

Karakalpaks

July 6, 2022

In news- More than fifteen people have been killed during government crackdown on protests in Uzbekistan's autonomous province of Karakalpakstan.

About Karakalpaks-

- **The name Karakalpakstan is derived from the Karakalpak people, an ethnic minority group** of around 2 million.
- **Karakalpakstan, which constitutes approximately 40 percent of Uzbekistani territory,** is an ethnically diverse region populated largely by ethnic minorities – Karakalpaks and Kazakhs, who share a lot of cultural and linguistic similarities.
- Karakalpak translates to **'black hat'**, referring to their traditional headgear.
- They consider themselves to be a **distinct cultural group in Uzbekistan.**
- **Their Turkic language – Karakalpak – is closely related to Kazak** and is one of the 7 languages of instruction in Uzbekistan's public schools.
- In their genealogical narrative, the **Karakalpaks claim to share a common point of origin with the neighbouring Kazakhs, Uzbeks and Turkmen,** but believe that over time they diverged from the others.
- **The Karakalpak people settled around the Amu Darya (a river that feeds into the Aral Sea)** in the 18th century.
- By 1873, they partly came under Russian rule and by 1920 were completely incorporated into the Soviet Union.
- Their region, **Karakalpakstan, was an autonomous area within the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic** (Russia during 1917-1922), before it was made a part of Uzbekistan as the Karakalpak Autonomous Socialist Republic (ASSR) in 1936.



- When Uzbekistan declared its independence from the Soviet Union in August 1991, Karakalpak ASSR was re-established as the Republic of Karakalpakstan in December of the same year.
- **Karakalpakstan was formally recognized as an autonomous republic in Uzbekistan's constitution of 1992**, and has the right to secede from on the basis of a nation-wide referendum.

About Uzbekistan-

- It is a Central Asian nation and former Soviet republic.
- **It is a doubly landlocked country in Central Asia** and surrounded by five landlocked countries: Kazakhstan to the north; Kyrgyzstan to the northeast; Tajikistan to the southeast; Afghanistan to the south; and Turkmenistan to the south-west.
- **Its capital and largest city is Tashkent.**
- Uzbekistan is **part of the Turkic world**, as well as a **member of the Organization of Turkic States**.
- The **Uzbek language is the majority-spoken language** in Uzbekistan, other languages include the Russian language and the Tajik language, in the region of Samarkand and Bukhara.
- Islam is the predominant religion in Uzbekistan, **most Uzbeks being Sunni Muslims**.
- It includes 12 regions and the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan.

- It's known for its mosques, mausoleums and other sites linked to the Silk Road, the ancient trade route between China and the Mediterranean.