, oil, coal, tobacco, wool, etc. In this backdrop, P. V. Narsimha Rao visited the Central Asia Republic in the early 1990 was in essence a goodwill mission. Central Asia as an area of high priority, he described India as desiring honest and open friendship and to promote stability and co-operation without causing harm to any third country. Political ties with the Kyrgyzstan republic have been traditionally warm and friendly. In modern times the importance of CAR to India is not only Civilization and historical but also geopolitics, national security and economic.

TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Pipeline)

Geographically there seems to be no boundary between India and Turkmenistan this affects the connectivity the two countries. The 1814 km and 10 million TAPI project is considered a strong link between the bilateral relations between India and Turkmenistan. India had established hydroelectric power plant in central Asian Republic among which the most important and developing project is the TAPI pipeline project. It was started in 1995 as TAP (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan) by India joined the TAP project. Now this project is known as TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India). Though the India and Central Asia is growing but huge potential exists in pharmaceuticals, IT, textiles automobiles. India will greatly benefit from the execution of this project becoming part of a collaborative trade corridor between Turkmenistan and four other countries. Presently if the TAPI project become successful India can have a strong alternative presence and India can increase its economic presence in Turkmenistan. India may start buying natural gas this will help balance the trade in the future. The TAPI project is an important aspect of India's energy security. If the TAPI project is successful, it will be a symbol of peace, prosperity and stability as it will open up new vistas of economic activity in the areas from where it will operate.

INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor)

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) project will connect India with Europe and Central Asia. Iran's geographical location and proximity to India make it an ideal transit point to reach Russia and countries in Central Asia. INSTC will reduce the time and cost of transporting

goods to the countries of Central Asia via Iran. The reason for less trade between India and Central Asian countries is also the lack of direct route. The transportation of goods through this new route will be cheaper, at present it is very expensive to pass through the Suez Canal because the toll tax of the Suez Canal is very high. INSTC Project Due to the commencement of a large number of new projects, this corridor will prove to be useful, and it will be very easy to transport goods in large quantities on it. Chabahar port plays an important role in the international transport corridor being built by India, Russia and Iran. Geographically, Iran shares borders with Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan and connecting Central Asia. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Iran in 2016, the project focused on building the Chabahar-Zahedan rail line, which would also pave the way for the Chabahar port. To give action to the project, India is to build a 500 km rail line from Chabahar port at a cost of \$1.6 billion as part of a transit corridor to Afghanistan on Iran's southern coast. During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Iran in 2016, he said that "the availability of about \$ 500 million from India for this purpose is an important milestone in our relations." This major effort will boost economic growth.

KIMBMRC (Kyrgyzstan-India Mountain Biomedical Research Centre)

In all, the 21 bilateral agreements have been signed between India and Central Asia Countries. But India and Kyrgyzstan together signed Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade agreement. In July 2015 Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with is Kyrgyzstan's launched a telemedicine links between the two countries and visited Kyrgyzstan-India Mountain Biomedical Research Centre (**KIMBMRC**) at capital Bishkek. This link will be established between highly specialized hospitals of India. At the KIMBMRC, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspected the facilities that were available with them, and he also visited Kyrgyzstan is field which Hospital and gifted medical equipment. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kyrgyzstan President Almazbek Atam Bayev signed an agreement on defence, culture, economic, military, education and medicine. It aims to conduct experiments in improving the physical endurance; do research on the effects of using the nitric-oxide delivery system, aloe Vera cream, biologists, and heating gloves and socks for protection against cold injuries; and to improve the treatment of bronchial asthma, vascular diseases, anemia and hypertension caused by exposure to moderate altitudes. The KIMBMRC aims to study the short-and long-term high altitude acclimatization procedures; find strategies for rapid and efficient acclimatization with special reference to molecular mechanism of human performance promotion and amelioration of maladies in mountain operations. The project has high significance for India and especially for Kyrgyzstan whose territory is largely mountainous and over 10 per cent of the country's GDP is generated in high-altitude regions. The benefits of these studies would help in improving the life and health of people living in high altitude areas across the globe.

SCO

The Shanghai Cooperation organization on April 26, 1996. The Original members were China, Russia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan on June 15, 2001, Uzbekistan was invited to join the group and it was officially renamed the SCO. Mongolia become an observer state of SCO IN 2004. India joined the SCO as an observer in 2005. Iran, Pakistan joined SCO as observer states in 2005. Afghanistan joined SCO as an observer state in 2012. Turkey, Sri Lanka, Belarus, Armenia, Cambodia, Azerbaijan Nepal has dialogue partners in the SCO. There are economic benefits to the setting up of the **Energy Club** announced by the SCO in 2007 can potentially open avenues for India to access the regions rich Hydrocarbon reserves. Kyrgyzstan is full natural resources Hydropower, gold coal, oil and wool etc. The important source of coal for energy. The area of the SCO members states holds about 25% of global oil reserves, over 50% of gas reserves 35% of coal and about pure of the world known uranium reserves. India other sources such as wind solar coal hydropower and natural power still account for very small shares. From a global perspective according to the international energy agency (World Energy Outlook 2013) primary energy demand in the world from 2002 to 2030, Where Asia's share increase will be especially significant as regards oil demand. Two sectors, transport and petrochemicals will be prime sectors for oil consumption by 2035. Secondly, few other sources of energy are as suitable and environmentally friendly as oil and gas. However, in achieving its economic and security interests in the Central Asian region through the SCO, India may face certain constraints. One of such factors is the dominant position of China in the SCO. Another possible concern for India in the SCO could be the inclusion of Pakistan too with India as a full SCO member. Pakistan's one point agenda of opposing India and seeking parity with it can vitiate the atmosphere in SCO. Moreover, China is Pakistan's 'all weather friend' and Beijing supports Pakistan against India in South Asia to maintain the balance of power in South Asia.

Conclusion

After above clarification it can be said that there is underdevelopment economic relationship between India and Central Asia due to lack infrastructure development of Banking not to direct connectivity. Kyrgyzstan is strategically located for geo-political interests of China in Central Asia and important country for oil for Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to Chinese companies are developing infrastructure including important road networks and power line in Kyrgyzstan. India should be directed trade by Railways line though Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. A major railway connection linking China with Kyrgyzstan's southern provinces and Uzbekistan is also under discussion. Kyrgyzstan as a border state to China should receive India close attention. China is expanding in area of Kyrgyzstan due to India's effect political, culture, economic relation. In the last two decades trade with China has grown large and China has become Kyrgyzstan's second largest trade partner behind Russia-China continue to provide Kyrgyzstan with all kinds of support for Kyrgyzstan infrastructure projects. India needs to boost relation in field, IT, Banking, Education, Culture etc. India has energy interests in Central Asia and the resources of one country can be used by another country for mutual development and benefit of the region. Both projects were considered financially practical, and it was suggested that India should also be included in the CASA-1000 Power Transmission Project,

which will be able to bring It Hydroelectric power from Central Asia in India.

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