



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per. unthalaivar Kamarajar"

Indian Army in Uzbekistan for Exercise DUSTLIK

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Indian Army has sent a 60-member contingent to Uzbekistan

They are participating in Exercise DUSTLIK (7th edition) from 12–25 April 2026

What is Exercise DUSTLIK?

It is a joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan

Focus: counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban and mountainous areas

Conducted alternatively in both countries

History of Exercise DUSTLIK:

First started in 2019

It is held annually

Hosted alternately:

India hosts in places like Ranikhet / Pithoragarh

Uzbekistan hosts at its military training bases

Over the years, it has become an important defence cooperation platform

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Name Significance of “DUSTLIK”:

The word “DUSTLIK” comes from the Uzbek language

Meaning: “Friendship”

Why this name?

Symbolizes:

Strong India–Uzbekistan relations

Trust and cooperation between armed forces

Shared goal of peace and security

Origin & Strategic Context:

The exercise originated as part of growing India–Central Asia defence ties

Uzbekistan is important because:

It is located in a strategic region near Afghanistan

Faces similar terrorism and security challenges

India aims to:

Strengthen regional security cooperation

Expand its strategic presence in Central Asia

What Happens in the Exercise?

Joint combat drills

Counter-terrorism simulations

Special operations practice

Final 48-hour joint mission exercise

Why It Matters:

Improves interoperability (working together smoothly)

Builds military trust and coordination

Enhances readiness for real-world threats

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