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Topic of Research: India's Strategic Interests in Central Asia: A Case Study of Uzbekistan.

Findings

As per the objectives of the research, we can say that observations made in the thesis that India and Central Asia, Uzbekistan in particular are natural partners in the new geopolitical order. India's role in energy rich Central Asia and its relations with Uzbekistan is growing because of old cultural relations and civilizational linkages between both regions. The strategic location of Uzbekistan and its energy resources have a lot of significance for India and with growing trade and economic relations; both countries can use the opportunities for their mutual benefit. Cooperation in the field of energy resources will need a systematic and focused approach from both sides. Projects like TAPI would require the more active involvement of all sides.

India is trying to overcome geographical challenges by several means like new trade routes INSTC and facilities like Chabahar port that also makes Iran an important factor for India. Both sides are increasing cooperation to counter major concerns like terrorism, extremism, stability in Afghanistan and drug trafficking etc. There is lot of potential to cooperate in joint defence production. The region remains an untapped market and export opportunity for India's indigenous defence industry. Multilateral platforms like Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) must be used by India to make a better understanding of China to advance its connectivity projects in the region. India will have to work closely with Russia and China to increase cooperation in Central Asia and develop new initiatives to promote common goals in the region including Afghanistan. India and Uzbekistan have a lot of areas where they should work together

and strengthen their bilateral ties to make an environment that can benefit their respective regions. Both countries can jointly deal with common challenges and threats in the region and they can contribute to economic development, security and stability in Central and South Asia.

Deeper and continuous engagement in the Central Asia region will help India in developing its political and military objectives as well as its access to energy resources. Trade will have to be the centre point of India's approach with a focus on easing the connectivity issues and here relations with Uzbekistan can elevate India's role in Central Asia