

9. Way Forw

- Leverage its historic ties with Central Asia to tap energy potential of the region.
- India should use its **economic leverages** to build closer ties.
- Efforts to step up multilateral engagement.**
- Relaxing of visa regimes, establishing schools and universities; strengthening tourism; Investment in agriculture sector.**
- Better relations will promote security, stability, economic growth and development.

8. Suggestions

- Indian energy requirement can easily be provided by the CAR.
- Realize a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

7. Challenges

- Physical disconnect due to Pakistan's hostility and Afghan instability.
- Threats like terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism.
- Region is a powerhouse for drug and money trafficking.
- Volatile and unstable market.
- India's current trade volume is minimal.
- Administrative laggards such as Non-availability of hard currency, banking services, and corruption create roadblocks.
- India's "**Look East**" policy has resulted in the neglect of the region.

Central Asia is facing challenges in food security: Indian

expertise can be a game changer.

India can help boost food and milk production and modernizing agro-techniques.

India can act as assured market for CAR's resources.

India can bring foreign investment along with technical expertise in field of infrastructure, hospitality, medical etc.

**6. Indian synergy
Central Asian Region**