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## **Pakistan's Interests / Opportunities & Constraints in Central Asian States**

### **Abstract**

In the heydays of the imperial powers; Tsarist Russia tried in vain to get an opening into the warm waters somewhere in the Arabian Sea but the British colonial masters realized this emerging threat to their colonial possession in south Asia and hence prevented Russians to cross the Oxus southward, this was known as "the Great Game". Pakistan was kept as the border land on the western frontier of India, yet the worst sufferers were the people of Central Asia who were isolated from the rest of the world and their countries were developed as backyard garden of Russia (Dani, A, H, 1996, 23). History reveals that Pakistan have had close economic ties with the region. The dissolution of USSR in 1991, not only provided independence to Central Asian states, but gave opportunity to open themselves in the world through Pakistan via land routes and sea routes. The main focus of this paper is to highlight Pakistan's prospects and challenges for Central Asian states.

### **Background**

Throughout the 18th, 19<sup>th</sup> and greater part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the British defined their border at the Khyber and kept the Russians beyond the Hindu Kush and the Oxus River. The border was so tightly closed that the people on either side- the kith and kin from time immemorial became cut off and they were made to forget their historical, trade and cultural links. The two imperial powers have the satisfaction of exploiting their own colonies to enrich and add to the prosperity of their own home land.

With the withdrawal of the European powers and the era leading to the disintegration of the Soviet Union brought about an entirely new situation in the region. For the first time in the modern age, the neighboring countries from the Oxus to the Indus have the opportunity to regain the old natural way of communication not only for re-establishing their historical and cultural links but also for giving access to one another for trade and commerce. Moreover, the critical economic crisis bestowed by the disintegration of the Soviet Union forced Central Asian states to pursue external links for opening new trade routes and economic relations with a need to have their resources and products considered in

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real economic terms and their value paid according to international monetary exchange (Dani, A.H, 1996, 25)

### **Geographical significance of the region**

The modern Central Asia, consisting of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and the energy-rich Caspian Sea, obligated its importance due to massive economic and resource potential along with geo-strategic location. (Khawaja, 7, 2003) The political and economic heritage of Central Asian region hit with the evolving facts of post-cold war transitional period that resulted in clashes, uncertainty, political chaos, and a swarm of complex challenges. The CAS were in need of economically feasible and cost effective passage and pipeline routes for their economic growth and prosperity; Pakistan's important strategic location provides these landlocked and yearning states with that much needed and shortest route to the Arabian Sea to be connected with rest of the world. The significance of the region attracted many regional and global powers towards itself due their growing interests and quest to get hold of energy resources. The region has added substantial global attention predominantly for two reasons:

- 1- Central Asia's role as a buffer zone that can serve as a platform for geostrategic projection in the war on terror after 9/11.
- 2- The exploitation of energy assets in the Caspian Sea area (Hees, M,1995.94)

Central Asia is a vast land bridge between Europe on the West and china on the East and in the past old Silk Road moving from East to West from this vast stretch of land. Central Asia has a shared land area of nearly 4 million sq.km<sup>2</sup> (4,003,451 km<sup>2</sup>) with a mere population of 64million (Squires, 1, 2012) living on this huge land mass. The region is at the junction between Asia, Europe, the Persian Gulf, the Middle East, and the Far East. Though China, Iran, and Pakistan, it has opportunity or access to the Pacific coast, the Persian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean respectively, moreover, being at the core of Eurasian continent the region provides a perilous link between the enormous and dynamic continental economies of China, the European Union, India, Japan and Russia and will certainly gain substantial importance in European and Asian economies.

Central Asia has acted as the battlefield for external powers. Once the holder of Great Silk Route, the region whose significance in world affairs endured moderately insignificance during the Soviet occupation, is now on the path of regaining its lost importance because of its enormous energy reserves, (oil and gas) and industrial infrastructure left behind by the USSR. These energy reserves are very crucial in powering the global economy in the near future particularly, on the face of reducing energy resources in the Middle East. The table of energy resources along with ranking is attached.

## **Natural reserves of Central Asia**

**Table No:1 Oil reserves in Central Asia**

Country	Proven oil reserves (2011) bbl	Worldwide rank
Kazakhstan	30,000,000,000	11
Turkmenistan	600,000,000	44
Uzbekistan	594,000,000	47
Kyrgyzstan	40,000,000	81
Tajikistan	12,000,000	88

**Table No:2 Natural Gas in Central Asia**

Country	Proven Gas reserves (2010) m <sup>3</sup>	Worldwide rank
Turkmenistan	7,504,000,000,000	6
Kazakhstan	2,407,000,000,000	15
Uzbekistan	1,841,000,000,000	20
Kyrgyzstan	5,663,000,000	90
Tajikistan	5,663,000,000	92

**Table No:3 Coal reserves in Central Asia**

Country	Proven Coal reserves(tons)
Kazakhstan 2009	31,300,000,000
Uzbekistan 2011	1,900,000,000
Kyrgyzstan 2003	2,5000,000,000
Tajikistan 2003	800,000,000

**Source:** BP Statistical Review 2010, ECO Geosciences

Database & Republic of Uzbekistan

The CARs are increasing their basic infrastructure and developing road and rail links with neighboring states but currently the region has challenging time to stable itself and has overwhelmed with many problems thereby trying to maintain its stability and hampering progress. However, by achieving stability in region and establishing linkages with neighboring regional countries like Pakistan to have

access to the world, the existing geo-strategic and economic impact of Central Asia will be more boosted.

This paper, therefore, offers a broad analysis of the central Asian states and their evolving dynamics especially economic dynamics and their implications on Pakistan. What advantages Pakistan can get with present scenario especially after US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Particularly the energy crises which Pakistan is facing, how these countries can help to fulfil its energy requirements? And what are the opportunities and constraints faced by Pakistan. Central Asia has large deposits of coal, iron, copper, lead, phosphates, zinc, gold, uranium and variety of other minerals. However, by far the most important natural resources are oil and natural gas that are not equally distributed among the countries of the region, as most of them are beneath or near Caspian Sea. (Kort, M, 2003, 11)

Pakistan has been actively pursuing the policy to become a regional energy transport hub. Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan and India have decided to push ahead with plans for pipeline of 1,680 kilometres (TAPI) 1,680 kilometres, by this route about 90 billion litres per day – natural gas will be extracted from Turkmenistan's natural gas reserves in Daulatabad through western and southern Afghanistan (Herat, Farah, Helmand and Kandahar) before continuing to Pakistan and India (<http://en.peacereporter.net/articolo>). The Asian Development Bank is the leading coordinating financial and technical partner. In August 2010 Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan had made a plan to construct rail roads and highways infrastructure that will give access to the sea to the republic of Tajikistan via Pakistani sea ports that will empower Pakistan to export its products to the vast Central Asian markets. (<http://www.dawn.com/news/705084/zardari-on-three-day-visit-to-tajikistan>) About 1300 km lengthy road will pass through the Durah pass (4550 meters high) from Chitral to the Tajik capital of Dushanbe. The completion of Murghab-Kulma road from Tajikistan to China connecting to the KKH to Pakistan will boost the transit trade between Pakistan and the Central Asia (Dr Anwar, 2011)

### **Interests/opportunities & constraints for Pakistan**

Central Asia today is little known and understood in Pakistan because for nearly seventy years that extensive region, wherefrom came our mediaeval rulers and which bestowed a cultural character to the people of Pakistan was a closed book to us. There has been however a faint memory in the mind of the people who are stirred by Iqbal's nostalgic poetic verse about Samarkand and Bokhara. Apart from this poetic vision, trade and commerce continued for centuries between the trading houses of both the regions. In fact, central Asia was a life line for our land route commerce to Russia and Europe at a time when the region was open to world market up to the beginning of 20th century. This commercial activity brought the two areas into a common political and cultural connectivity. In fact from the steppes of Kazakhstan to the Arabian Sea and from the Caspian to the mouth of the Indus, the vast stretch of Asian heartland is one cultural zone where people have common religion and ethnic history

Central Asia has always esteemed a key place in Asian & world political history. Pakistan and Central Asia relationship is and can be of mammoth consequence because both the sides can gain prominently from the blessed natural and

geographic potential of each other to boost their social and cultural cooperation. As far Central Asian benefits are concerned, Pakistan's geo-strategic location is of excessive significance which provides the weightiest influential, cost effective and short opening access for its energy reserves to the palpable outer world through the ports at Karachi, Port Qasim, and Gwadar. Moreover, the capitals of Central Asian states can use these ports to enhance their trade with outside world through cost effective routes to boost economic activity in the region. As for Pakistan, the significance of Central Asia cannot be unheeded in any way. Pakistan turning out to be a key energy export track in completely operating situation would uplift its international status and would be able to solve her economic and social problems. Furthermore, it will manifest deeper interest of international community in its stability and security, however, to benefit out of the CAS resource potential Afghanistan's stable government is must and in the wider interest of Pakistan. Various interests of Pakistan in Central Asia can be categorized as

**(a) Strategic Interests.**

Central Asia's significance depends upon its strategic geographic location and huge natural resources. (Farra & Burgio, 9, 2011) Since independence, Pakistan looked for some kind of strategic depth against a perceived threat from Indian's aggressive strategies. After the disintegration of the USSR, to counter that threat, Pakistan found a chance to develop good relations with the CAS. Moreover, to bring in diversity in arms resources Pakistani procurement agencies look towards CAS weighing to dispose large amounts of Soviet-era military equipment to earn much-needed foreign exchange. Pakistan by sponsoring training in military and civil fields and generating interactions within training institutions can strengthen the ties with the region. Furthermore, Pakistan can also render technical and economic assistance to the states to enhance intra-regional stability. In short Strategic interest is the utmost significant aspect of Pakistan's foreign policy towards Central Asia.

**(b) Political Interests**

In terms of geographic location, geo-historic and economic prospective, the zone encompassing from Turkey to Pakistan and from Central Asia to the Arabian Sea signifies a region where collaboration and cohesive progress seems natural. The Economic Co-operation Organization, (ECO) which initially included three countries Turkey, Iran and Pakistan, has now included Afghanistan and the six Central Asian Republics of the former Soviet Union. Today, it stands on the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest regional organization after the European Union (EU), with the prospective for creating a substantial impact to the progress and affluence of member countries. Pakistan, due to geographical neighborhood and attraction with these republics & on the roots of kinship can cultivate substantial co-operation in many fields and once peace and stability comes to Afghanistan, Pakistan will deem to offer the most suitable outlet to the sea to these landlocked countries.

**(c) Economic Interests**

One of the most significant features of Pakistan's policy interests in Central Asia is to promote economic policies which reveals great level of interest and enthusiasm to develop opportunities of economic links and has incorporated

extraordinary status in providing transit trade services to these landlocked republics as Pakistan's geo-political location offers her an advantage over other Asian states to stimulate the economic linkage with CARs. Yet, various aspects mainly insecurity & instability in Afghanistan has stuck the struggles made by Pakistan to turn the region into a greater economic zone. In addition to oil and gas Pakistan has also focused on progress of bilateral trade in raw materials and industrial goods and the opening up of communication connections. Struggles have also been made to establish banking and insurance companies as well as import-export ventures.

### **Constraints**

No doubt, the main aspects of Pakistan's foreign policy are to develop cooperation in economic, cultural and strategic spheres yet, both Pakistan and Central Asia are facing many problems. Pakistan is interested to increase the areas of interests in all the significant fields and to exploit & utilize each other's potentials. The numerous bottlenecks involved to improve the base of relationship can be described as:

#### **1. Afghan turmoil.**

The principal issue and a major fence hindering the establishment of strong ties between Pakistan and CARs is the expository critical position in Afghanistan. As all key routes to Central Asia are potential through Afghanistan and without security and peace en-route neither Pakistan nor Central Asian states can move ahead with the anticipated implementation of the policies to craft a regional economic zone. It is the need of the hour that Pakistan should feel the importance of this dire time and work perspicaciously towards the attainment of national and regional economic stability, peace and support in peaceful settlement of Afghan issue because that works as an imperative corridor between Pakistan and Central Asia.

#### **2. Pakistan's Political and Economic Syndrome**

Although Pakistan prospects to make implements on the projects in trade, commerce and mainly in the energy sector and is in the need to take the economic assistances from the energy rich states of Central Asia but the feeble internal economic and economic base creates a greater risk to future prospects and plans. This also aggravates due lack of financial resources and inconsistent policies thereby hampering the smooth and timely execution of planned projects.

#### **3. Foreign States influence.**

The eternally rising role of Iran, Turkey and many other Middle Eastern states pose an enormous challenge for Pakistan to establish her stronghold in the region. Whereby the nations want to exploit the virgin resource potential of the states for their own interests as discussed before Pakistan's role in the energy rich Central Asia. Though Pakistan is facing many challenges, yet it must have a strong policy to keep an eye on her future goals to gain economic strength in the region while developing mutual assistance towards Central Asian states. The role of giant powers and their participation in the region is another factor stimulating Pakistan's future policies in Central Asia. Furthermore, besides US and Russian influence the Indian aims in CARs cannot be ignored. Moreover, besides US and Russian

influence the Indian aims in CARs cannot be ignored. The India interest in the Central Asian states dates back since the Soviet period when which being allies provided an edge to India over Pakistan there. The stated facts pose a great challenge and hinder smooth relations between Pakistan and CAS; to remain effective and influential in the region and to play an active role, Pakistan must evolve a sound and lasting strategy to safeguard her interests and fulfill her aspirations

#### **4. Lack of infrastructure.**

The chief bottleneck in boosting the economic base relationship is development of infrastructure between Pakistan and CARs, mainly in rail and road links which can be extended from Pakistan to Central Asia via Iran and Afghanistan; the same will greatly improve the cooperation and provide a swift and cost effective way for transportation of goods thereby providing excess and opportunity for the CASs to open up to the world; but the same is possible upon restoration of peace in Afghanistan and improvement of Iran US relations.

Pakistan can perceive substantial assistance for industrial growth and can attain steady suppliers of surplus power with gas and electricity grid plans or through future oil supplies from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, thereby giving the concept of Indus basin corridor and being a north-south land-sea trade route facilitator which will boost her consequence in the development of future gas/oil pipeline routes toward South Asia and remains dynamic for Central Asia and China as well. The trade relations through these routes would create a lasting impact on development and prosperity of Pakistan with greater chances of economic stability and integration; however, due economic and political concerns and uncertain security environment in Afghanistan the same could not materialize until now.

In near future, the Almaty-Karachi road/railway network is probably to be passed and linked through other Afghanistan-Pakistan routes adjoining the Bolan, the Gomal, and the Khyber passes, and Pakistan's Northern Areas. These plans can be fruitful only by peace and stability in Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan can make their trade more frugally, with economically cost effective and quite secure and tyrannous as compared to other presently unstable routes. Furthermore, India-Pakistan's normalization in relations will transform the Indus Basin into a profitable economic corridor between the South and Central Asian continent as well.

#### **5. Mutual interests/Pakistan's energy demand**

The basic demand in need and significance of ties between Pakistan and Central Asia has always been manipulated not only because of new developments in the international and regional political policies yet the old connection in religious, cultural and trade links has given the source for creating these bonds. The Central Asian republics due their proven and potential energy resources are the El Dorado of Asia. Pakistan owes a lot of prospects to achieve focused economic supports from this region like other regional countries and world powers.

There is no circumventing the point that Russia has impact on the Central Asian republics in the economic-political spheres. Moreover, Iran and Turkey's strong

histo-cultural bonds with these states cannot be ignored. Furthermore, the US military presence in the region has created disturbance and has shaken the sense of balance of power in Central Asia. Additionally, politico- economic uncertainty within the Central Asian Republics is also the main hurdle in creating good ties but despite all these hard facts Pakistan has to adopt diplomatic and political tactics to make use of the region in her entire benefit through efficiently countering political turmoil in Afghanistan and the clashes over the allocation of Caspian Sea oil reserves. To remove constraints into prospects / opportunities, the Government of Pakistan demands to have broad and inclusive perception on the Central Asian states and work out a multi-phased strategic approach.

### **1. Diplomatic Relations.**

In the first stage, Pakistan should develop broad diplomatic relations with these states in order to craft cordial atmosphere in the whole region. Then, transit trade and pipeline routes, as well as other connected conveniences, should be provided to these landlocked states in the second phase. Pakistan can achieve these targets only when it develops and mechanized its own infrastructure and creates the vital political changes in the region. In the third phase, Pakistan can start enduring bonds in Central Asia, by engaging both individual and joint ventures in all economic and cultural areas ascan establish business and trade houses, banks, insurance groups, professional services, and can help towards the advancement of transportation network mainly an infrastructure of roads. Pakistan can extent her expertise by supporting them in the field of free-market economy, management, and financial institutions.

### **2. Afghan Peace Efforts.**

Under the prevailing conditions, Pakistan must try and help international community in resolution of Afghan crisis amicably and without any further delay. Moreover, must also try to convince in particularly USA and European Union to support the war torn country by offering both aid and trade. To uphold security and peace situation in Afghanistan is of paramount significance to take advantage of the favorable economic projections for both Pakistan and the Central Asian States.

### **3. Bilateral Relations.**

Indian support to CAS for countering Taliban influence in the region have brought them closer while Pakistan was considered as ‘godfather of Taliban; but now after the ouster of the Taliban regime, Pakistan wishes to develop strong and meaning full relations with the CAS for that Pakistan has to forego the stance of reliance on ‘Islamic card’ or Islamic brotherhood rather needs to promote the cultural bonds with which the regions are tied and all this requires calculated spadework. Moreover, Pakistan needs to work out effective strategies and remain vigilant to counter Indians active involvement in the region to safeguard her own. Being a neutral country, Turkmenistan always had common, worthy relations with Pakistan besides having strong bilateral ties with Pakistan. The Government of Turkmenistan is deep interested on constructing a gas pipeline via Pakistan. Furthermore, Pakistan armed forces are also rendering their services to Turkmen military personnel which need to be extended to other Central Asian states as well.



The states due their economic situation only need means of business thus just by proposing them economical, safe and trustworthy possible transit trade routes and oil / gas pipeline routes, we can not only safeguard our interests but also earn a lot of revenue by becoming a transit state. Moreover, Pakistan can grow further with its trade with Central Asian States than only allowing itself to be used as a gateway to Central Asia. Even to become a reliable and passable gateway, development and improvement of land and railway routes is a must along with seaport. It is proposed that the region has prospective annual market of US\$ 80 billion; even if Pakistan gets only 5 % of that market, it could earn up to US\$4 billion per year. Furthermore, activation of road and rail networks will reduce the current cost of imports greatly thereby boosting the volume of trade and economic activity. To achieve all that Pakistan has to overcome the greatest obstacle of lack of direct access and instable security environment in Afghanistan.

In short Central Asia and Pakistan have vast scope for economic co-operation: Kazakhstan has abundant deposits of petroleum, iron ore, and other minerals; Uzbekistan is rich in gold and many other minerals. Uzbekistan is also a major cotton producer. Tajikistan with huge aluminum deposits and Turkmenistan having huge reserves of natural gas, all this indicates that both Pakistan and Central Asia can cooperate in economic and social sphere. Pakistan can also assist these states in the field of textiles, hotel industry, banking, insurance, drugs and pharmaceuticals and agriculture. Pakistan can also help them in the field of offer education, particularly in technical education to Central Asian students, journalists, and diplomats. It is the need of the hour that long-term policy can play persuasive and dominant role in the region.

#### **4. Market Exploration.**

Pakistan's consumer goods and small and medium industries can search and find a vast market in Central Asian and joint ventures may be underway Industrialists in both Pakistan and Central Asia may have opportunities to show their interests on many forums.

#### **5. Exploitation of Energy Resources.**

Today, the world is facing the major issue of energy. Everyone is busy in making efforts to achieve her goal to fulfill energy needs. Pakistan being an energy deficient country is in search for the more economical, durable and strong energy resources. About 80 % of its commercial need is completed by gas and oil which both take mammoth share of foreign exchange earnings. Pakistan's local exploitation and exploration does not match the needs in the country. Keeping this need in mind, the significance of Central Asia in this concern cannot be overlooked as a solemn objective in the foreign policy of Pakistan. TAPI, the gas pipeline proposal from Turkmenistan can be pragmatic if the circumstances in Afghanistan become peaceful. Some useful recommendations are given below, which could assist to promote Pakistan's politico-economic and social ties with the Central Asian States.

### **Recommendations**

- 1 After analyzing the dynamics and potential of central Asian region and the opportunities available to Pakistan to revive the down going economic

infrastructure and above all in order to overcome the ever increasing energy crisis following recommendations are put forward following which Pakistan can restore its lost stature and can build her worth in international community;

- 2 For Central Asia, Pakistan should develop impartial and non-aligned foreign policy, focused on non-interference and non-intervention thereby not favoring any specific state in the region. Moreover, should not involve in any struggle or side with any party in the conflict. The policy should be centered on 'friendship bonds with all, antagonism with none.
- 3 Pakistan does not have to time lagto wait for peace to be reinstated in Afghanistan, before developing transit and pipeline routes to the Central Asian States somewhat make a start by improving and advancing bilateral trade with them and complete the required homework well in advance to undertake planned projects in time.
- 4 Pakistan should not focus only on oil and gas sectors rather look for multidimensional opportunities to get maximum benefits from Central Asia.
- 5 The Economic Co-operation Organization (ECO) should develop more active role by confirming its active participation in the economic growth of Central Asia.
- 6 Pakistan's geographic location can offer the natural trade transit route for SCO states and can play vital role in connecting Central Asia with *South Asia* and *the Arabian Sea*. *These routes will be favorable for trade and energy transactions intra- regionally and inter-regionally.* (Roy, 2006)
- 7 To counter influence of other regional countries Pakistan can provide the trade routes with least transit tariff rates which will reinforce Pakistan's location in any trade-route competition.
- 8 In order to stimulate foreign investment in all states, bank, chambers of commerce, stock exchanges should be established to provide assistance to the business communities by professional experts.
- 9 Pakistan can encourage barter trade system with each state in the region on a bilateral basis. Pakistan can work on a plan by making a list of goods available in Central Asian states at cheaper rates. The Central Asian States would possibly be ready to co-operate in this kind of trade as they extremely want to make diminution their dependency on the Russian Federation in every sense.
- 10 To promote our culture and to highlight our customs and traditions in order to create awareness amongst the populace Pakistan should establish cultural centers in all major cities of the CAS.
- 11 Pakistan can offer scholarships to Central Asian students in thereby providing an opportunity for People-to-people dealings and links that will help in consolidating bilateral ties and all these students will act as goodwill ambassadors of Pakistan.

- 12 Pakistan and the CAS have strong potential of tourism and cooperation in this regard will help both in a great way.
- 13 To complete several plans for the development of transport infrastructure has the paramount significance. By achieving this target, Pakistan can place itself ahead as the best accessible opportunity for any transit route for Central Asia.
- 14 Development and expansion of the current railway network is necessary for healthier trade. That will transport merchandises at low-cost rates. No doubt, it will cost extra, yet it should be rendered more importance, as it will mean a substantial increase in rail traffic and goods.
- 15 Pakistan must improve and boost military relations with the Central Asian states by providing them maximum training facilities on gratis as the states still lack foreign exchange. These kinds of measures will help to bring the military's closer with strong bonding thereby providing Pakistan much desired strategic depth and will also counter the ever increasing Indian influence in the region.

## **Conclusion**

Pakistan has great opportunity to utilize abounds hydrocarbon reserves of landlocked Central Asia by providing these states transit and port conveniences for trade with the peripheral countries and the outer world. Yet it is not an easy task because these states have sturdy political & economic bonds and influence with Russia. In fact, it is a tough job for any country to develop an uphold position in the region. While Pakistan particularly being actively involved against Soviet army during Afghan war maintains strained relations with Russia. The continuing insecurity in Afghanistan has seriously destabilized Pakistan's prospects in Central Asia. The internal stability of the Central Asian region depends upon balanced system of relationships with the USA, Western Europe, Russia, China, Turkey, Iran, and other Muslim countries. Afghanistan is the real source of instability. An additional phenomenon manipulating the position is the rivalry between Russia, USA and Iran wherein all these countries are attempting to deteriorate each other's influence, while pursuing to escalate their own. Although Pakistan owes a significant importance due geographic potential yet, the main drawback is that Pakistan has no direct link with these states. Pakistan can move through Iran, Afghanistan and China. Thus, Iran and Turkey have an ascendancy over Pakistan in their struggle to generate their impact in the region. For Pakistan's policy-makers, the potential path is to nurture links exclusively with all Central Asian states and efforts to persuade the leaders of the region that it offers them the best potential outlet towards the Arabian Sea. At the same time, Pakistan should accentuate the traditional, cultural and historical links with these states. It's provoked and declared policy should be to cultivate sturdy relations with Central Asian states on the basis of joint endeavors, with introducing & developing business and trade links and skilled services. It is crucial that transportation network mainly rail and road infrastructure between Pakistan and Central Asia be improved and advanced quickly to make any economic development potential.

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