



India-Tajikistan Bilateral Relations

For Prelims: UNSC, SCO, ECOSOC, Ajanta Pharma, ICCR, India-Central Asia Dialogue

For Mains: India-Tajikistan Relations, East-West Trans-Eurasian transit economic corridors, Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), ICCR, India-Central Asia Relations

Why in News?

India's Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences held a bilateral meeting with the Minister for Energy and Water resources of Republic of Tajikistan.

- Issues like **water resources research** especially [Glacier monitoring](#), [Non-conventional Energy](#), [Peaceful Use of Space Technology](#) and [Disaster Management](#) were discussed to support [global water action](#) and [climate resistance on Water for Sustainable Development](#).

How is India's Relations with Tajikistan?

▪ Consultative Mechanism:

- Foreign Office Consultations
- Joint Working Group on [Counter-terrorism](#)
- Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation
- JWG on Defence Cooperation
- JWG on Peaceful Use of Space Technology for Development

▪ Cooperation in International Forums:

- In 2020, **Tajikistan extended support for India's candidature for a non-permanent seat in [United Nation Security Council](#)** for the term 2021-22.
- Tajikistan strongly supported [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\) Member status for India](#).
- India has consistently supported Tajikistan's proposals at the [United Nations on water related issues](#).
- India also supported **Tajikistan's candidature to [United Nations' Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#)** and accession to [WTO](#) in March 2013.

▪ Development & Aid Partnership:

◦ Development Assistance:

- With a grant of USD 0.6 million, an **Information and Technology Centre (Bedil Centre)** was commissioned in 2006.
 - The project ran for a full hardware cycle of 6 years and trained almost all first-generation IT experts in the government sector in Tajikistan.
- A **project for setting up computer labs in 37 schools in Tajikistan was completed and delivered** in August 2016.

◦ Humanitarian Assistance:

- In June 2009, USD 200,000 cash assistance was given by India **to overcome damage caused by floods in Tajikistan**.
- After the **outbreak of [Polio](#) in southwest Tajikistan**, India provided 2 million

doses of [oral polio vaccine](#) through [UNICEF](#) in November 2010.

▪ **Human Capacity Building:**

- Since the establishment of the Indian embassy in Dushanbe in 1994, Tajikistan has been a beneficiary of the [Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme \(ITEC\)](#).
- In 2019, under [India-Central Asia Dialogue Process](#), some Tajik diplomats were trained at Foreign Service Institute, Delhi.

▪ **Trade & Economic Relation:**

- Indian exports to Tajikistan mainly consist of pharmaceuticals, medical preparations, cane or beet sugar, [tea](#), [handicraft](#) and machinery.
 - **Indian pharmaceutical products occupy approximately 25% of Tajik market.**
- Different types of ores, slag and ash, aluminium, organic chemicals, herbal oils, dried fruits and cotton are exported to India by Tajikistan.
- In 2018, **Eight MoU's were signed** in the areas of **Peaceful Use of Space Technology**, [Disaster Management](#), [Renewable Energy](#), and [Agricultural Research](#) and [Education](#).

▪ **Cultural & People-to-People Relation:**

- **Deep rooted historical and cultural linkages** have helped expand and widen the relationship to a new level.
 - Cooperation between the two countries encompasses all aspects of human endeavour with **special focus on military and defence ties.**
- **Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Dushanbe** offers courses in **Kathak & Tabla** through teachers deployed by [Indian Council for Cultural Relations](#) from India. The centre **also offers Sanskrit and Hindi language classes.**
- In 2020 'My Life My Yoga' video blogging competition saw participation from Tajikistan yoga enthusiasts.

India-Central Asia Relations

Central Asia



▪ **About:**

- **India** has had relations with **Central Asia** since the 3rd century B.C as the nation's fell on route to the [Legendary Silk Route](#).

- **Buddhism** found inroads in several of Central Asian cities such as **Merv, Khalachayan, Tirmiz and Bokhara** etc in the form of **Stupas and Monasteries**.
- Central Asia serves as a **land bridge between Asia and Europe**, making it **geopolitically axial for India**.
 - The region is **rich in natural resources** such as petroleum, natural gas, antimony, aluminium, gold, silver, coal and uranium which can be best utilised by Indian energy requirements.
- Central Asian Regions are fast getting linked to the global market for production, supplies of raw materials and services.
 - They are also increasingly getting integrated into the **East-West Trans-Eurasian transit economic corridors**.
- **India-Central Asia Dialogue:**
 - It is a **ministerial-level dialogue between India and the Central Asian countries** namely **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan**.
 - **All five nations became independent states after the collapse of the USSR** in 1991, **post-Cold war**.
 - All the countries participating in the dialogue, **except for Turkmenistan, are also members of the SCO**.
 - The dialogue focuses on a number of issues including ways to **improve connectivity and stabilise war-ravaged Afghanistan**.
- **Recent Development between India and Central Asia Relations:**
 - India's **USD 1 billion Line of Credit for projects in Central Asia**, connectivity endeavours by using the **Chabahar Port** for enhancing trade between the two sides, and the **Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline**.
 - **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** in conjunction with **Ashgabat Agreement** on **International Transport and Transit Corridor (ITTC)** is enhancing connectivity between India and the Central Asian countries.
 - The **Foreign ministers of the five Central Asian nations visited New Delhi in December 2021 to attend the third India-Central Asia Dialogue**
 - Dealing with Covid-19, while the **Central Asian countries appreciated India's assistance in supply of Covid-19 vaccines and essential medicines** during their early stage of the pandemic.
 - In January, 2022 the **Prime Minister of India hosted the first India-Central Asia Summit in virtual format**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQ)

Q. Consider the following countries: (2022)

1. Azerbaijan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Uzbekistan

Which of the above have borders with Afghanistan?

- A.** 1, 2 and 5 only
- B.** 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- C.** 3, 4 and 5 only
- D.** 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Ans: C

Source: PIB

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