PREFACE
During the Soviet period Central Asia's relationship with India was quite friendly, but after 1991 December there was some apprehension about the future of this relationship. However, the need of building up their own identity and asserting their independence in all the spheres, makes sure that the friendly relationship will continue. The present work is an effort to produce an account of the relationship of Central Asia specially with India, especially in the post-Soviet period.

For Centuries Central Asia and India had historical association. In ancient times Central Asia was the region through which pilgrims and traders passed on their way from China to India and vice versa. There were political, commercial and cultural ties which continued to the middle, modern mages as well as to day. On the eve of the Russian conquest of Central Asia a flourishing trade existed between India and this region. During Tsarist colonial period, Bukhara was used as a link of commerce and trade with India. In the later half of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th Century, most of the trade and commercial links were concentrated in the Emirate of Bukhara, Kiva the Ferghana Valley, Samarkand and the Syr-Darya region of Turkestan. Relationship with Kashmir was quite strong.

The Anglo-Russian rivalry, which was constantly alive, put many restraints on the conduct of normal political,
commercial and cultural intercourse between Central Asia and British India. Establishment of Soviet powers in Central Asia and its dynamic impact on relations with Indian revolutionaries was first echoed in Soviet appeals to the people of the East calling upon them to rise against imperialist rule. It was the time when Britishers were taking harsh measures to suppress Indian Nationalist Movement.

After India’s independence, and Jawaharlal Nehru’s Lalbhadhur Shashtri, Indira Gandhi’s socialist outlook, non-aligned movements policy, for over four decades, the Soviet Union committed for strong relations, and was the principal supplier of sophisticated arms and military equipments at discounted price and also extended immense financial support as well as encouraged contacts and cooperation between India and the five Central Asian Republics.

The transformation of the Soviet Union into a lose association of Independent states following the emergence of commonwealth of independent states in place of the Soviet Union created a new situation. India has an uphill task in developing trade, economic and technical cooperation with the New Independent Central Asian states under this changed circumstance.
Central Asian states are trying to diversify their economies and seeking new partners in regional and economic cooperation with its huge resources of gas, oil, coal, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, rare minerals and metals, hydroelectric power Kazak's nuclear power capabilities and irrigation network besides being the main producers of cotton, wool, silk etc., a new realisation about their immense economic potential has dawned on Central Asian states. This has created high expectation among the people who are eager to reap the economic fruits of their independence from the former USSR.

Considering all these situations and changes I was fascinated towards the area of specially the Central Asian-Indian relationship. The inability of the CIS so far, to create a common economic space has expedited the process of regional realignment involving the Central Asian states. By joining the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) along with the Turkey, Iran and Pakistan, the Central Asian States reveal a desire to keep their options open outside the framework of CIS. In such a situation India's, long experience of economic and political cooperation with Central Asia will help the latter, in not giving up, secularism and democracy under the influence of Islamic states.
The present work aims to study the various aspects of Central Asia's relationship with India, which is achieved by historico-analytical method.

Chapter II deals with the overview of such relationship, mentioned above. It considers the relationship since the ancient, medieval, and modern periods in cultural, economical, commercial and political fields. Trade and economic relationship were going smoothly till the British India's rivalry with Tsarist Russia and then with Soviet Union. Both Central Asia and India began to feel the impact of the growing colonial rivalry between Tsarist Russia and British India. However, relationship of the natives struggling for their independence, played a key role in the strengthening of social ties between the people of the two regions.

Chapter III deals with Central Asia's relation with India during Soviet period. During the period when India was under British rule, the Soviets helped in anti-British activities through Indian revolutionary M.N. Roy, in India. After the independence the relationship was friendly. The Soviet desire was to have a useful ally against western imperialism and also looked upon India's geographical location as a counter weight against communist China. Account of the accords and analysis is carried out in this chapter.
Chapter IV deals with Geopolitics and relationship of Central Asia with its CIS neighbours. The disintegration of the Soviet Union at the end of 1991 have brought many changes to Central Asia. Russia remains crucial to all the former Soviet republics with its economic leverage, political influence military, and nuclear power spread throughout the region. However, Russian dominance is being steadily diluted by agreements with new economic partners from neighbouring states such as Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, China and India, though due to their rivalries, there has been slow cautious progress towards regional cooperation. As members of the CIS, Russia and Central Asia (except Turkmenistan) have been consistently cooperating with each other in various fields. In this chapter an account of a simplified version of Russian policy towards an extraordinarily important strategic areas, like Central Asia is made.

Chapter V deals with Central Asia's relationship with its Asian neighbours. Two major concern seems to dominate Central Asians endeavours at nation-building, Firstly to stabilise the foundation of a productive, efficient and demand fulfilling economy; Secondly: to build a secular democratic state structure in their multi-ethnic card and its society. Pakistan's geopolitical ambitions merged with Islamic ideology and commercial acumen to produce a forceful policy. Overall the basic interest of Central Asian states
is an early settlement of Afghanistan crisis. Iran and Turkey are also playing a major role in developing bilateral relationship with Central Asian States.

Chapter VI deals with the economic relations between central Asia and India Since 1991. It provides an account of trade and commerce between the two regions. Trade, with new ventures in the areas of science and technologies, telecommunications and electronics, food products, and textiles are in progress. Special ties are existent with Kazakhastan in the field of space program.

Chapter VII exclusively deals with Central Asia's cooperation with India in political, cultural and scientific spheres Since 1991. Many official visits have been made and several agreements have been concluded. There is genuine interest on both sides for exploring possibilities for economic cooperation, involving scientific and financial institutions, hotel, industries, educational and cultural exchange, television and media technologies. Beyond this, Central Asia is seeking help from India also, in establishing their identify in the world, as India has a strong voice in the United Nations and international forums.

I have tried to incorporate all the new dimensions in Central Asia-India relationship in the post-Soviet period. It is an attempt to present a compressive scenario of
relationship of Central Asian states with their CIS neighbours and Asian Countries and locate the Indo-Central Asian relationship within that context.

Note on Researcher-cum-Acknowledgment

It was like a long journey, starting from the school of language as a B.A. student of the five year M.A programme to the completion of Ph.D. from the school of International studies. It is full of encounters, unique as well as unknown earlier. The campus discovered all that was hidden in me. It was a new reality, a new world view unfolding before me. The discourse was totally new, radical and all encompassing.

I came from a tiny village of Tamil Nadu called "Vagaikulam" after completing my higher secondary school, at Usilampatti. It was inspired by my brothers and sister to do Russian language and ultimately to move to the USSR for higher studies in Agricultural sciences. But as I thought, it never went well-that way. I had to leave J.N.U. half way just to obtain graduation degree in social science with Russian as second language in B.A. and M.A. in sociology from Osmania University Hyderabad in 1988. But the destiny brought me back once again to this green and rocky land that where once find post and moder socialist follower debate on different social setup in world over. Although I had to wait for until to regain admission in M.Phil/Ph.D. programme
in the school of International studies. Non unusual, like every one in J.N.U. I too rediscovered the world which once. I thought I had lost. I met an old friends like Sunil Kuksal, Rambabu and many others. They were always there to support in ways more than one. Some friends were assertive, some were silent. But the association was real, authentic and everlasting. They are always with me defining and redefining my vision as I move. This was not enough But I have many associations to live with. In particular I met Miss. T. Padmavathy, a person with whom I shared all that was special to both of us. She was not just simple friend but a cooperative companion who the arduous task of writing my Ph.D. She tirelessly worked for my synopsis and even typed first three chapters of thesis. Now, as she is physically away, it is very hard for me to express my feelings while completing my Ph.D.

My meeting with Ayya M. Arunachalam ji, the noble man in my life was a turning point. Association with him has been always reassuring. His care and concern has always inspired me to achieve my goals. Even after returning from Hongkong where I stayed for 6 months, I found everything in the same way as I had left it. To my utmost surprise I was honoured with post of private secretary to the NCSK member Ministry of Welfare. It is resume to work with Dr. K. Ramalingam, Former Dean, Madurai Medical College.
I am grateful to my beloved supervisor Dr. Ajay Patnaik, his worthwhile discussions, constructive criticisms, and valuable suggestions during various stages of thesis work besides his timely encouragement and enormous patience in checking my draft together enabled me to complete my Himalayan task with much careness. Without his unconditional cooperation and friendly gesture my thesis would not have seen the light of the day. As a matter of fact it is being a great pleasure for me to work with former student leader and later my teacher.

To Prof. Kaushik, Prof. R.R. Sharma., and other faculty members and the non teaching staff I owe them a lot.

I am equally thankful to all my friends particularly Dr. Ajay Behera, Dr. Natarajan Malaysian sociologist, Archna Dr. Venkatesar, Kubendran, Josef, Pavananthi Rejendran.

Rajendra Babu Reddy and Anil Kumar for their kind help and encouragement since 1992. Even both these offered me to type my manuscript. I greatly owe them lot.

I owe special grateful to friend Farid, Renny Thomas, I.K. Singhal, Mr., Vyas, Maithli and family for their support occassional I had discussion on different national and international affairs gave me a chance to understand them.
I simultaneously acknowledge the help rendered by J.N.U.Library staff specially, Mr. B. N. Rao, librarian, Kanyappau, Mr. Malik and Mr. Satish Pakhryal and also grateful to Mr. Ashok Srivastava Dupity Director, ICSSR granting me partial fellowship which helped me lot to complete the thesis work without much financial difficulties.

I record my thanks Mr. Radhakrishna, Mrs. T. Kameswari Viswanadham for getting the manuscript typed and doing and word processing job.

Finally, I owe my gratitude to my mother, wife, brothers particularly Wilson Damil and my sister, sister-in-laws and all other family members who gave me unconditional support for 34 years. They are the content source of my moral and spiritual integrity.

New Delhi

V. Selvarajan