

India-Central Asia Summit

January 28, 2022

In news– Recently, the Indian Prime Minister held a virtual summit with five Central Asian countries.

About the summit-

- This was the first engagement of its kind between India and the Central Asian countries at the level of leaders.
- The virtual summit saw the **participation of the five presidents** – Kazakhstan’s Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Uzbekistan’s Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan’s Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow and Sadyr Japarov of Kyrgyz Republic.



- **PM underlined the three main objectives of the summit:**
 - To make it clear that cooperation between India and Central Asia is essential for regional security and prosperity.
 - To give an **effective structure to our cooperation, which** will establish a framework of regular interactions at different levels and among various stakeholders.
 - To **create an ambitious roadmap for our cooperation.**
- During the summit, the PM called for an integrated approach for regional connectivity and cooperation for the next 30 years.

- India and five Central Asian countries have decided to **establish a joint working group on Afghanistan at the senior officials' level.**
- It was decided that leaders of **India and Central Asian countries would hold a summit-level meeting every two years and the next summit is expected in 2024.**
- The leaders agreed that **joint counter-terrorism exercises will be held between India and interesting Central Asian countries.**
- India, Central Asia to **commission a dictionary of common words** used in India and Central Asia countries and showcase a Buddhist exhibition in Central Asia.
- The PM also announced a plan to build a “Central Asia Centre” in New Delhi.
- The inception of the **India-Central Asia Dialogue at Foreign Ministers' level, the third meeting of which was held in New Delhi from December 18-20, 2021,** has provided an impetus to India-Central Asia relations.
- China held a similar summit with the leaders of Central Asian countries on January 25, at a very short notice, after India had announced its summit.