The Central Asian region is very important for India. Though, none of the Central Asian Republics shares a border with India. The nearest Tajikistan is separated by Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and small Afghan strip called Wakhan plateau. India’s interests in Central Asian Region could lie in a broad conceptual framework containing the political, military, religious fundamentalism and security affairs. India can not ignore the Central Asian republics because establishing good relations with them is a matter of pragmatic energy diplomacy keeping in view Pakistan and China interests in the region. Though a zone of instability separates India from this region, the two shares common security concerns such as narcotics & drugs trafficking and religious fundamentalism. The Central Asian republics have significant energy resources which India needs to explore with mutual dependence, e.g. India’s huge market including manpower resources, science and technology can play a great role in building partnership with these republics.

The main thrust of this research work is to study Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan for their energy potential and India’s interest.

Besides theoretical considerations emphasis has been laid on its practical aspects as how the TAPI gas pipeline project can be initiated without any hurdle. Till now the subject has not been given serious attention. An in depth and objective analysis of the problem is called for which the present study make an attempt to do so.

The two Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are energy-rich and India is energy-poor. In order to sustain her growing economy energy regime, India intends to direct economic resources for development of relations with the Central Asian countries. With a population over one billion and a rapidly developing economy, India is considered to be the fourth largest consumer of energy in the world. The country currently imports 70 percent of
its oil and 50 percent of its gas. While Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan can provide gas and oil, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan hold great hydroelectric potential for India. Indian oil company ONGC Videsh Limited already has a 15 percent holding in Kazakhstan’s Alibekmola oil fields and a 10 percent holding in the country’s Kurmangazi fields.

India’s growing interests in the Central Asian energy is accompanied by its increasing involvement in the region’s security. While India has set up military strategic interests in the Central Asian region, US led military action was progressing in Afghanistan. The key components of Indo-CAR defence relationship have been in the areas of intelligence sharing, training and assistance, servicing and upgrading of military hardware and import of transport aircraft.

The Central Asian shared border with Afghanistan has made its secular regimes susceptible to the impact of religious extremism and ethnic unrest. There is a mutual recognition that both India and these republics need to interact closely in order to contain cross border terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking. India needs to use its diplomatic policies to access Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and to all other parts of CARs.