

## **Brief on India-Uzbekistan Bilateral Relations**

1. India and Uzbekistan have relations that go back to ancient history. India was one of the first countries to recognize the state sovereignty of Uzbekistan after the latter's independence. The protocol on establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Uzbekistan was signed in Tashkent on 18 March 1992. India and Uzbekistan declared their Strategic Partnership in 2011. Several institutionalised mechanisms operate at both political and official levels under this partnership, to ensure regular interaction.

### **Leaders' engagements**

2. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Uzbekistan in July 2015, June 2016 and in September 2022. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited India in October 2018 and in January 2019. A Virtual Summit between PM Modi and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was held in December 2020. The Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended the first India-Central Asia Summit on 27 January 2022 in a virtual format. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and PM Modi met on the sidelines of the COP-28 in Dubai in December 2023 and also in October 2024 on the sidelines of BRICS Summit in Kazan. On August 12, 2025 the two leaders held a telephonic conversation and reviewed the strategic partnership developments. The leaders last met briefly in September, 2025 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Tianjin, China.

### **Ministerial engagements**

3. Both countries remain in touch at the Ministerial level as well. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries have met on the sidelines of India Central-Asia Dialogue, SCO meetings etc. Foreign Ministers' last meeting was on the sidelines of the 4<sup>th</sup> India Central-Asia Dialogue in June 2024 in New Delhi. Defence Ministers and Speakers of Parliament have also met their counterparts.

4. The Finance Minister participated at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Uzbekistan in September 2024. During her visit, she held meetings with President Mirziyoyev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, Mr. Jamshid Khodjayev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance, Mr. Djamshid Kuchkarov, and Minister of Investments, Industry and Trade, Mr. Laziz Kudratov. She also took part in the Uzbekistan-India Business Forum, during which Bilateral Investment Treaty was signed on the sidelines.
5. A delegation led by Speaker of Lok Sabha Sh. Om Birla participated in the 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Tashkent in April 2025. During the visit, Speaker addressed the IPU Governing Council and Assembly, and called on President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. He also met with Uzbekistan Senate Chairperson Tanzila Narbayeva and Legislative Chamber Speaker Nuriddin Ismoilov, reaffirming India's commitment to enhancing parliamentary ties.
6. Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Bakhtiyor Saidov visited India in June 2025 to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> India - Central Asia Dialogue. During the visit, he held bilateral meeting with EAM. He, alongwith other Central Asian Foreign Ministers, also called on PM Shri Narendra Modi.

#### **Inter-Governmental Commission**

7. The 13th meeting of the Uzbek-India Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 28 July 2022. The meeting was co-chaired by Minister of Commerce and Industry of India Shri Piyush Goyal and Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Mr. Jamshid Khodjaev. An agreement was also reached to hold a meeting of India-Central Asia Ministers of Transport in order to develop mechanisms for developing logistics infrastructure, a regional network of multimodal transport corridors, and increasing direct and transit cargo transportation as part of the North-South initiative.

#### **Foreign Office Consultations (FoC)**

8. The then Secretary (West) Shri Sanjay Verma visited Uzbekistan on August 8-9 August 2023 and held 16th Foreign Office Consultations with his counterpart Deputy Foreign Minister Bakhrom Aloyev. Secretary (West) also called on Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov. Earlier, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Furkat Sidikov led the Uzbek delegation to the bilateral Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi on 11 May 2022.

### **Bilateral Trade and Investments**

9. India is among top 10 trade partners of Uzbekistan with bilateral trade of USD 980.4 million (as per Uzbek statistics-2024) which is well below potential. The major items of India's exports are pharmaceutical products, mechanical equipment, vehicle parts, services, frozen buffalo meat, optical instruments and equipment and mobile phones. India's import from Uzbekistan consists largely of fruit and vegetable products, services, fertilizers, juice products and extracts, and lubricants.

**As per figures released by the Uzbek Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, Uzbekistan's bilateral trades with India during the last five years were as follows:**

S.No.	Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1	Export	423	460.60	654.90	648.50	853.6
2	Import	19.70	29.90	35.60	108.10	126.80
3	Total Trade In \$ Million	442.60	490.50	690.50	756.60	980.40

10. Total Indian investments in Uzbekistan amount to US\$ 451 million (approx). Indian investments by Indian companies include in pharmaceuticals, healthcare, education and residential building. There are four Indian Universities in Uzbekistan - Amity University in Tashkent, Sharda University in Andijan, Sambhram University in Jizzakh and Acharya University in Bukhara.

11. **Development Partnership:** India has carried out several projects under HICDP including setting up of an Allergological Center in Tashkent (INR 10,25,95,409), an IT lab at the Academy of Armed Forces of Uzbekistan (INR 8,48,60,376) and provisioning of computers for 125 ICT centers in schools in Syrdarya region (INR 6,74,77,580). The Embassy is also looking to renovate ANFA International Cricket stadium in Tashkent and continue development partnership projects in Karakalpakstan in healthcare and Solar Power projects to support agriculture in Kashkadarya region.
12. Pursuant to the bilateral agreement between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2018, IT Policy of Uzbekistan was redrafted. With the support of the Software Technology Parks of India, the country's first IT Park was subsequently established in Tashkent in June 2019.
13. The 3rd meeting of the India–Uzbekistan Joint Working Group on Digital Technologies was held on virtual mode on November 7, 2025. Both sides discussed strengthening cooperation in IT, and advancing digital technologies in education, AI, cybersecurity, and other areas.

### **Defence & Security Cooperation**

14. India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Uzbekistan in the field of defence. A Joint Working Group on defence was established in 2019 and the fourth JWG meeting was held in Uzbekistan in April 2024. India & Uzbekistan regularly participate in joint military exercises "DUSTLIK", with the fifth edition held in April 2024 and attended by COAS General Manoj Pande during his visit to Uzbekistan. The sixth edition of exercise DUSTLIK was conducted in India in April 2025. There has been considerable interaction between Defence Industries of both nations with recent participation of a delegation from the Defence Industry Agency of Uzbekistan to Aero India 2025. The fifth Joint Working Group meeting on Defence cooperation was held in New Delhi on August 11, 2025. The ninth Joint Working Group meeting on Counter Terrorism was held in Tashkent on September 30, 2025.

15. The 3rd meeting of India–Central Asia NSAs/Secretaries of Security Councils was held on 16 October 2025 in Bishkek, attended by NSA Shri Ajit Doval. The meeting reviewed regional security challenges, advanced counterterrorism and tech cooperation, and continued the dialogue framework launched in 2022.

### **Education**

16. Mission has set up India Study Centres under “Aid to Uzbekistan” in 15 universities of Uzbekistan and activated two short term ‘Chair’ by ICCR in Samarkand State University (Economics) and Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies (Hindi). Some Indian Study Centres also have IT instruments installed in them and equipped with books, musical instruments, Indian traditional dresses and artefacts. In January 2023, four Uzbek Hindi scholars attended World Hindi Conference in Nadi (Fiji). Prof. Nilufar Khodjaeva of Tashkent State University for Oriental Studies was awarded Hindi Samman Award by External Affairs Minister.
17. In 2024-2025, more than 100 candidates were selected from Uzbekistan under ITEC programmes.

### **Cultural Cooperation**

18. There is close affinity between the cultures of the two countries. Indian films, actors and songs are extremely popular in Uzbekistan since the era of the Raj Kapoor. A 5-day Indian Cinema Week from 17 to 21 December 2024 was organized to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of Raj Kapoor and a 4-day Film Festival was organized on the theme ‘Sashakt Nari - Celebrating Womanhood’ from March 13-16, 2025 showcasing women-centric films from Hindi and regional cinema.
19. The Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture (LBSCIC) had approximately 384 yoga students and 250 Kathak students in 2024 attending classes. Yoga is immensely popular with more than 2000 participants attending International Yoga Day. Yoga Federation of

Uzbekistan maintains close relationship with Indian Embassy. Two batches of Yoga Volunteers from Yoga Federation of Uzbekistan (YFU) have been certified by Ministry of Ayush to teach Yoga. The 7th International Conference on Yoga under the theme 'Yoga for One Earth One Health' was held in Tashkent in September 2025 with the participation of eminent Yoga experts from 10 Eurasian countries.

### **Diaspora & people-to-people ties**

20. The size of the Indian community in Uzbekistan is estimated to be 21,000 which includes students (16,300) studying in different universities in Uzbekistan, workers & business professionals (4,700). First ever India-Uzbekistan Consular Dialogue was held in Tashkent on July 23, 2025 during which discussions were held on visa processes, consular cooperation, security matters concerning students, medical travellers and tourists in both countries. Details of visitors from India to Uzbekistan and vice versa during last two years are as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Uzbeks visited India</b>	<b>Indians visited Uzbekistan</b>
2025	30000	80800
2024	17400	80000
2023	17000	45500

### **Multilateral engagement**

21. India and Uzbekistan cooperate closely at several multilateral platforms such as the UN, G20, BRICS & SCO. In St. Petersburg, on the sidelines of Xth BRICS Parliamentary Forum in July 2024, Senate Chairperson Tanzila Narbaeva held talks with Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha. Both sides also interact under the India-Central Asia framework in India-Central Asia Summit, India-Central Asia Dialogue at EAM level, Joint Working Group on Afghanistan and Central Asia Business Council. There is also India-Central Asia National Security Advisors' meeting. Uzbekistan has also been actively participating in Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS). In August 2024, in the third VOGSS, Uzbekistan participated in two Ministerial sessions on

Trade (represented by H. E. Mr Gulamov Shokhrukh, Acting Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade) and Environment (represented by H. E. Mr. Jusipbek Kazbekov, Dy. Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection). A delegation led by Speaker of Lok Sabha Sh. Om Birla participated in the 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Tashkent in April 2025.

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***(as on January 2026)***