



## 5th Customs Meeting Between India and Bhutan

[Source: PIB](#)

The 5<sup>th</sup> **Joint Group of Customs (JGC)** meeting between India and Bhutan took place on 6- 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in **Leh, Ladakh**.

- Meeting discussed bilateral issues such as opening new **Land Customs Stations** and **notifying new trade routes**, development of infrastructure, automation and digitisation of transit processes, **prevention of smuggling**, **coordinated cross-border management**, and pre-arrival exchange of Customs data.
- These meetings enhance connectivity and trade infrastructure for smooth customs clearance at **10 Land Customs Stations** along the **India-Bhutan border** (6 in West Bengal and 4 in Assam).
- Bhutan is a **top trade partner of India** for both imports and exports.
  - It has more than tripled from USD 484 million in 2014-15 to **USD 1,615 million in 2022-23**.
  - This accounts for about **80% of Bhutan's overall trade**.
- Bhutan thanked the [Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs](#) for supporting its capacity building, training, and skill development through workshops, seminars, and various training programmes.
- Enhancing connectivity with Bhutan is important for **India's 'Neighbourhood First'** and **'Act East' Policy**.



**Read more:** [India Bhutan Relations](#)

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