



Exercise DUSTLIK-VI

Why in News?

[India and Uzbekistan](#) began the **6th edition of Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-VI** at Aundh, **Pune**. The exercise will take place from **16 to 28 April 2025**.

- The previous edition took place in **Termez District, Uzbekistan, in April 2024**.



Key Points

- **Exercise Theme and Focus:**
 - The **core theme** is **Joint Multi-Domain Sub-Conventional Operations in a Semi-Urban Scenario**.
 - The focus is on **responding to terrorist actions** involving the capture of a defined territory.
 - A Joint Operations Centre will be established at the battalion level for continuous coordination.
- **Participation and Representation:**
 - The Indian contingent includes 60 personnel from a battalion of the **JAT Regiment** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
 - The Uzbekistan Army is representing the Uzbek side.
- **Strategic Objectives:**
 - The joint drill will promote **interoperability, tactical cooperation, and mutual learning** in sub-conventional warfare.
 - It aims to enhance **defence cooperation and deepen bilateral military relations** between India and Uzbekistan.
 - The exercise **fosters camaraderie and trust between both armies** through shared training and strategic alignment.

Uzbekistan



▪ About:

- Landlocked country in Central Asia, situated between the **Syr Darya (northeast) and Amu Darya (southwest) rivers**.
- Lies in the **Northern and Eastern hemispheres**.
- **One of only two doubly landlocked countries** in the world (the other is Liechtenstein).
- **Neighbouring Countries:**
 - Kazakhstan (north and northwest)
 - Kyrgyzstan (northeast)
 - Tajikistan (southeast)
 - Afghanistan (south)
 - Turkmenistan (southwest)

▪ Topographical Features:

- Around **80% of the land is sandy desert**, mostly the **Kyzyl Kum Desert**.
- Lowlands dominate the west; foothills and mountains (**Tian Shan range**) rise in the northeast and southeast.
- The highest peak is **Adelunga Toghi (4,301 m)** in the northeast.
- **Fergana Valley** is the most fertile and agriculturally productive region.

▪ Rivers and Lakes:

- **Major rivers:** Amu Darya and Syr Darya.
 - **The Aral Sea**, shared with Kazakhstan, is a major environmental disaster due to water mismanagement.
- **Important lakes:** Lake Aydarkul and Lake Sarykamish.

▪ Vegetation and Climate:

- Dominated by **desert scrub** in arid zones.
- Fertile valleys, especially Fergana, support intensive agriculture.

▪ Natural Resources:

- Rich in natural gas, oil, coal, and minerals like **gold, uranium, and copper**.
- Holds the **4th largest gold reserves globally**.