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3 Year Validity (Multiple Devices)

India-Central Asia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Shanghai Co-Operation Organisation, India and SCO

India-Central Asia

- India's presence in Central Asia
- Member of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)
Only inter-governmental forum in Central Asia that India is a part of
- Observer in SCO
- India's only foreign military base is in Tajikistan
- TAPI < refer TAPI under energy article >
- Close link between the peace, security and stability of Central Asia and India
- India's interest in Central Asia
 - Strategic, military, and economic
 - Energy
 - Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan can provide oil and gas
 - Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan hold great hydroelectric potential
- Strategic location
 - Sandwiched by Russia, China, Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan
 - India cannot afford to lag behind in this competition for resources
- Security and stability
 - The region holds Islamic terrorist groups that may find way to India
 - If there is instability in Central Asia, combined with the precarious situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, it can lead to serious security problems for India
- Economic cooperation

- Cultural dialogue
- India is surrounded by unstable states and if it can cultivate positive and effective relations with its immediate northern neighbours, all the better
- What can Central Asia gain?
 - Market to diversify their energy supplies
 - A strong nation that can help them balance Chinese, Russian and US pressure
 - Help in progressing their economies beyond just energy supplies, say IT sector and capability building
 - Foreign investment
- Challenges

Lack of efficient surface transportation capabilities and connectivity
- Way forward

Develop the International North-South Corridor

Mongolia

- Diplomatic relations established in 1955
- India was the first country outside the Soviet block to establish diplomatic relations with Mongolia
- Mongolia supports India's candidature as a permanent member of the UN SC
- Pratibha Patil visited the country in July 2011
 - Three agreements were signed to expand cooperation in defence, planning and education and media exchanges
 - First Indian presidential visit after a gap of 23 years
- Cultural links

Buddhism

Kazakhstan

- PM MMS visited Astana in April 2011
- Three major agreements signed during the 2011 visit
 - Civil nuclear cooperation
 - Between state oil companies on a 25-pc stake for India in a Caspian Sea basin block (Satpayev and Satpayev Vostochni)
 - Agriculture
- Background
 - Lukewarm relations for a decade
 - After that India invited Pres Nazarbayev to be Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations in 2009

- Strong cultural ties: Raj Kapoor, Nargis, Bollywood at present.
- Energy ties
 - Caspian basin is rich in oil resources
 - Kazakhstan willing to supply Uranium to India
 - Satpayev oil block
- Agriculture

Agreement signed. Explore possibility of Indian farmers taking over Kazakh farmland on lease.