



India-Armenia Relations

For Prelims: Location of Armenia

For Mains: India-Armenia Relations

Why in News?

Armenia and India celebrated 30 years of bilateral diplomatic relations in 2022.



How have Historical Ties been?

- Armenia and India **maintain active political ties**. Effective cooperation exists between the two nations within international bodies.
- After Armenia's independence in 1991, **Armenian-Indian relations were reestablished**.
- Diplomatic relations were established between the Republic of Armenia and India in 1992.
- In 1999, the Indian Embassy in Yerevan began operations.
- If the Armenian-Indian political relations can be evaluated as "excellent", **Armenia is the only Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) country with which India had diplomatic relations in 1995 (other than Russia)**.
 - The CIS was founded in 1991 **after the dissolution of the Soviet Union**.
 - At present the CIS unites: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.
- India and Armenia signed a **Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation in 1995**.
- But the trade and economic cooperation between the two countries cannot be deemed adequate.

What are the Areas of Cooperation Between the Two Countries?

▪ Defence Relations:

- Armenia had already shown interest in Indian military hardware before the 2020 war.
- In 2020, Armenia signed a USD 40 million arms deal with India for the supply of four SWATHI radars to detect the location of weapons.
- In October 2022, India signed an agreement with Armenia to export missiles, rockets & ammunition.
 - The missiles will also include Indigenous [Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket](#) Launcher.
 - India may also export its [Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile \(MPATGM\)](#) to Armenia.

▪ Supply Chain and Economy:

- In the contest over global supply chains, **Armenia provides a potential outpost for New Delhi in the Eurasian corridor** which extends from the [Persian Gulf](#) to Russia and Europe.
- Armenia can also **prove a worthy developmental partner to India in domains such as agriculture**, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, and technology.
- The collaboration can provide an outstanding substitute for the debt-fuelled Chinese [Belt and Road Initiative](#) model.
- Finally, it **goes without saying that Armenia growing purchases of Indian defence hardware would provide an impetus** to both public and private sector defence manufacturing in India.

What is the Significance of Armenia for India?

▪ Countering Pan-Turkism:

- **Turkey's imperial ambition of establishing a pan-Turkic empire**, administered from Ankara, is identifiable in the present-day Caucasus and other parts of Eurasia.
- The **racist doctrine envisions an empire comprising all nations and regions that speak a Turkic-type language**, disregarding the extent of difference between those languages and that spoken in Turkey as well as the approval of the regions' respective populaces.
- With recent exports of military hardware to Armenia, **New Delhi has openly positioned itself on Armenian side in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict** and has therefore chosen to counter Azerbaijan and its supporters including Turkey and Pakistan as well as Ankara's expansionist pan-Turkic ambitions.

▪ Geo-Strategic Benefits:

- As an ally of Azerbaijan, **Pakistan has been supplying men and military hardware to assist the former** in its conflicts.
- Azerbaijan has **returned the favour by offering geopolitical, geoeconomic, and geostrategic benefits** to its partners in Islamabad.
- **Azerbaijan's success in Armenia would significantly energize Pakistan**, with perilous consequences.
- The purpose of seizing Armenian territory forcibly is to gain unhindered access to Turkey, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and the entire Turkic-oriented axis of nations, up to China.
 - Munitions and military hardware could utilise this route to arrive at the doorstep of Kashmir.
- To prevent this, **New Delhi can utilize its military skills and capabilities to assist Armenia** in securing itself against Azerbaijan's energy-funded superior military strength.

▪ Economic Cooperation:

- Armenia can play an important role in the [Indian-backed International North-South Transport Corridor \(INSTC\)](#) and the Iranian-backed [Black Sea-Persian Gulf Transport Corridor](#).

Way Forward

- Armenian-Indian cooperation **can become an integral part of broader contacts for Armenia with developed democracies**. For these ends, **high-quality and subtle diplomacy is**

imperative.

- The structure of international relations are also changing, creating both potential threats and opportunities.
- In these shifting global relations, Armenia requires a deep diversification of foreign relations.
- The countries of the Global West may become the most auspicious directions.
- By sharing common values, **Armenia and the Community of States will be able to work closely together.**
 - It is the exact area of cooperation that will ensure the active implementation of the modernization theory, institutionalization, and, possibly, strengthen national defense.

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