



2025 Country Report Tajikistan

by Katherine Birch

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Tajikistan forged deeper relations with its Central Asian neighbors and beyond through bilateral trade and investment agreements, border-related peace deals, sustained diplomatic dialogue, and security cooperation. Further, the country kickstarted a number of artificial intelligence-related (AI) initiatives to follow through on its goal of not only harnessing AI for domestic development but also to become a regional hub for AI innovation.

Key Points

- Tajikistan sought to advance its aim of spearheading the development and institutionalization of AI, both domestically and across the Central Asia region, particularly following the UN General Assembly's unanimously passed June 2025 resolution enabling Dushanbe to be home to a regional AI data center. The country continued to actualize its AI-focused agenda through launching the region's first national AI cluster and technopark and announcing plans to build its first-ever renewable-energy-powered AI data center.
- Dushanbe maintained an active presence in the international diplomatic arena beyond its engagement with its Central Asian neighbors, expanding dialogue and

deepening economic and political relations with non-regional players, not least through its participation in multilateral fora such as the India-Central Asia Dialogue, Central Asia-Russia Summit, Commonwealth of Independent States Meeting, China-Central Asia Summit, Central Asia-European Union Summit, Economic Cooperation Organization, and the C5+1 Summit.

- Tajikistan resolved its nearly three-decade-long border disagreement with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan during the first quarter of the year, signing both peace and border delimitation agreements with these two neighbors. These developments opened a pathway for greater regional stability and economic cooperation in the Ferghana Valley after years of violent clashes and political conflicts over national borders.
- Beyond border agreements, Dushanbe fostered closer working ties across the security, political, and economic realms with its immediate Central Asian neighbors more broadly by taking part in Caspian region-wide joint military exercises, forming a Contact Group on Afghanistan following Russia's formal recognition of the Taliban, and agreeing to expand trade with Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

▾ Domestic Politics

Tajikistan Looks for Alternative for to USAID Health Funding

With the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) now shuttered, Tajikistan is looking for potential replacement for the funds USAID had provided for the country's health sector. At a recent press conference, Tajikistan's Health Minister stated, "USAID has played a key role in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, as well as in maternal and child health. Until the agency's future involvement is clarified, we intend to mobilize other resources." Other organizations, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, remains active within Tajikistan.

Source: The Times of Central Asia

Interior Ministry Reshuffled in Tajikistan

On April 22, President Emomali Rahmon announced a series of personnel changes within Tajikistan's Ministry of Internal Affairs, continuing a broader pattern of government reshuffles that began earlier this year. Officially described as measures to improve professionalism within the ministry, the changes come amid growing attention to the

political role of Rahmon's son, Rustam Emomali, who currently serves as mayor of Dushanbe and the speaker of the Senate. Rustam has recently taken on higher-profile responsibilities, including delivering the national New Year's address, traditionally reserved for the president since 1994.

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

Tajikistan Launches National Reintegration Program for Former Extremists

Tajikistan has launched a five-year state program (2025–2029) aimed at reintegrating citizens convicted of extremism and terrorism into civilian life, with the goal of preventing recidivism and promoting national stability. Backed by 38.5 million somoni (about \$3.6 million) in funding, half of which is from the state budget and the rest from international and extra-budgetary sources, the initiative includes rehabilitation, vocational training, employment assistance, and cultural engagement. Local authorities and the Ministry of Justice will oversee the initiative. Experts note that radicalization in Central Asia stems from complex factors beyond poverty and migration, with three high-risk groups identified: individuals experiencing identity crises, those with criminal backgrounds, and marginalized citizens from remote areas. The program focuses on this last group, aiming to reduce their vulnerability to extremist recruitment through education and post-incarceration support.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#)

➤ Economy, Energy, and Trade

Tajikistan's Somon Air Buys Two B737–8s

Upon receiving permission from the Civil Aviation Agency of Tajikistan to conduct direct flights to London, Somon Air, a private airline company, has purchased two new B737–8 planes from DAE Capital. The planes will arrive in 2026 and depict the company's goal of increasing "operational efficiency" and "frequency of flights." The new direct flights to London will fly from Dushanbe but could change to stop in Tblisi, Georgia, should ticket sales fail to generate enough earnings.

Source: [Ch-Aviation](#)

Tajikistan Approves Industrial Park Deal with Russia

Tajikistan's president Emomali Rahmon has approved a draft agreement with Russia to

establish an industrial park in Tajikistan, following a meeting that also reviewed several major initiatives. The government discussed a 2025–2030 program for developing uranium ore processing sites to mitigate contamination from past operations. Additionally, officials introduced a program to enhance vocational training and employment opportunities for convicts and recently released people. The meeting also covered plans to expand textile and mining industries, boost mineral and agricultural processing, and strengthen energy independence through increased energy production, including green energy projects.

Source: [Trend News Agency](#).

Rogun Dam Project is under Scrutiny

World Bank's financing of the \$8 billion Rogun Dam Project in Tajikistan attracted allegations of impropriety. Bank officials face scrutiny under the accusations that they did not comply with sufficient environmental procedures to mitigate the environmental and socio-economic impact of the project. On April 8, the World Bank's Inspection Panel issued a statement on the involvement of the bank. World Bank officials have three weeks to respond to the complaint, followed by a decision of the Bank to approve further investigation. A late 2024 complaint alleged that the World Bank approved funding based on outdated data and failed to adequately consult affected communities in Tatan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

Kazakhstan to Supply Swiss Nuclear Power Plants

Kazakhstan's Kazatomprom, the state-run nuclear energy firm, has struck a deal with Switzerland's Axpo Power AG and Kernkraftwerk Leibstadt AG (KKL AG) to supply uranium to two nuclear power plants in Switzerland. The moves come after Western governments, including Switzerland, have taken steps to downgrade their reliance on Russian uranium supplies, with Kazakhstan now looking to fill the opening in the market.

Source: [Daryo](#)

Tajikistan Launches Central Asia's First National AI Cluster and Technopark

Area AI, artificial intelligence (AI) cluster and national technopark, was launched during a ceremony in the Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Region on June 25 attended by President Emomali Rahmon. This milestone marks a key step in implementing the country's National AI Strategy, which aims for AI to contribute 5% of GDP by 2040. Developed by domestic firm darya.ai, the AI cluster will focus on language models,

applied research, and digital infrastructure – particularly in the Tajik language. Area AI is set to serve as a hub for research, pilot programs, and international cooperation, with applications across sectors such as energy, healthcare, education, and public services. The event featured strategic partnership agreements with ATRC (UAE), Presight AI (UAE), and Scale AI (USA). Representatives from major global tech and investment players – including OpenAI, NVIDIA, Mistral AI, and Qatar National Bank – also attended, signaling growing international interest in Tajikistan's AI ambitions.

Source: [ASIA-Plus](#)

Rare Earth Deposits Discovered in Tajikistan's Rasht Valley

According to the Tajik Geological Survey, a significant deposit of tantalum and niobium, rare earth metals, has been discovered in the Rasht Valley. The preliminary survey estimates that the deposits could contain several hundred thousand tons of tantalum and niobium. Once accessed, tantalum is utilized in electronic manufacturing, while niobium is found in high-strength alloys for aerospace/construction industries. Other metals at varying amounts were also discovered, giving the Tajik Geological Survey team hope of increasing rare-earth mining in Tajikistan.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#)

World Bank Freezes Funding for Tajikistan's Rogun Dam

The World Bank has halted funding for Tajikistan's \$9+ billion Rogun Dam until the government proves it can repay debts and make the project commercially viable. Rogun, planned to be the world's tallest dam at 335 meters, has already cost \$3 billion with two turbines built. Environmental groups argue that outdated assessments were used in approving the project. Standard & Poor's warns Rogun is draining Tajikistan's finances, requiring \$6.4 billion more – 40% of projected 2025 GDP. The World Bank now demands a debt-safe financing plan, a sustainable business model, and firm electricity purchase commitments from neighbors before resuming support.

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

Qatar to Invest in Tajikistan's Rogun Hydropower Plant

On August 23, Tajikistan's Ministry of Finance and representatives of the Qatar Development Fund signed an agreement in which Doha pledged to provide Dushanbe with a concessional loan worth \$50 million to support the construction of Tajikistan's Rogun Hydropower Plant. This agreement appears to actualize an important step forward in deepening bilateral economic cooperation between Tajikistan and Qatar, an

area that was reportedly a key topic for discussion during the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon's official visit to Qatar earlier last year.

Source: [Caspian Post](#)

Tajikistan's Reliance on International Financial Institutions

In a recently published report, Tajikistan's 82 government infrastructure projects have been found to rely heavily on international donors. Organizations like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development, provide around 97 percent of financing or about \$4.5 billion for all 82 projects. Of these investments, \$3.2 billion are grants, and \$1.2 are loans. The energy sector receives the largest share of the investments, \$1.6 billion, with the next highest, transportation, at \$1.2 billion.

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

Tajik Digital Communications Provider Signs \$30 Million Deal with Asian Development Bank

The deal will provide the Indigo Tajikistan Closed Joint Stock Company (Tcell) financing to further develop the quality and range of Tajikistan's mobile connectivity, with an emphasis on constructing infrastructure with energy-efficiency to boost rural telecommunications. This loan to Tcell, which is Tajikistan's top digital communications provider, marks the first of its kind that the Asian Development Bank has sent.

Source: [Asian Development Bank](#)

Dushanbe Invest-2025 Forum Brings \$3 Billion in Investment Commitments to Tajikistan

At the Dushanbe Invest-2025 Forum, Tajikistan signed 26 agreements collectively amounting to \$3.12 billion. The agreements cover key strategic sectors, including energy, industry, and communications, with energy accounting for the largest portion of the investments with \$2.4 billion. The country also signed industrial projects worth \$386 million and communications contracts worth \$333.5 million.

Source: [The Astana Times](#)

Tajikistan to Build First Green Data Center in its Davroz District

Tajikistan plans to construct its first data center powered fully from hydropower energy. This marks a major step in Tajikistan's goals in developing sustainable AI infrastructure and to become an AI hub in Central Asia. The Davroz project is a joint venture between

Tajik AI sustainability firm, darya.ai, and Yotta Data Services Private Limited, India's largest data-center developer. The new center will form a key part of Tajikistan's national AI infrastructure, aiming to help the country achieve its target of deriving up to 5% of GDP from the AI sector by 2040.

Source: [AsiaNet](#)

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Face Winter Electricity Shortages

Due to low water levels in key hydro reservoirs, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are bracing for electricity shortages this winter. Kyrgyzstan's President Japarov recently reported that the Toktogul Reservoir is dangerously low for this time of year, holding 2 billion cubic meters less water than at the same point last year. Officials from the Ministry of Energy and Industry now say the reserves are at their lowest level in more than a decade, and authorities have urged the public to reduce electricity and water consumption. Tajikistan is facing similar conditions, with water levels at the reservoir feeding the Nurek power plant dropping by 2.47 meters over the past year. These shortages underscore mounting concerns about the impacts of climate change and are expected to affect the entire region, as Central Asian states become increasingly interdependent in the water and energy sectors.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#), [Eurasianet](#)

↘ International Diplomacy

Iranian President Pezeshkian Makes Official Visit to Tajikistan

On January 15 and 16, Iran's President Massed Pezeshkian visited Tajikistan for his first foreign visit of 2025. Throughout two days of various meetings, Pezeshkian and Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon signed 23 cooperation agreements focused on diplomatic, food security, transportation, digital technology, and anti-corruption cooperation. Pezeshkian expressed a desire that Tajikistan and Iran help address issues within the Islamic world, highlighting various problems in Afghanistan and Syria.

Source: [EurasiaReview](#)

Iran and Tajikistan Abolish Visa Requirements for Air Travelers

Taking effect February 3, 2025, travelers between Iran and Tajikistan will be able to travel

visa free. This is part of the growing initiative between the two countries to improve diplomatic, cultural, and people-to-people ties. In January 2025, Iran's tourism minister, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, expressed a hope to increase the number of Tajik tourists in Iran from 8,000 annually to 100,000. Travelers will be able to stay up to a total of 30 days within a 90-day period.

Source: [Tehran Times](#)

Modi and Other Indian Officials Meet with C5 Representatives

On June 6 in New Delhi, Indian officials hosted the 4th India – Central Asia dialogue, featuring the foreign affairs ministers of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. The meeting, officially overseen by the Indian External Affairs Minister, was also briefly attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The read-out produced by the event referenced a number of Central Asia – India initiatives, such as business-to-business formats, connectivity initiatives, and joint trade projects, such as the build out of infrastructure at the port of Kandahar. The sides additionally agreed to form a joint group to explore ways to better integrate banking and financial institutions.

Source: [Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India](#)

China and Central Asia Deepen Transport and Diplomatic Ties

China and the Five Central Asian countries have agreed to improve road, rail, and air connectivity while enhancing diplomatic exchanges, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on June 18, following the China-Central Asia Summit in Astana. The parties will explore opening more direct flights with China, simplifying visa procedures, and potentially establishing new consular offices. China, along with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, also plans to upgrade existing land ports and assess the need for new ones. President Xi Jinping signed a treaty on June 17 to formalize deeper cooperation with Central Asia in trade, energy, and infrastructure.

Source: [Reuters](#)

Tajikistan and European Union Initialed an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

On July 18, Tajikistan and European Union initialed an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), concluding the series of negotiations that began in 2023. The agreement aims to replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) that was signed in 2010. As a part of the EPCA, the parties will enhance cooperation and support reforms in the following areas: sustainable economic development, trade, security, digitalization, governance, connectivity, and infrastructure.

Source: [Asia-Plus](#), [Delegation of European Union to Tajikistan](#)

Tajikistan Initiated UNGA Resolution on AI

On July 25, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a landmark resolution initiated by Tajikistan, titled “Role of artificial intelligence (AI) in creating new opportunities for sustainable development in Central Asia.” Originally proposed by President Emomali Rahmon in 2024, the resolution emphasizes ethical and responsible AI use, calling for the creation of a Regional AI Center in Dushanbe to coordinate joint AI initiatives across the region. Key priorities include promoting AI education, supporting startups, enhancing regional research collaboration, developing shared data infrastructure, and aligning governance standards. The resolution underscores Tajikistan’s growing role in shaping the global AI agenda.

Source: [Qazinform](#)

Iranian Foreign Minister Visits Dushanbe

On August 1, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi spoke with both Tajikistani President Emomali Rahmon and Tajikistani Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin during the Iranian’s day-long diplomatic visit to Tajikistan’s capital. According to Foreign Minister Araghchi in a later statement, the discussions with his Tajikistani counterparts focused on bolstering Iranian-Tajikistani collaboration in key sectors, such as the economic, scientific, cultural, and tourism realms. While these Iranian-Tajikistani talks potentially mark the beginning of deepened relations, further monitoring will be necessary to assess if bilateral cooperation in any of these aforementioned sectors is actualized.

Source: [The Caspian Post](#)

Tajik President Emomali Rahmon Speaks at the General Debate at the 2025 UN General Assembly

During the UN General Assembly Debate, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, acknowledged the setbacks Tajikistan is facing in sustainable development. President Rahmon gave the example of melting glaciers in Tajikistan, causing economic and water crises. In light of these challenges, he advocated for international financial and economic systems to meet the needs of developing countries. He later expressed support for the importance of the Summit of the Future and its important mission to build global peace and stability, especially in Palestine and Afghanistan. He urged the UN and international community to take effective steps towards creating lasting peace in Palestine.

Source: [The United Nations](#)

Putin to Attend CIS' Leaders' Summit in Tajikistan This Week

Russian President Vladimir Putin plans to hold bilateral talks on the sidelines with Tajikistani President Emomali Rahmon, among other leaders in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This will be Putin's first visit to Tajikistan since June 2022. This year's summit will take place in Dushanbe; Kyrgyzstan last hosted it in Bishkek in 2023.

Source: [Kursiv](#)

Putin Visits Tajikistan for Central Asia–Russia Summit and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Meeting

On October 8, Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Dushanbe for the Central Asia–Russia summit that brought together the leaders of all five Central Asian states. The summit addressed issues of trade, transport, energy, security, and migration. Putin urged Central Asian leaders to expand trade with Russia, noting that Russia's trade with Belarus is higher despite Belarus having only a fraction of Central Asia's combined population. Central Asian leaders emphasized the existing strength of trade between their countries and Russia and outlined plans for deeper cooperation. The CIS Heads of State Council Summit took place a few days later in Dushanbe, bringing together the leaders of the Central Asian states, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Belarus. The council approved action plans to combat terrorism, strengthen security along external borders, and enhance military cooperation.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#), [Reuters](#), [Executive Committee of CIS](#)

➤ Regional Cooperation and Connectivity

Prime Ministers of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan Meet for Talks

On January 8, the Prime Ministers of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan met for talks at a rural location marking the geographic meeting point of the three countries. These countries, all of which have Presidents who dominate most politics, share the Ferghana Valley region, a densely populated and impoverished area known for weak governance and other problems. The Prime Ministers took the meeting as an opportunity to tout the recent work done demarcating their traditionally contested shared borders. They additionally discussed future cooperation, particularly relating to hydro-electric power plants and logistical cooperation.

Source: [Times of Central Asia](#)

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Sign Border Delimitation Agreement

On February 21, the heads of the national security committees of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Kamchybek Tashiev and Saimumin Yatimov, signed a long-awaited agreement on the delimitation of their interstate border. The agreement marks a significant step in resolving border disputes between two countries that share a 980-kilometer frontier. Tashiev noted that additional agreements have been prepared for signing by heads of both states, including a border agreement, a pact on water-energy facilities, and an accord on cross-border areas and new road construction. Negotiations on border delimitations have been ongoing since December 2002.

Source: [Trendnews](#)

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Sign Historic Border Peace Deal

On March 13, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed a historic agreement to resolve their long-standing border dispute, finalizing delimitation after years of violent clashes. The deal now awaits parliamentary ratification, expected before Presidents Sadry Japarov and Emomali Rahmon meet with Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on March 31 to discuss regional cooperation and development in the Ferghana Valley.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#)

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan Finalize Border Junction After Nearly 20 Years of Talks

On March 19, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan reached a final agreement on the junction point of their shared borders, after nearly two decades of negotiations. Kamchibek Tashiyev, head of Kyrgyzstan's National Security Committee, presented the finalized demarcation to Kyrgyz lawmakers, confirming that six trilateral meetings since 2007 led to the breakthrough. The agreement, finalized during a March 2025 meeting in Dushanbe, ensures Kyrgyzstan retains around 100 hectares of land, including a key road. This follows a March 13 border agreement between Dushanbe and Bishkek, which marked a significant step toward easing long-standing tensions, reinforced by Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon's first visit to Bishkek in nearly 12 years. As part of the deal, the two countries reopened the Kairagach and Kyzyl-Bel border checkpoints on March 13 after nearly 4 years of closure.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#), [AKIpress](#)

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan Finalize Border Agreement

On March 26, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan signed a comprehensive border agreement,

marking a resolution to their long-standing territorial disputes. The deal finalizes the delimitation of the remaining 302km of their shared 972km border, including land swaps. The agreement follows months of negotiations and confidence-building measures, intending to prevent further violence and enhance regional stability.

Source: [AKIpress](#)

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan Sign Customs Data Exchange Protocol to Boost Regional Trade Cooperation

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have formalized a technical protocol to enable the exchange of preliminary customs information on goods and vehicles crossing their shared border. The agreement was signed during a bilateral meeting in Kyrgyzstan's Issyk-Kul region on the sidelines of the 80th session of the Commonwealth of Independent States' Council of Heads of Customs Services. Led by Tajikistan's Customs Chairman Almaz Saliyev, the protocol outlines a legal and operational framework to facilitate real-time customs data sharing. Officials from both countries emphasized that the agreement is expected to deepen bilateral economic cooperation and support broader regional integration efforts.

Source: [Trend News Agency](#).

Azerbaijan Hosts 17th Summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization

On July 3-5, Azerbaijan hosted the 17th summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Khankendi in the Karabakh region. Titled "New ECO Vision for a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Future," the summit featured the presidents of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Türkiye, and the prime ministers of 10 ECO member-countries along with the representatives of international organizations. During the summit, the parties discussed their dedication to enhance regional cooperation, focusing on regional trade, connectivity, and sustainable development. The summit concluded with signing the Khankendi Communique that reaffirmed the right of return for the Azerbaijanis, who were expelled from Armenia and highlighted the importance of sustainable economic development of ECO countries.

Source: [News Central Asia](#); [Azerbaijan.az](#)

Japarov Travels to Tajikistan, Meets with Rahmon

Kyrgyzstan's President Sadyr Japarov traveled to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on July 8 for a two-day visit aimed at establishing a new period of friendly relations following the resolution of longstanding border disputes and fighting between the two countries. While in Dushanbe, Japarov was greeted with a public reception and held discussions with

Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon. In March, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan announced that the two countries had reached an agreement on their long-standing border dispute, which had resulted in over 200 deaths in recent years. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan representatives signed a reported 14 separate agreements during Japarov's July trip.

Source: [Times of Central Asia](#)

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan Strengthen Ties with New Border Checkpoints

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have opened two new border checkpoints – Bekabad Auto in the Tashkent region and Khavastabad in the Syrdarya region – to handle vehicles and third-country nationals. This move aims to improve customs operations, security, and regional economic integration. Both countries now have 17 official checkpoints under a 2002 intergovernmental agreement.

Source: [Trend](#)

Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to Strengthen Their Cooperation

Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdimuhamedov met on August 5 in Awaza, Turkmenistan. The meeting took place as part of the third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. The presidents discussed the questions of bilateral cooperation, especially in the sphere of trade and investment. The creation of a "roadmap 2026–2028" was suggested in the meeting, which would aim at increasing the trade turnover between the two countries. The parties also discussed deepening cooperation in agriculture, manufacturing, and transport, as well as other topics.

Source: [Asiaplustj.info](#)

Central Asian States Form Contact Group on Afghanistan

On August 26, envoys from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan met in Tashkent for the first session of a new Contact Group on Afghanistan. Initiated by Uzbekistan, the group will serve as a platform for regional coordination on Afghan issues. Delegates stressed the need for a unified, self-reliant stance that supports stability, trade, and security. While none of the four countries formally recognizes the Taliban, they agreed to pursue pragmatic engagement to restore economic ties with Kabul and tackle terrorism, extremism, and cross-border crime.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#)

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan Start Military Exercises in Uzbekistan

On October 14, large-scale joint military exercises involving units from the defense ministries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan commenced at Kattakurgan training ground in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The joint exercises, entitled Unity-2025 (“Birlik-2025”) are aimed at enhancing military cooperation and partnership in the face of growing geopolitical tensions and crises worldwide, as well as the emergence of new threats and challenges. The exercises consist of three stages, including strengthening the protection and defense of the state border, and searching, localizing, and destroying illegal armed formations. Samarkand will also host the meeting of the defense ministers of Central Asia and Azerbaijan.

Source: [Tashkent Times](#), [Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan](#)

➤ Security

Border Clash Between Afghanistan and Tajikistan Erupts Over Border Dispute and Mining Activities

On August 24, fighting broke out between Taliban forces and Tajikistan’s troops in the Dawang border area of Afghanistan’s Badakhshan province. One Taliban fighter was killed and four were injured. The clash was linked to disputes over Chinese mining activities and damage to the Amu Darya riverbed. Relations have long been tense because Tajikistan supports anti-Taliban groups like the National Resistance Front and has hosted Afghan leaders who oppose the Taliban, such as Ahmad Massoud and Amrullah Saleh. After the clash, both sides met to discuss water and mining issues but accused each other of sheltering opposition fighters.

Source: [AKIPress](#)

More Details on India’s 2022 Withdrawal from Airbase in Tajikistan

After India’s lease at Ayni Air Base in Tajikistan ended in 2022, the base was officially handed back to the Tajik government. However, Indian media sources now claim that Russia and China pressured Dushanbe into not extending the lease. The Indian government agreed to develop the air base during the early 2000s and agreed to joint ownership between the Indian and Tajik Air Forces.

Source: [Newsweek](#)

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