China’s Diplomacy in Central Asia

Why in news?

The China and the five Central Asian republics (C+C5) grouping trade meeting indicated the growing diplomatic ties of china with Central Asia region.

What is the status of china’s relation with Central Asia?

- **Ancient Silk Route** - Provided trade, cultural, and people-to-people links with the Central Asian region with china historically.
- **Break-up of the Soviet Union** - This gave an opportunity to China to formalize the ties with Central Asia.
- **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** - China’s relationship with the region was institutionalized with SCO.
- **Trade route** - The central Asia provided trade route to Europe for China.
- **Chinese investments** - Have helped to upgrade Soviet-era infrastructure and carry out development works in these countries.
- **Belt and Road Initiative** - There are 51 BRI projects located in the region, which provides transit hub for China’s trade with Europe.
- **C+C5 summit** - A grouping of China + Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan.
- This summit is the latest development of series of Chinese engagement with Central Asia.

What is the status of India’s relation with Central Asia?

- **Summit of the C5** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a virtual summit of the C5 in 2022.
- India’s first engagement with the Central Asian nations collectively at the highest level.
- **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** - India being one of the member of SCO influence its decision on the region which are mostly related to security concerns.
- **Chabahar port** - Provides the trading route via sea.
- **Air corridors** - India should try the air corridors to overcome the hurdles of land route.

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What are the challenges to India’s relation with Central Asia?

- Non availability of land trade route since its access being denied by Pakistan

- Even though Chabahar port provide sea trade it is not fully developed yet
- The Central Asia have well established relationship with china and Russia leaving less room for India
- Even though India a member of SCO its decision are limited to security concerns
- The Russia and china are cultural and historically connected unlike India so it's hard to develop a deep relationship with the region

Quick facts	
The Collective Security Treaty Organization	**Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**
• It originates from the conclusion of the Collective Security Treaty. • Collective Security Treaty was signed in signed in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on May 1992. • The member are Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia. • The Collective Security Council (CSC) is the highest body of the Organization and consists of heads of the member States.	• SCO is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001. • Eight Member States - China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. • SCO has mainly focused on regional security issues, its fight against regional terrorism, ethnic separatism and religious extremism. • The SCO has been an observer in the UN General Assembly since 2005.

References

1. UN | About SCO
2. The Indian Express | China Diplomatic Ties With Central Asia
3. CSTO | About CSTO

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