**India’s Policy toward Eurasia: Major Issues and Prospects**

Historically India has always had civilizational links with the region, naturally maintaining cultural and commercial ties with the neighbouring states. However, India is also geared up to the Eurasian space due to strategic threats in its northern and north-eastern borders. The security factor is vital to Indian national interests, so closer collaboration with Eurasian states, especially Russia, has always been developing with this calculation in mind. Connectivity projects, specifically their implementation and operationalization, will define the opportunities for India to expand ties with Eurasian states. Problems with logistics are often used by businesses in India, Russia and Central Asian states as an excuse of not entering new markets. Once this impediment is eliminated, the continental integration could take place at a faster pace. At the same time India does not seem to have a unified vision of Eurasia. India’s approach is rather segmented in this continent’s sub-regions.

In the last years India has increased its involvement in Eurasian integration initiatives. Not only had New Delhi joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), it has also been negotiating the free trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Of special attention, the expansion of political ties with Central Asian Republics that has been taking place since Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s historic visit to all five regional states in 2015 which allowed to strengthen bilateral partnerships in the areas of defence, counter-terrorism and energy.

The paper seeks to analyse India’s approach toward Eurasia, the imperatives of its participation in regional multilateral mechanisms and major challenges for pursuing its economic and geopolitical interests.