



MoU in the field of Disaster Management: India -Turkmenistan

For Prelims: Location of Turkmenistan and Central Asian Nations, TAPI Pipeline, Ashgabat Agreement.

For Mains: Significance of Central Asian countries for India and related challenges.

Why in News

Recently, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between **India and Turkmenistan** on Cooperation in the field of **Disaster Management**.



Key Points

- **About:**
 - The MoU seeks to put in place a system whereby **both countries will benefit from the Disaster Management mechanisms** of each other.

- It will **help in strengthening the areas of preparedness**, response and capacity building in the field of Disaster Management.
- India currently has **bilateral or multilateral agreements, MoUs, joint declaration of Intent or Memorandums of Cooperation** in disaster management with Switzerland, Russia, Germany, Japan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Italy and [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\)](#).
- **India -Turkmenistan Relations:**
 - Turkmenistan **shares borders** with Kazakhstan in the north, Uzbekistan in the north and North-east, Iran in the South and Afghanistan in the Southeast.
 - **India's 'Connect Central Asia' policy 2012** envisages deeper mutual relations with the region and energy linkage is an important component of the policy.
 - **India has joined the Ashgabat agreement**, which envisages setting up of an international transport and transit corridor linking central Asia with the Persian Gulf to significantly ramp up trade and investment.
 - India considers the [TAPI pipeline](#) (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India) a '**key pillar**' in its economic relations with Turkmenistan.
 - In 2015, **Hindi Chair was established in Azadi Institute of World languages, Ashgabat** where Hindi is being taught to university students.
 - India provides training for Turkmen nationals under **ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) programme**.
 - Turkmenistan **supports India's permanent position in the UN Security Council**.
 - Turkmenistan is a USD 40 billion plus economy, but the bilateral trade with India is below its potential. India can increase its economic presence in Turkmenistan, particularly in the [Information and communication technologies \(ICT\) sector](#). This would help maintain the future balance of trade.
 - Recently, the 3rd meeting of the [India-Central Asia Dialogue](#) was held in New Delhi.
 - It is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the [Central Asian](#) countries namely [Kazakhstan](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Tajikistan](#), Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

[Source: PIB](#)

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