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India-Uzbekistan Relations

Why in Newspapers?

Recently the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry participated in the 13th session of the India-Uzbekistan Inter-Governmental Commission.

Quick Issue?

- Describing India-Uzbekistan relations as crucial to India's vision of an integrated extended neighbourhood.
- The IGC meeting is an important forum to deliberate and discuss various issues, especially in the field of trade and investment, as well as strengthen bilateral relations.

Historical Background?

- The Union Commerce and Industry Minister said that there is a need to take the relationship forward in new areas like technology, digital payment solutions and start-ups.
- Stressed the need for an integrated approach to regional connectivity and cooperation.
- Outlined seven emerging areas of cooperation between the two countries such as digital payments, space cooperation, agriculture and dairy, pharma, gems and jewellery, MSME and inter-regional cooperation.
- India was one of the first countries to accept its state sovereignty after the independence of Uzbekistan.
- India and Uzbekistan have strengthened cooperation in various fields such as politics, trade, investment, defence, security, counter-terrorism, science and technology, nuclear energy, space, information technology, as well as cultural and educational ties between the two countries.
- Defence Cooperation: Both sides welcomed the holding of joint military exercise "Dastlik 2019". India has also assisted in setting up an India Room at the Armed Forces Academy of Uzbekistan in Tashkent.
- Security Cooperation: India and Uzbekistan share common perspectives on many security issues including terrorism, transnational organized crime, illegal trafficking etc. The main focus of engagement in this area is to provide assistance to Uzbek security agencies through training and capacity building.

Other Key Facts?

Multilateral Initiative

- India-Central Asia Business Council: all five to advance trade and investment partnership with a special focus on energy, pharmaceuticals, automotive, agro-processing, education and urban infrastructure, transport, civil aviation, IT and tourism. The business councils of Central Asian countries were brought together.
- India-Central Asia Dialogue: It enables further strengthening of relations between India and the countries of Central Asia in the fields of politics, economics, digitization and cultural and humanitarian.



- Business: It has increased from US\$ 247 million in the year 2019-20 to US\$ 34.2 million in the year 2021-22, a growth of 38.5%.
- Investments: Indian investments by Indian companies include investments in the sectors of pharmaceuticals, amusement parks, automobile components and the hospitality industry. Amity University and Sharda University have opened campuses in Tashkent and Andijan respectively.
- Indian institutions like iCreate are actively collaborating with Uzbek counterparts to promote the start-up ecosystem in Uzbekistan and to train entrepreneurs in setting up incubators.
- Tourism: The Uzbek government has expanded the e-visa facility for Indian tourists. Uzbekistan has also emerged as an important source of medical tourism, with about 8,000 Uzbeks visiting India annually for medical treatment.
- Solar Energy: Uzbekistan has expressed interest in joining the International Solar Alliance. India has shown interest in participation in the development of the solar energy sector through competitive bidding.
- Bilateral Mechanism: National Coordination Committees: India and Uzbekistan have set up National Coordination Committees to oversee the implementation of mutually agreed projects and initiatives.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Which of the following has/have becomes highly compacted/dried up recently due to human activities?

1. Aral Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Lake Baikal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| (a) 1 only | (b) 2 and 3 only |
| (c) 2 only | (d) 1 and 3 only |

Answer- (a) 1 only



Crypto Jacking

Why in Newspapers?

According to recent reports, crypto jacking has reached a record high in 2022. In the first half of 2022, the number of global crypto jacking has increased by about USD 66 million compared to 2021.

Quick Issue?

- It is a type of cybercrime, in which crypto currency is mined through hacked computers. Due to this, cybercriminals are developing and distributing crypto mining malware. When malware is loaded onto a compromised device, it creates new coins. However, it creates vulnerabilities in web browsers and browser extensions.

Historical Background?

- Generally, cybercriminals are using the Log4j vulnerability to attack the cloud.
- Crypto jacking is a low risk attack as compared to ransom ware or any other type of cybercrime.
- The financial industry has faced several crypto jacking attacks.
- In crypto jacking; Victims are not aware that their computer or network has already been compromised.
- Recent research has shown that attackers have changed their preferred targets over the past few months. It has moved from the government, education and healthcare sectors to the retail and financial sectors. There has been a 200% increase in crypto jacking attacks in the financial sector.
- **Functioning of Crypto currencies:**
 - Crypto currency is a type of digital currency, in which all transaction related information is kept secure in a decentralized database in an encrypted manner.
 - The data in the ledgers is distributed spatially, and each transaction of cryptocurrency is encrypted as a block.
- Thus many interconnecting blocks form the blockchain through a decentralized ledger.
 - Major virtual currencies are Bitcoin, Ethereum, Monero, Cash (Zcash) etc.
 - It is estimated that there are over 47 million cryptocurrency users worldwide.
 - Cryptocurrency Mining :
 - Cryptocurrencies are not printed currency but they are verified or created by the process of mining.

Other Key Facts?

Process of cryptojacking:

- Cryptojacking is the mining of cryptocurrencies by installing malware on Internet servers, personal computers or smartphones.
- Unlike most other types of malware, crypto jacking does not use computer data.

Effect of "crypto-jacking":

- The functioning of the computer system becomes slow.
- Electricity usage increases.
- The battery of the smartphone starts draining suddenly.
- There may be too much damage to the

