

Newsletter.



Embassy of the
Republic of Uzbekistan
Islamabad



NATIONAL
PR CENTER



A celebration of
independence
for people bound by a
common destiny

We, the citizens of
Uzbekistan,
are one people, one country, one
family.

H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev





Celebrations marking Independence Day were held in the capital's "Yangi Uzbekiston" park.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev warmly congratulated all our people and compatriots abroad on the 34th anniversary of state independence.

- Today, on these momentous days, we are even more deeply aware of one vital truth. Thanks to the large-scale reforms initiated based on the idea of creating a New Uzbekistan, each of our compatriots feels in practice and widely enjoys the rights and freedoms granted by independence. It is thanks to this sublime idea that we have rethought our three thousand years of history and rich culture, revived the traditions of the First and Second Renaissances, and are confidently taking practical steps towards the Third Renaissance, - said the Head of State.

The Head of State expressed confidence that on this path, the state and society of New Uzbekistan will become a strong bridge connecting the glorious history of the country with a new, even brighter period of Renaissance.

It was noted that independence is based, above all, on a strong economy. The most important achievements of recent years were listed.

Despite the difficult global situation, Uzbekistan's economy is showing steady growth of over 6 percent. Over the past eight years, gross domestic product has doubled to \$115 billion, and by the end of this year, it is expected to grow to \$130 billion. Exports have reached \$26 billion, and gold and foreign exchange reserves have exceeded \$48 billion for the first time. The country has attracted about \$130 billion in foreign investment.

Thousands of modern enterprises and infrastructure facilities are being built right before our eyes. This year alone, about 9 thousand new enterprises and service complexes will be built with investments amounting to \$35 billion. The number of small and medium-sized businesses has doubled in eight years, and today more than 10 million people are employed in this

sector.

Since the beginning of the year, 5 million citizens have been provided with employment, and another 700 thousand of our compatriots have returned from abroad to their families. Thanks to the opening of Uzbekistan to the world, tourist traffic has exceeded 10 million people, and exports of tourist services have reached \$3 billion.

With the development of the economy and population growth, the need for safe and stable energy resources is increasing. Therefore, great strides have been made to increase the share of green energy.

Electricity production increased from 59 to 85 billion kWh, with 97 billion expected next year. This year, 6.5 billion kWh of green energy was produced, accounting for 30 percent of the total. By 2030, this figure is planned to be increased to 54 percent by attracting direct investments in the amount of \$35 billion.

The social sphere is developing, and living conditions are improving. Over the past eight years, more than 11 thousand multi-storey buildings have been built, or 31 million square metres of housing. This year, another 130 thousand modern apartments will be handed over to the population in the "Yangi Uzbekiston" housing estates and other areas.

The state's social policy is aimed at supporting those in need. As part of the "Hamrohlik" ("Support") program, 11 thousand children deprived of parental care are covered by education, vocational training, and sports. More than 2.5 million members of low-income families have received 110 types of assistance and services. As a result, the poverty rate has fallen to 6.8 percent.

The President emphasized that quality education and public health are the most important issues determining the future of the country. The number of places in kindergartens has been increased to 2.5 million, and 1 million additional places have been created in schools. The share of higher education coverage has grown from 9 to 42 percent.

Healthcare spending has increased sixfold,

and quality medical services are now available in mahallas. More than 400 high-tech operations are now performed in the regions. The average life expectancy has increased from 73.8 years to 75.1 years.

The achievements of young people in science, culture, and sports were highlighted separately. Addressing young people, the President said:

- Our dear children, always remember: happiness comes only to those who are determined, and victory comes only to those who fight! The future is created by the brave, and history is created by the victors. Always strive forward! The motherland, the people, and the President will always be a reliable support and backing for you in your good endeavors.

In his speech, the President also touched upon the geopolitical situation in the world. He emphasized that Uzbekistan's voice is confidently heard in the regional and international arena, and the country is becoming a venue for authoritative summits and forums. Uzbekistan's foreign policy position has been reaffirmed.

The Head of State sincerely welcomed the ambassadors of foreign states and representatives of international organizations present at the ceremony and expressed his gratitude to them for their effective cooperation.

Concluding his speech, Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the country's reforms will continue:

- We, the citizens of Uzbekistan, are one people, one country, one family. We share a common destiny and future, happiness and achievements. I am confident that each of our compatriots, deeply aware of these pressing and urgent demands of the times, will selflessly serve their beloved homeland in the name of its prosperity.

The celebrations ended with a grand concert featuring songs reflecting the rich culture and values of the people, their gratitude, and their aspirations for the future. The holiday was broadcast live on television and online, spreading its spirit to all regions of the country.



President of

Uzbekistan

advocates for solidarity, open dialogue and close
cooperation between the countries of the world



On September 23, general political debates of the 80th anniversary session of the UN General Assembly commenced at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, where President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev delivered a speech.

On the first day of the debates led by the session chair Annalena Baerbock, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, leaders of the member-states took part – President of the United States of America Donald Trump, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Republic of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of Korea Lee Jae Myung, President of France Emmanuel Macron, and heads of other countries.

In the beginning of his speech, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev sincerely congratulated the participants with the 80th anniversary session of the UN General Assembly. He drew attention to the issue that the current meeting is taking place in a complex, rapidly changing global situation that calls for new vision and approaches to the work and future of the Organization.

- Today we are witnessing the weakening of the role of international institutions, intensifying confrontations, conflicts and wars, as well as a rapid increase in the technological and social inequality, deepening of economic and humanitarian crises, - stated the leader of Uzbekistan.

The leader of our country gave a high assessment to the efforts of the Secretary-General António Guterres on maintaining the UN as the main platform for the peaceful resolution of the most difficult and pressing global issues. Support for the “UN80” initiatives and firm commitment of our country to the Pact for the Future were expressed.

The President of Uzbekistan also spoke in favour of transforming and expanding the membership of the UN Security Council in order to effectively address current threats and challenges, protect the interests of the developing countries.

The Head of State reviewed in-detail the processes of irreversible reforms in Uzbekistan, carried out in full alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. As was noted, our country consistently pursues the policy to build a democratic, rule-based, social and secular New Uzbekistan.

- Our main goal is to fundamentally

transform the lives of each family and each citizen in our country, to ensure human interests, human dignity and well-being, - stated the President.

It was mentioned that in recent years, it has been managed to reduce the poverty rate in Uzbekistan from 35 to 6.6 percent. This result was achieved primarily through the education and science sector transformation, establishment of innovative industries and technological industrial enterprises, green energy development and transport infrastructure modernization, comprehensive support of small businesses, and, consequently, the creation of millions of jobs.

Preschool education coverage in our country has increased from 27 to 78 percent, the

strengthening the role of women in the social, political and business life of the country. In this context, he advocated for regular holding of the Asian Women's Forum in the vast region, turning it into a permanent platform.

Highlighting Uzbekistan's strong commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the President noted that by 2030 the country intends to join the ranks of “upper-middle-income” countries.

Separate attention has been paid to the priorities of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. The leader of the country mentioned: “Eight years ago, from this esteemed podium, we declared our strong determination to transform Central Asia into a region of peace, good neighbourliness and partnership.



higher education – from 9 to 42 percent. Enhancing the prestige of the teaching and mentoring profession remains the most important priority.

In order to create a single international platform for the exchange of teachers' experience and knowledge, it was proposed to hold a World Summit on professional education in Uzbekistan.

Mentioning the creation of an advanced healthcare system, the leader of our country also informed that at the initiative of the Uzbek side a high-level event will be held dedicated to the issues of combating children cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Touching upon the topic of gender policy, the Head of our state announced on further

Today, we can confidently declare that we have achieved this strategic goal. The era of closed borders, unresolved disputes and conflicts is in the past”.

It was noted that in the past years the volume of mutual trade, investments and transportation of goods in the region has increased fivefold. Joint investment funds, cross-border trade and industrial cooperation zones are being created, and major infrastructure projects are being implemented.

An effective mechanism for deepening regional integration became the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia.

- I can confidently affirm that as of now, we

have started the process of forming the New Central Asia. Our region, thanks to its unity, stability and distinct identity, is steadily securing a stronger position in the system of international relations as an independent actor, - stated the President.

The Head of State proposed to implement a number of new projects and programs in the region jointly with the UN structures, in particular - holding an international forum under the auspices of ECOSOC and UNCTAD dedicated to the economic development of the Central Asian states, establishing a regional hub for green technologies in industry jointly with UNIDO, adopting programs on the rational use of water resources, creating "green" spaces, and ensuring demographic resilience.

Moreover, the adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution supporting the efforts of the Central Asian countries aimed at deepening regional partnership and economic integration was initiated.

In the context of global and regional security, the President of Uzbekistan touched upon the situation in Afghanistan. To support the aspirations of the Afghan people for a peaceful and stable life, he advocated for the united efforts of the international community, especially emphasizing the

a separate UN resolution on the development of transport and energy corridors passing through the territory of this country.

Speaking about the deepening humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, the President called for the end to military actions and continuation of political negotiations.

- We strongly support the implementation of the principle of "two state solution" in accordance with UN resolutions, - mentioned the President from the Organization's high podium.

Expressing serious concern about the situation in Ukraine, he welcomed the start of high-level dialogue on its resolution



Reintegration, created in cooperation with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, into an International Competence Center. The center would serve as an important platform for exchanging expertise on adapting to peaceful life for those repatriated from conflict zones.

The President also announced the readiness to create all the necessary conditions for the establishment of a regional Office of Counter-Terrorism in Uzbekistan.

The leader of our country highlighted that the vulnerability of the global transport system in the current turbulent world creates negative impacts on the stability of landlocked developing countries.

To ensure the security of international transit corridors and to establish efficient logistics networks, he called for the implementation of a Global mechanism on "Strengthening transport connectivity to achieve Sustainable Development Goals".

The President of Uzbekistan also drew attention to the climate change problem, which is becoming increasingly acute. As he mentioned, the negative consequences of the Aral Sea desiccation must remain at the constant attention of the international community.

- We are consistently continuing our work to restore the Aral Sea ecosystem. In recent years, salt-tolerant desert plants have been planted on 2 million hectares of the dried seabed of the Sea. By 2030, green cover will be created on 80 percent of this area, - emphasized the Head of State.

Turning to the issue of water resources scarcity, the President shared plans on organizing a World Forum on water saving



prevention of this country's isolation.

It was mentioned that Uzbekistan plans to implement major economic and infrastructure projects in this country.

The leader of our country proposed to adopt

through diplomatic means.

Continuing the topic of security, the Head of state pointed to the effective implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. It was proposed to transform the Regional Council on Rehabilitation and

in Uzbekistan. Following the event, it's planned to recognize the water crisis as a serious threat to sustainable development, as well as to adopt a "roadmap" for the wide introduction of innovation technologies globally.

The President identified the intensifying trend of climate migration as another adverse consequence of climate change, highlighting the absence of clear international mechanisms and a legal framework for resolving this issue. In this regard, he advocated for the adoption of a Global Pact for a broad international partnership and leading a coordinated policy on this serious issue.

In the context of ensuring sustainable development of all countries, the leader of Uzbekistan drew attention to the significance of preventing inequalities in digital development and the use of artificial intelligence between countries. In this context, it was proposed to create an International cooperation mechanism for the gratis exchange of practical solutions and models of artificial intelligence in healthcare, education and culture.

- I would like to emphasize another priority issue. Our future, the destiny, and the prosperity of the world are in the hands of the younger generation. It is our urgent task to instill in the minds of our youth the noble ideas, such as peace, humanism and friendship, mutual trust and respect, - stated the Leader of our country.

In this regard, the proposal was put forward to establish the World youth movement for peace and to locate its headquarters in Uzbekistan.

As mentioned the President, Uzbekistan will actively continue to deeply study and promote Islamic enlightenment ideas to the world, while consistently implementing a policy of tolerance in the society. In the coming months, the Center of Islamic Civilization will open in Tashkent, which is unique for the region. It's planned to hold a special presentation at the UN of the rich spiritual and scientific heritage of our great ancestors – thinkers and scholars Imam Bukhari, Imam Termizi and Imam Maturidi.

Concluding his speech, Shavkat Mirziyoyev stated that the New Uzbekistan advocates for solidarity, open dialogue and close cooperation with all countries in the world, and is ready to contribute to strengthening dialogue among nations, cultures and civilizations, achieving universal human goals.

Our Future Lies in Human Dignity, Education, and Global Cooperation.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev:



On August 19, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received a delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan headed by the chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza.

The distinguished guest passed to the Head of our State sincere greetings and best wishes of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif.

Issues of further development of Uzbek-

Pakistani relations of multifaceted cooperation and strategic partnership in the context of implementing agreements reached during the visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister to Uzbekistan in February this year, were discussed.

The activation of mutual contacts and exchanges on various levels has been noted with satisfaction. Since the beginning of the year, the volume of trade turnover grew by 23 percent, cargo transportation – by 50

percent. Trade houses are open in the cities of Karachi and Lahore. The frequency of direct flights has been increased.

Issues of practical cooperation in military and military-technical spheres were reviewed, including in the field of combating modern challenges and security risks.

Special attention was paid to the soonest practical implementation of the provisions of the signed trilateral agreement on the Trans-Afghan railroad construction project.



President of Uzbekistan receives Pakistan delegation



A complex worthy of the great heritage of Imam Bukhari

Upon his arrival in Samarkand, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, according to tradition, first visited the mausoleum of Imam Bukhari. Suras from the Quran and duas were recited.

The Head of State familiarized himself with the creative work being carried out here.

The great muhaddis is deeply revered throughout the Islamic world, and thousands of people strive to see his mausoleum. In order to create more spacious conditions for pilgrims, a grand architectural complex is being built here.

The territory of the shrine has been expanded to 44 hectares. A mausoleum, a mosque for 10 thousand people, and an administrative building have been built. Four 75-meter-high minarets give the ensemble a special grandeur.

Finishing work is currently underway. Calligraphic inscriptions with hadiths from Sahih al-Bukhari are being applied to the portals and walls of the ayvans.

The President emphasized that this complex should become not only a place of worship, but also a center of science, education, upbringing and moral example. It was noted that the great works, knowledge and human qualities of Imam Bukhari are a noble

example for everyone, especially for young people.

To this end, an innovative museum is being created as part of the new complex. It will showcase the life and scientific legacy of Imam Bukhari, recognized in the Islamic world as the “sultan of muhaddiths”, as well as his contribution to the development of Islamic science and education. The museum will feature exhibits on the history of the 25 prophets mentioned in the Quran, the lineage of the Prophet Muhammad, his life in Mecca

and Medina, and information on the collection and recording of hadiths.

Near the complex, the construction of a hotel and other facilities for pilgrims is nearing completion.

The Head of State gave instructions to complete the work to a high standard, expand amenities for visitors and increase the number of green areas around the complex.





Umid Shadiev,
Chairman of the Tourism
Committee of Uzbekistan

Tourism in Uzbekistan is experiencing a period of rapid growth. More and more travelers are discovering Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and other gems of the country, and the government is prioritizing the development of the sector, viewing it as one of the key drivers of the national economy.

In January-August 2025 alone, over 7.5 million tourists visited Uzbekistan, and the flow continues to grow compared to the previous year. This figure reflects the country's steady rise on the global tourism map and demonstrates that comprehensive efforts in infrastructure development, workforce training, and cultural heritage preservation are yielding results.

Tourism development in Uzbekistan is also

driven by active international engagement. Since 1993, the country's partnership with UN Tourism has played a central role in positioning Uzbekistan as a leader in global tourism.

From the outset, Uzbekistan has aimed not just to participate, but to take a leading role



in shaping international tourism policy. The country was the driving force that proposed and successfully secured the adoption of such key documents as the Samarkand Declaration (1994), the Khiva Declaration (1999), and the Bukhara Declaration (2002). These initiatives laid a solid foundation for the revival and promotion of tourism, particularly along the historic Great Silk Road, and helped draw the attention of the

international community to the preservation of the region's unique cultural heritage.

Over the past years, Uzbekistan's initiatives have expanded their impact and achieved worldwide recognition. At Uzbekistan's proposal, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2027 as the

International Year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism – an important recognition of the country's initiatives that received support from over 80 UN member states. Uzbekistan proposed the creation of the Global Code of Safe Tourism, aimed at establishing international standards in this field. To implement this

initiative, an intergovernmental commission was established, with Uzbekistan unanimously elected as its chair. Finally, in February 2025, the country officially joined the International Code for the Protection of Tourists, reaffirming its commitment to travelers' rights and modern safety standards.

Cooperation with UN Tourism is

comprehensive and covers all aspects of tourism development. One of the most important areas is the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. Under the “Silk Road” program, Uzbekistan is recognized as one of the organization's leading partners. A thematic office operates in Samarkand, consolidating projects, initiatives, and research related to the international “Silk Road” brand under the Organization’s aegis. This office is tasked with coordinating the activities of UN Tourism and tourism experts aimed at intensifying travel along the “Silk Road” for further assessment and the development of recommendations.

Alongside this, the country places great emphasis on capacity building: the International Tourism Academy has been established in Samarkand, offering both short-term and long-term training programs. The Academy’s partner is the prestigious Swiss school Les Roches, whose methodologies enable the training of specialists in accordance with global standards of the hospitality industry.

International events held in Uzbekistan play a key role in the country’s cooperation with UN Tourism. The highlight was the 25th anniversary session of the UN Tourism General Assembly, held in Samarkand in



October 2023. Representatives from over 140 countries participated, and Samarkand was declared the World Capital of Cultural Tourism. The Assembly featured investment and educational forums attended by more than 1,200 specialists from 127 countries. Important agreements were signed, and both the International Tourism Academy and the thematic “Silk Road” office were inaugurated. This event confirmed Uzbekistan’s ability not only to host major international forums but also to set the agenda for global tourism development.

These achievements demonstrate that

Uzbekistan has become one of the leaders in international tourism. The country is not limited to developing its domestic industry but actively shapes new standards and values for the world. In the coming years, the Academy’s educational programs are expected to expand, alongside new initiatives within the framework of the UN Tourism. All of this strengthens Uzbekistan’s position as a key tourism hub that unites historical heritage, modern infrastructure, and international leadership.





New Uzbekistan Builds Bridges of Progress, Prosperity, and Partnership with Pakistan

Speech of the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan



Honorable Chief Guest, Federal Minister for Railways Mr. Muhammad Hanif Abbasi Sahib, Dear Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum and very good evening!

It is a great honor for me to welcome you all to this reception dedicated to the 34th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

For every Uzbek, this day is not just a holiday. It is the heartbeat of our nation. It is the day when the dream of millions of families – to live under their own flag, in a free country – became a reality.

Independence is not an abstract word. It is the smile of a child walking to school with bright eyes and his first book in hand. It is the tears of joy of a mother who knows her son has a future. It is the pride of an old man who lifts his head to the sky and sees the flag of his homeland flying freely.

Dear Friends,

Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has entered a new era – the era of the New Uzbekistan. We proudly say that we are reviving the traditions of the First and Second Renaissances, and we are confidently moving toward the Third Renaissance – a bridge between our famous past and a bright future of revival and progress.

Let me share with you what Independence means in real terms.

Despite global challenges, Uzbekistan's economy is growing by more than 6 percent every year. In just eight years, our GDP has doubled – reaching 115 billion US dollars last year, and is expected to exceed 130 billion this year. Exports have grown to 26 billion dollars, while our gold and foreign exchange reserves have, for the first time, surpassed 48 billion dollars.

Over the past years, Uzbekistan has attracted about 130 billion dollars in foreign investment. And this year alone, 35 billion dollars of investments are creating almost 9,000 new enterprises and service

complexes. On the eve of Independence Day, 79 major projects worth 4 billion dollars were launched – a true gift to our people for the holiday.

The number of small and medium-sized businesses has doubled, and today they employ more than 10 million people. At the beginning of this year, we set the ambitious goal of creating 5.5 million new jobs. In just eight months, 5 million people have already been employed. Most touching of all – 700,000 of our compatriots who had been working abroad returned home, believing in the future of their country.

Uzbekistan is opening wider to the world. Last year, more than 10 million tourists visited our country, bringing more than 3 billion dollars in revenue. By 2030, we aim to attract an additional 35 billion dollars of investment and increase the share of renewable “green” energy to 54 percent.

Today, Uzbekistan is no longer just an exporter of raw materials. Our industrial output has grown from 29 billion dollars in 2017 to 70 billion dollars today. Modern technologies and new knowledge are transforming every sector, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs and building a strong workforce for the future.

And of course, our pride is not only in the economy.

For the first time in history, the national football team of Uzbekistan has qualified for

the World Cup! This historic success united millions of hearts, showing that the spirit of Uzbekistan can reach the highest peaks – in sports, in science, in culture, and in every area of life.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Uzbekistan and Pakistan are connected not only by economic interests. We are bound by centuries of shared history, culture, and spirituality. Today, these ties are gaining new strength, turning into a true strategic partnership built on trust, respect, and brotherhood.

In February this year, the official visit of Honorable Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to Uzbekistan was a milestone. Our leaders signed the Joint Declaration and the Protocol on establishing the High Council of Strategic Partnership. This historic step laid the foundation for long-term and multi-dimensional cooperation.

Today, we are working together on projects of historic importance – above all, the Trans-Afghan Railway, which will connect not only Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, but CIS countries with South Asia, opening huge opportunities for regional trade and integration.

Our trade is also growing rapidly. In 2024, turnover exceeded 404.5 million US dollars. In just the first seven months of this year, it reached 320 million dollars – an increase of 126 percent compared to last year. Uzbekistan has become Pakistan's largest trading partner in Central Asia. Our leaders have set a goal to bring this figure to 2 billion dollars, and steps such as exhibitions, trade houses, new air routes, and cultural exchanges are already bringing us closer to this target.

Equally important are our humanitarian ties. Uzbekistan has simplified the visa regime for Pakistani brothers, sisters, and opened direct flights between Tashkent and Lahore, as well as Tashkent and Islamabad. Business forums, roadshows, and cultural events held this year in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and many another cities of Pakistan attracted great interest and strengthened people-to-people connections.

Distinguished Guests,



As we celebrate the Independence Day of Uzbekistan today, let me express my deep gratitude to the Government and people of Pakistan, to the diplomatic corps, the business community, academics, cultural figures, the media, and all friends of Uzbekistan for being here with us.

This evening, you will enjoy the tastes, the



music, and the traditions of Uzbekistan – the living soul of our nation.

On behalf of the people and leadership of Uzbekistan, I wish the brotherly people of Pakistan peace, prosperity, and continued success.

پاکستان کے عزیز بھائیو اور بہنو

جو چیز ازبک اور پاکستانی عوام کو ایک کرتی ہے وہ محض

سفارتی کاری نہیں ہے۔ ہم صدیوں پرانے بھائی چارے، ایمان، مشترکہ تاریخ اور ثقافت کے رشتوں میں بندھے ہوئے ہیں۔ یہ رشتے وقت کے ساتھ کمزور نہیں ہوئے بلکہ آج یہ اور زیادہ مضبوط ہو رہے ہیں۔

ہم دیکھتے ہیں کہ دن بہ دن ہمارا تجارتی اور معاشی تعاون بڑھ رہا ہے، ہماری ثقافتی اور انسانی وابستگیوں فروغ پا رہی ہیں، اور ہماری تعلیمی و سائنسی تبادلے مزید گہرے ہو رہے ہیں۔ یہ سب ہماری دوستی کی بنیاد کو مزید مضبوط بنا رہے ہیں۔

مجھے پورا یقین ہے کہ ازبکستان اور پاکستان ہمیشہ شانہ بشانہ چلیں گے۔ دو برابر ممالک کی طرح جو ایک

دوسرے کی کامیابیوں پر دل سے خوش ہوتے ہیں اور ایک مشترکہ مستقبل کی امید رکھتے ہیں۔ ہماری دوستی ہمیشہ قائم رہے اور پورے خطے کے لیے ایک مثال بنے!

ازبکستان-پاکستان اسٹریٹجک شراکت داری زندہ باد!

Happy Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan!

Thank you for your attention.

Uzbekistan Embassy Celebrates National Day with Grandeur at Serena Hotel, Islamabad

By Newsletter Uzbekistan – Islamabad Bureau

Islamabad, Pakistan — The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Islamabad marked Uzbekistan's National Day with a grand diplomatic reception and cultural evening at the prestigious Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The event brought together ambassadors, senior government officials, business leaders, and cultural figures from both Uzbekistan and Pakistan, reaffirming the growing friendship between the two brotherly nations.

Celebrating 34 Years of Independence

The National Day reception commemorated the 34th anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence, a milestone reflecting the country's remarkable journey of reform, modernization, and international cooperation since 1991. The ballroom of Serena Hotel was adorned with the vibrant colors of the Uzbek flag, traditional motifs, and visual displays showcasing the nation's cultural and historical heritage.

H.E. Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev, addressing the gathering, warmly welcomed the guests and expressed gratitude for Pakistan's continuous support and friendship. "Uzbekistan and Pakistan are united by deep historical, religious, and

cultural bonds. Today, we are witnessing a new era of dynamic cooperation under the leadership of our two brotherly countries," he said. The Ambassador highlighted the ongoing progress in trade, tourism, and regional connectivity projects, emphasizing the strategic importance of people-to-people diplomacy.

Dignitaries and Guests

The event was attended by a distinguished

Cultural Splendor and Uzbek Hospitality

Following the formal speeches, the audience was treated to an enchanting cultural performance by Uzbek artists who presented traditional dances, folk music, and songs that celebrated the rich heritage of the Silk Road civilization. The performances received warm applause from the guests, many of whom captured the colorful moments on camera.

An exhibition corner displayed photographs of Uzbekistan's historical cities — Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Tashkent — along with handicrafts and cultural symbols, offering guests a glimpse into the country's timeless beauty and craftsmanship.

A Taste of Uzbekistan

Guests were later invited to a lavish dinner featuring authentic Uzbek cuisine — including plov, samsa, and

shashlik — prepared specially for the evening. The aroma of traditional dishes and the warm hospitality of the embassy team created a true atmosphere of friendship and cultural celebration.

Strengthening Bilateral Ties

In his remarks, Ambassador Tukhtaev also underlined the significance of enhanced



audience including representatives from Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, parliamentarians, diplomats from various missions, academia, media, and business communities. Several prominent Pakistani officials congratulated the Government and People of Uzbekistan on the auspicious occasion, expressing confidence that bilateral relations will continue to flourish across multiple domains.

cooperation in tourism and education. “We welcome Pakistani tourists, students, and investors to explore Uzbekistan — a land of history, spirituality, and modern opportunity,” he noted.

The event also provided a networking platform for diplomats, business leaders, and cultural representatives from both nations, paving the way for future collaborations in trade, tourism, and academic exchange.

A Night of Friendship and Cultural Harmony

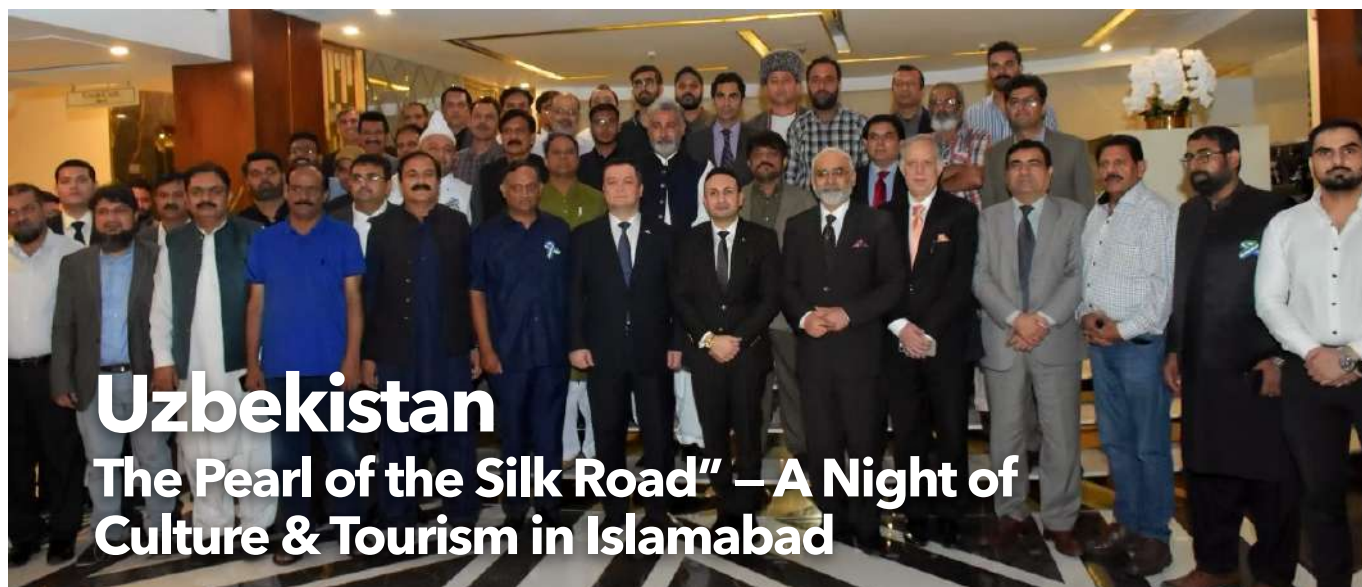
The Uzbekistan National Day celebration at Serena Hotel not only honored the country's independence but also symbolized the enduring partnership and shared aspirations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. The evening concluded with expressions of goodwill and mutual respect, leaving guests inspired by the depth of Uzbek culture and the strength of bilateral friendship.

As Newsletter Uzbekistan observed, the celebration was more than a diplomatic event — it was a vibrant reminder that the historical connection between the peoples of Uzbekistan and Pakistan continues to thrive through art, culture, and mutual understanding.

The Uzbekistan Embassy's National Day celebration at Serena Hotel was not only a commemoration of independence but also a celebration of unity, diplomacy, and shared heritage.

It reflected Uzbekistan's forward-looking vision and its commitment to strengthening ties with Pakistan and the international community. The evening concluded with warm applause, photographs, and an enduring sense of goodwill among all attendees.





By Newsletter Uzbekistan, Islamabad journey.
Correspondent



The audience comprised a blend of diplomats, Pakistani government officials, tourism professionals, media representatives, cultural figures, and members of the Uzbek diaspora. Among the dignitaries:

H.E. Alisher Tukhtaev,
Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan,
Coordinator to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Tourism (Guest of Honor)

Aftab ur Rehman Rana,
Managing Director, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC)

On the evening of 2 September, the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad hosted a dazzling Tourism & Cultural Show under the evocative title “Uzbekistan: The Pearl of the Silk Road” at the Best Western Hotel, Islamabad. The event sought to enchant Pakistani audiences with Uzbekistan’s treasures — from heritage and artistry to landscapes and hospitality — while deepening diplomatic, cultural, and tourism ties between the two nations.

The ballroom of the Best Western Hotel was transformed into a microcosm of Uzbekistan. Rich textiles, vibrant decorative motifs, regional artifacts, and ambient lighting conjured the ambience of ancient caravanserais along the Silk Road. Guests were greeted by Uzbek hosts and ushers in traditional dress, offering Uzbek sweets and aromatic teas.

As participants took their seats, soft strains of Uzbek instrumental music filled the hall, setting the tone for an immersive cultural

Mr. Hamid Mahmood, Representative of the Uzbekistan Tourism Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Pakistan, delivered an insightful presentation highlighting Uzbekistan’s rich cultural heritage and growing potential as a premier tourist destination.

In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Tukhtaev underlined the event as more than a celebration — it was a strategic cultural outreach, reflecting Uzbekistan’s commitment to tourism diplomacy and people-to-people ties. He recalled the deep historic bonds linking Uzbekistan and Pakistan along the Silk Road and called for stronger cooperation in hospitality, travel packages, and heritage tourism.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan and Aftab Rana echoed the importance of the event as a platform to broaden Pakistan’s tourism lens

beyond domestic destinations, and to consider Pakistan-Uzbekistan circuits for regional travelers.

A centerpiece of the evening was a series of choreographed dance performances drawn from Uzbekistan’s diverse regions. Dancers clad in luminous traditional costumes presented rhythmic folk traditions — particularly from Khorezm, Bukhara, and Fergana — weaving together expressive hand movements, poetic gestures, and storytelling through movement. The performances struck a delicate balance between elegance and energy, capturing the essence of Uzbek cultural identity.

Musical accompaniment — performed live — included traditional Uzbek instruments such as the dutar, doira, and nay, offering melodic interludes and transitions between dance sets. The chants and harmonies resonated, transporting audiences across time and geography.

In a foyer adjoining the main hall, a curated photo and artifact exhibition invited guests to explore Uzbekistan’s architectural marvels (e.g. Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva), ancient madrassas, mosques, and mosaics. Displays included miniature works,



manuscripts, traditional textiles, and replicas of architectural detailing, all accompanied by captions and interpretive panels.

This visual narrative allowed attendees to visually trace Uzbekistan's evolution from Silk Road hub to modern nation, and to appreciate its gifts to world heritage.

Interspersed with the performances, guests were treated to a culinary odyssey — a menu featuring classic Uzbek dishes like plov (pilaf), samsa, shashlik, lagman, and a selection of regional desserts. Each dish was presented with background commentary on its origin and cultural significance, enabling participants not only to taste but to understand the gastronomic heritage.

Tables were set in a communal configuration to encourage conversation, and servers in

Tourism as a Bridge: The show framed tourism not merely as business but as a pathway to mutual understanding — connecting hearts, cultures, and economies.

Silk Road Revival in Modern Garb: Uzbekistan positioned itself as restoring Silk Road linkages through modern infrastructure, direct flight routes, visa facilitation, and cultural exchange.

Shared Heritage & Civilizational Bonds: The event emphasized centuries of religious, cultural, and intellectual exchange between Central and South Asia, and framed Pakistan and Uzbekistan as custodians of connected histories.

Call to Pakistani Travel Industry: The Ambassador explicitly invited Pakistani tour operators, hoteliers, and investors to



power footprint in Pakistan, projecting an image of openness, cultural richness, and forward-looking partnership. It also provided the Pakistani tourism sector with concrete

One observation for future editions: extend



national dress added to the immersive ambiance.

Several recurring themes underscored the evening:



collaborate on joint packages, themed travel circuits, and hospitality projects.

Two-Way Engagement: While promoting Uzbek destinations, speakers also praised Pakistan's heritage sites, northern valleys, and cultural diversity — reinforcing that tourism can flow in both directions.

By the close of the night, the audience — visibly engaged and appreciably moved — had received a holistic experience of Uzbekistan: visually, aurally, and gastronomically. Many attendees expressed eagerness to explore Uzbek destinations, and several tour-industry participants initiated networking overtures.

From a diplomatic-cultural perspective, the event reinforced Uzbekistan's active soft

interactive segments such as Q&A with artists, digital virtual reality tours of Uzbek cities, or direct vendor booths promoting travel deals.

The “Uzbekistan: The Pearl of the Silk Road” show at Best Western Islamabad succeeded not just as a celebration but as a cultural bridge. It illuminated Uzbekistan's heritage, artistry, and strategic vision, while laying groundwork for enhanced tourism collaboration with Pakistan.

Going forward, the seeds planted this evening could blossom into joint tourism circuits, cultural exchange programs, and cross-border journeys that revitalize the Silk Road legacy in contemporary times.

Congratulation team
Uzbekistan



**A historic achievement
uniting our people
further**





President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended the national football team of Uzbekistan match at the Bunyodkor Stadium on June 10.

The final game of the World Cup qualifying stage became a true celebration of Uzbek football. But our players had already secured their place in the World Cup: for the first time in history, Uzbekistan's national team will participate in the FIFA World Cup!

A dream cherished for many years by millions of fans has become a reality. Until now, the team participated in seven qualifying campaigns, but something was always missing — an inconvenient schedule, goal difference, or just a bit more skill.

To eliminate room for excuses, strength and infrastructure were needed. By the Decree of the President dated March 16, 2018, a football development program for 2018–2022 was adopted. Football academies for children and youth were established in 14 regions of the country, where talented young people are selected, professionally trained and prepared as a reserve for the national



teams. The quality of training and tournaments has improved. Special attention

has been given to the preparation of coaches, referees and specialists.

On December 4, 2019, the President signed a Decree “On measures to bring the development of football in Uzbekistan to a completely new stage”. The document envisioned the development of clubs, training of international specialists, organization of modern training and teaching

processes for national teams and hosting of prestigious competitions in the country. A decree of the President dated April 8, 2023, on the comprehensive development of both mass and professional football was also of great significance.

Due to such a focused and systematic approach, the first major results began to appear. In 2018, our U-23 team became the champion of Asia in China, and in 2023 the U-20 team repeated this success at the tournament held in Tashkent. Hosting tournaments under the auspices of FIFA and the AFC also began in the country.

In 2024, a new chapter in Uzbek football began — for the first time in history, the youth under 23 national team participated in the Olympic Games.

The success continues this year as well. In April, our players under 17 won the Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia and secured a spot in the World Cup. And now, the main national team has achieved a historic victory.

Uzbekistan competed in Group “A” of the third qualifying round. For nearly a year, our team competed against Iran, Qatar, the UAE, Kyrgyzstan and North Korea. On June 5 the match against the UAE ended in a draw. By the end of the 9th round, the national team had accumulated 18 points and secured a spot in the World Cup ahead of schedule.

In his congratulatory message, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that our footballers demonstrated true courage and resilience in turning the dream of the Uzbek

people into a reality.

- I am confident that this historic victory will further unite our people on the path toward noble goals, become a source of inspiration and an example for thousands of our young people, and contribute to strengthening the international standing of the New Uzbekistan, — emphasized the Head of State.

And indeed, this historic victory united and delighted the entire nation. The final match of the qualifying stage — Uzbekistan vs. Qatar — turned into a true celebration.

In front of the eyes of the devoted fans, the Uzbekistan national team demonstrated complete dominance and achieved a victory with a score of 3:0.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 6, for the country's first-ever qualification for the World Cup and for the contribution to instilling a spirit of love for



sports and national pride in the youth, a group of footballers and coaches from the Uzbekistan's national team were awarded state honors. A ceremony of awarding the honors took place after the match.

The Head of State presented honorary titles, orders and medals to the athletes. In addition, the players and specialists were gifted BYD brand cars.

The football celebration concluded with a drone show and fireworks.

The World Cup of 2026 will be held from June 11 to July 19 in the United States, Canada and Mexico. 48 teams will participate in the tournament, divided into 12 groups. The teams advancing to the next stage will be the ones who took the first and second places, as well as the top 8 among the third places. Our people eagerly await new victories from our players.



HOSTS CONFIRMED FOR FIFA U-20 WORLD CUP 2027

AZERBAIJAN AND UZBEKISTAN WILL CO-HOST
THE NEXT EDITION OF THE TOURNAMENT

Uzbek Parliamentary Leader Visits Pakistan to Deepen Legislative Ties

A high-level parliamentary delegation from Uzbekistan, led by Hon. Nurdinjon (Nuriddin) Mo'yidinxonovich Ismoilov, Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, arrived in Islamabad on 29 September 2025 for an official visit aimed at bolstering inter-

Dawn+1

Speaker Ismoilov, in his remarks, acknowledged Pakistan's strategic weight in South Asia, particularly in realms of trade corridors, energy cooperation, and regional connectivity. He praised Pakistan's diplomatic handling of regional tensions and called for joint efforts on climate change mitigation. Dawn+2Media Online Today+2

Ismoilov also affirmed that relations between the two countries rest on "brotherhood, mutual trust and shared interests" and that deeper parliamentary engagement would further strengthen bonds between their peoples. Media Online Today+1

During his visit, Speaker Ismoilov and his delegation toured the corridors of Pakistan's Parliament House, inscribing messages in the official guestbooks and exchanging souvenirs with Pakistani counterparts. Media

establishment of a High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council was agreed upon. Dunya News+2The Diplomatic Insight+2

Parliamentary diplomacy energized: The visit reaffirms the centrality of legislative engagement in deepening bilateral relations. Dawn+2Media Online Today+2

Trade & connectivity ambitions: Both sides emphasized leveraging geographic advantages and infrastructure linkages to accelerate trade growth and transit routes.

Common global challenges: Issues such as climate change, regional stability, and environmental security were identified as priority areas for joint consultation and action.

Cultural diplomacy as a bridge: The delegation's visits to cultural sites and public exchanges underscored the importance of soft power in cementing people-to-people



parliamentary relations, economic cooperation, and regional connectivity. National Assembly of Pakistan+2Dawn+2

Invited by Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the Uzbek delegation was welcomed with formal courtesies at Parliament House. National Assembly of Pakistan+2Media Online Today+2 During a meeting between the two Speakers, both sides underscored the deep historical, cultural, and civilisational bonds tying Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Speaker Sadiq highlighted the critical role parliamentary diplomacy plays in promoting peace, regional integration, and institutional synergies. He proposed enhanced collaboration via the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Friendship Group and encouraged Uzbekistan to leverage Pakistan's strategic links to seaports like Gwadar and Karachi for greater trade access.

Online Today+1 They also visited cultural landmarks in the capital, notably the Lok Virsa Museum, Faisal Mosque, and the Pakistan Monument, gaining insight into Pakistan's heritage and national symbols. X (formerly Twitter)

At a meeting held in the Presidency, the delegation met with Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, where discussions ranged from economic cooperation and regional ties to parliamentary linkages. Dunya News The parties highlighted growing bilateral trade (which has risen from about USD 27 million to USD 111 million) and agreed on the goal of raising it to USD 2 billion within the next four years. Dunya News

They also reflected on the recent visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister to Tashkent, during which multiple MOUs and agreements were signed, and the

ties.

Speaker Nurdin Ismoilov's visit to Pakistan marked a significant step in elevating Uzbekistan-Pakistan parliamentary relations from symbolic cooperation to actionable engagement. By merging institutional dialogues, economic strategy, and cultural exchange, the visit lays a sturdy foundation for future collaboration in trade, infrastructure, environment, and legislative partnership.

As both countries look ahead, the momentum built in Islamabad promises expanded legislation-driven diplomacy and deeper trust between their peoples.

Reported for Newsletter Uzbekistan — Islamabad Desk

Date: September 29 – October 1, 2025



Islamabad, Pakistan — In a landmark gathering to celebrate millennia of shared history and culture, the Embassy of Uzbekistan, in collaboration with Islamabad's esteemed MUSLIM Institute, organized the international conference titled “Uzbekistan and Pakistan: Shared Cultural Heritage.”

Held at the Islamabad Club on 22 September 2025, the conference drew historians, scholars, diplomats, and cultural figures from both nations and beyond to examine the deep civilizational bonds linking Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

The Uzbek delegation was led by Senator Azamat Ziyo, Director of the Institute of History under the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. In his opening address, Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev emphasized that Uzbekistan is currently undertaking sweeping reforms not only in governance and economy, but also in the fields of culture, history, and scholarship. He asserted that joint research into the shared historical narratives of Uzbekistan and Pakistan is a key strategic priority.

Ambassador Tukhtaev observed that the conference underscores a common goal: to bring historian communities closer, to rediscover shared roots, and to open pathways for cultural, educational, and scholarly collaboration.

The conference featured a distinguished roster of speakers and guests:

Sultan Muhammad Ali, Founder of the MUSLIM Institute App.com.pk+1

Sardar Masood Khan, former President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir

General (Retd.) Ehsanul Haq, ex-Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Committee

Dr. Azmat Ziyo, senator and historian from Uzbekistan

Ali Shir Takhtiyav, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan

Pakistani scholars and institutional leaders including Dr. Zafar Nawaz Jaspal (QAU), Dr. Uzma Siraj (NACTA), Dr. Saira Alvi, Dr. Shujahat Hashmi, and others

Diplomatic representatives from Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, and other countries also attended, symbolizing the regional reach and importance of the event.

The conference centered on several interwoven themes:

Deep historical continuities: Speakers traced shared legacies—from ancient civilizations (Harappa, the Kushan period) through the

historical memory.

Cooperation in education, tourism, and research: The assembly advocated for institutional linkages between universities, museums, research centers, and cultural institutions in both countries.

One notable reference was made to collaborative projects in defense, agriculture, student-faculty exchange programs, and to how cultural partnerships extend even into defense nomenclature (e.g. naming military assets).

The format included formal panels, moderated discussions, and a question-and-answer session, allowing participants to interact and debate ideas. App.com.pk+1 At the close, speakers were honored with commemorative plaques in recognition of their contributions.

The audience comprised academics, think-tank researchers, students, cultural activists, and media personnel from Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

The conference was widely seen as a milestone in diplomatic and cultural engagement, reinforcing that Uzbekistan–Pakistan relations go beyond partnership into shared heritage.

Concrete proposals emerged: joint exhibitions, translation of historical works, museum partnerships, and academic exchange programs between Uzbek and Pakistani universities.

Future plans were floated to hold similar events in Lahore, and to deepen cooperation with Pakistani institutions such as museums, libraries, and cultural centers.

The conference also underscored the strategic value of cultural diplomacy in reinforcing friendship and trust across borders.

“Uzbekistan and Pakistan: Shared Cultural Heritage” provided more than a forum—it reignited conversations about identity, memory, and cooperation. The legacy of this conference will depend on sustained collaboration, institutional follow-ups, and seeing ideas translated into joint projects.

For Newsletter Uzbekistan, this event signals a renewed chapter in Central-South Asian bridges, reminding that culture and history are enduring threads tying nations across centuries.



Silk Road exchanges to the Timurid and Mughal eras.

Spiritual and cultural ties: Emphasis was placed on Sufi traditions (especially the Naqshbandi order), religious scholarship, and intellectual interchange across the region.

Preservation of heritage: Many speakers called for collaborative efforts to protect manuscripts, monuments, and oral traditions. Translation projects, archival digitization, and joint cultural events were proposed.

Contemporary challenges & narratives: A portion of the discussion addressed cultural identity in the modern era, and concerns over reinterpretation or erasure of shared histories in education systems. Some speakers flagged the need to guard against ideological pressures that might displace

Uzbekistan at 34

A Journey of Renewal, Reform,
and Global Engagement





Editor's Note
Hamid Mahmood

As Uzbekistan celebrates its **34th Independence Day**, the nation stands tall as a shining example of progress, reform, and resilience in Central Asia. Since the historic day of **1st September 1991**, when Uzbekistan declared its independence, the country has traversed an extraordinary path — from restoring its statehood to becoming a confident, modern, and forward-looking republic.

Over three decades, Uzbekistan has not only preserved its unique cultural and spiritual heritage but has also emerged as a dynamic player in regional and global affairs. Under the visionary leadership of **President Shavkat Mirziyoyev**, the country continues to transform — embracing openness, innovation, and diplomacy as central pillars of its development journey.

A New Era of Transformation

The ongoing **“New Uzbekistan”** reforms reflect a renewed national spirit built on justice, inclusivity, and human dignity. Comprehensive political, economic, and administrative reforms have reshaped state institutions, empowered citizens, and strengthened the rule of law.

The **Uzbek Development Strategy 2030** envisions an economy that is globally competitive, environmentally sustainable, and socially just. Key priorities include digitalization, green energy, agriculture modernization, education reform, and improved governance — all designed to uplift living standards and expand opportunities for youth and women.

Cultural Heritage: A Source of National Pride

Uzbekistan's independence has revived pride in its **ancient civilizational identity** — a legacy rooted in the historic cities of

Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Tashkent. These cities, once vibrant centers of trade, science, and art on the **Great Silk Road**, are now global cultural landmarks drawing millions of visitors each year.

Through festivals, heritage restoration, and international tourism initiatives, Uzbekistan showcases its deep respect for tradition while embracing modernity. Events like the **Bukhara Gold Embroidery Festival, Kokand Handicrafts Fair, and Silk and Spices Festival** exemplify how culture continues to serve as a bridge between nations and generations.

Uzbekistan on the Global Stage

Independence has enabled Uzbekistan to pursue a balanced and proactive foreign policy based on **friendship, cooperation, and mutual respect**. The country has strengthened ties with its Central Asian neighbors and expanded partnerships across Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Uzbekistan's voice now resonates in major international forums — from the **United Nations** to the **Organization of Turkic States** and the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization** — where it advocates for regional peace, trade connectivity, environmental sustainability, and cultural diplomacy.

In recent years, Tashkent's initiatives on **Afghanistan's stability, water diplomacy, and interfaith harmony** have been widely recognized as constructive contributions to global dialogue and regional stability.

Pakistan-Uzbekistan: A Friendship Strengthened by History

Among Uzbekistan's closest partners stands **Pakistan**, linked through centuries of shared

faith, culture, and heritage. From the days of Amir Timur and Babur to the present era of strategic cooperation, the two nations continue to rediscover their common roots.

Recent years have witnessed significant progress in **trade, tourism, education, and parliamentary diplomacy**. Direct flights, joint cultural events, and educational exchanges symbolize this deepening bond. Both countries envision a future of enhanced connectivity through the **Trans-Afghan Transport Corridor**, which will link Central and South Asia — reviving the spirit of the Silk Road in a modern context.

Looking to the Future

As Uzbekistan celebrates its 34th year of independence, it stands as a nation confidently charting its destiny — proud of its past and optimistic about its future. The journey of transformation under the banner of the **“New Uzbekistan”** embodies the hopes of a young and dynamic population that believes in reform, innovation, and peace.

For the people of Uzbekistan, independence is not just a date in history; it is a living promise — a promise to build a prosperous, fair, and modern society rooted in the timeless values of culture, hospitality, and unity.

Newsletter Uzbekistan joins the people of Uzbekistan and friends across the world in celebrating this momentous occasion, honoring the nation's enduring commitment to progress, peace, and partnership.

Long live the Republic of Uzbekistan — the Pearl of the Silk Road, a land of heritage and hope.

Uzbekistan and Pakistan continue to strengthen their friendly relations and expand cooperation across multiple sectors. In this process, transport and logistics, particularly air connectivity, play a crucial role.

Starting 28 October 2025, the frequency of flights on “Tashkent-Islamabad-Tashkent” route will be doubled – from once a week to two flights per week.

Currently, Uzbekistan Airways operates

selling out several days in advance, the airline has decided to expand its flight schedule.

The increase in flight frequency will not only provide greater convenience for travelers but will also foster closer trade and economic cooperation, encourage business partnerships, and support more frequent exchanges between the two nations.

Importantly, these additional flights will also strengthen cultural and humanitarian ties between the brotherly peoples of Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Furthermore, the expansion of flights offers significant advantages for international travelers. Tashkent International Airport serves as a strategic transit hub, providing convenient connections from Pakistan to destinations across Europe, North America, and Asia. This makes Uzbekistan Airways an attractive option for passengers seeking smooth and efficient travel to global destinations.

The regular expansion of flight frequencies is a strategic step for both Uzbekistan and Pakistan, reflecting the growing partnership between the two nations and taking bilateral relations to a new level of cooperation and connectivity.

These additional flights will stand as a symbol of the two nations’ shared vision: building bridges across regions, strengthening friendships, and connecting their peoples not only with each other but also with the wider world.



Takes Off Again from Islamabad!

2nd Flight every Tuesday
Starting 28 October



**Bridging Cultures,
Connecting Journeys —
Uzbekistan & Pakistan**



As part of efforts to deepen ties, enhance economic diplomacy, and boost tourism cooperation, Uzbekistan Airways is increasing the number of regular flights between the two countries.

flights twice a week (on Wednesdays and Fridays) on the “Tashkent-Lahore-Tashkent” route, and once a week (on Saturdays) on the “Tashkent-Islamabad-Tashkent” route. Due to consistently high demand, with flights running at full passenger capacity and tickets



Uzbekistan

a Genuine Center of Spiritual Revival

Tourism is considered one of the most important economic sectors of the modern era, and Uzbekistan possesses immense tourism potential. In recent years, comprehensive reforms have been undertaken in the country to fundamentally transform the tourism industry. Enhancing tourism infrastructure and increasing the inflow of international visitors have become among the key priorities of the national development policy.

A wide range of strategic initiatives are currently being implemented to ensure the accelerated development of Uzbekistan's tourism industry. These include expanding the role of the private sector, offering various incentives and privileges, improving the training and professional development of tourism personnel, and diversifying the range of tourism products and services available across the country.

In order to further develop the tourism sector, it is essential to modernize and enhance the necessary infrastructure. In this regard, two key components are of particular importance: transport and logistics.

At present, the Government of Uzbekistan is paying increased attention to reducing transport-related costs and meeting the growing demand for air travel. Measures are being taken to effectively introduce low-cost airlines on both international and domestic routes, as well as to improve mechanisms for purchasing tickets on modern high-speed rail services.



Ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan's tourism sector are aimed at creating favorable economic conditions for travelers, increasing the sector's contribution to the national economy, improving the quality of tourism services, and upgrading infrastructure across the country.

Strategically located in the heart of Central Asia, Uzbekistan holds a prominent place on

the map of the Islamic world. In this context, the country's potential in the field of pilgrimage tourism is attracting growing interest among Muslim communities worldwide.

Uzbekistan's ancient cities – Samarkand, Bukhara, and Termez – have served for centuries not only as centers of trade and scholarship but also as sacred sites attracting pilgrims from all corners of the Muslim world.

Today, Uzbekistan is increasingly recognized as a prominent destination for pilgrimage tourism, offering a unique blend of spiritual heritage, rich history, and renowned hospitality.

One of the key factors attracting pilgrims to Uzbekistan is the presence of numerous

mausoleums and pilgrimage sites associated with renowned Islamic scholars, sheikhs, Sufi masters, and pious figures. Notably, the mausoleum of the great Imam al-Bukhari is located in Samarkand.

Imam al-Bukhari is the author of the famous collection of hadiths known as "Sahih al-Bukhari," which holds a position of

paramount importance, second only to the Holy Qur'an in terms of religious significance. His mausoleum, situated near Samarkand, has become a major pilgrimage site for Muslims worldwide.

Currently, under the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, the Imam Bukhari Complex is being newly constructed and expanded. The mausoleum area has been enlarged to 600 square meters with a height of 28 meters. A mosque with a capacity for 10,000 worshippers has been built within the complex. The four corners of the complex are adorned with 75-meter tall minarets, which add grandeur and solemnity to the site.

At present, construction and engineering

traditions of Muslims from India to the Near East.

Furthermore, Uzbekistan is the homeland of great Islamic scholars such as Imam al-Termizi, Imam al-Maturidi, and Imam al-Margani. Their works laid the foundations of religious philosophy, Islamic jurisprudence and hadith studies. Visiting the mausoleums of these eminent scholars is not only an act of spiritual reverence but also an opportunity to connect with the roots of Islamic knowledge.

Taking into account the importance of broadly promoting Uzbekistan's pilgrimage tourism sites, the dissemination of information about the country's tourism assets has been elevated to the level of

sites are being carefully restored while preserving their original appearance.

Another noteworthy development is the launch of the "Tabarruk Ziyorat" tourism platform on the official web portal of the Organization of Turkic States (www.tabarrukziyorat.uz). This initiative, spearheaded by the Tourism Committee with the involvement of industry experts, aims to enhance the promotion and accessibility of pilgrimage tourism.

The platform features information on nearly 260 pilgrimage sites and sacred landmarks located within Uzbekistan, which hold significant importance in the civilization of the Turkic world. This content has been translated into seven languages and made widely accessible.



works have been completed, and the complex has entered the finishing and decoration phase, with special attention paid to national traditions and warm color schemes.

Additionally, restoration and beautification efforts are underway to transform the Imam Maturidi Memorial Complex into a prominent pilgrimage center.

In Bukhara, visitors can pay their respects at the mausoleum of Baha-ud-Din Naqshband, the founder of the Naqshbandi Sufi order, which holds a significant place in the spiritual life of the Islamic world. His teachings emphasized the importance of inner purification and devotion in daily life, profoundly influencing the intellectual

matters concerning spirituality and cultural enlightenment.

In this context, a concept is being developed to establish the "Imam Bukhari" Pilgrimage Tourism Companion television channel in multiple languages including Indonesian, Bengali, Urdu, Malay, Turkish, Arabic and Pashto. This initiative aims to widely popularize and promote the invaluable heritage of great Islamic scholars and spiritual leaders.

Furthermore, the leadership of Uzbekistan is placing particular emphasis on the active development of pilgrimage tourism by improving infrastructure and conditions for visitors from Islamic countries. Mosques, mausoleums, madrasas, and other sacred

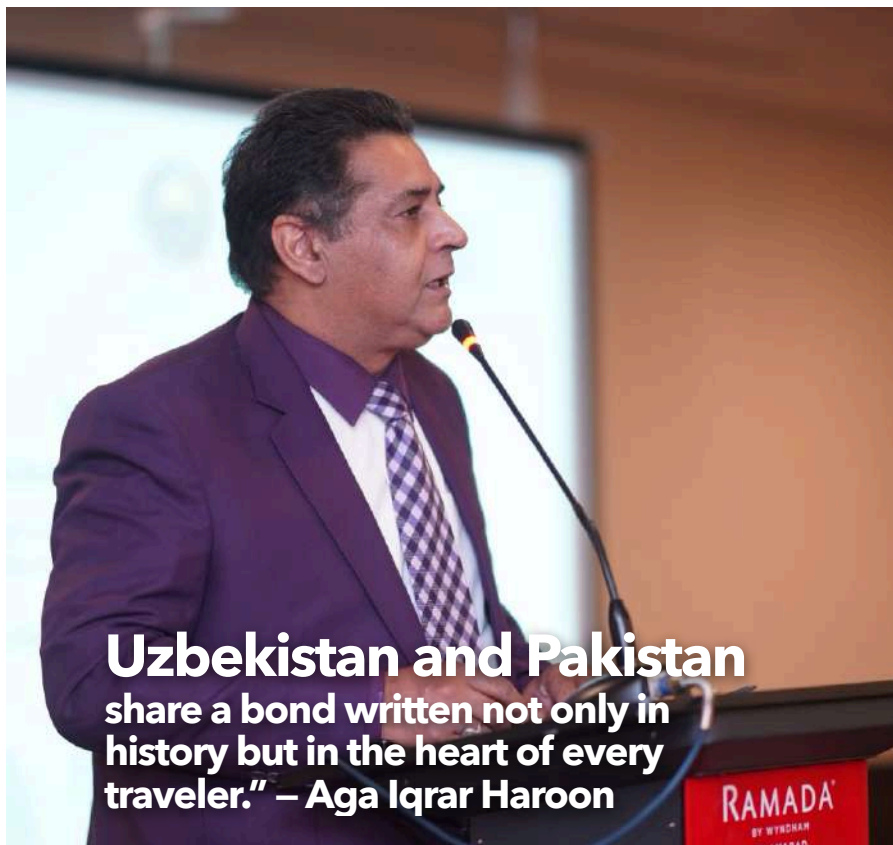
Additionally, to accelerate cooperation in the field of tourism with the Turkic States, the platform features a book series titled "The Treasury of Turkic Literature" (<https://tabarrukziyorat.uz/ru/news/turkiy-adabiyot>). Furthermore, a comprehensive database has been created containing information about the tangible cultural heritage sites and prominent scholars of the member states of the Organization of Turkic States. This information has been translated into the Turkic language and is available on the platform (<https://tabarrukziyorat.uz/tr/destination>).

During the first six months of 2025, 57 percent of the total number of tourists visiting Uzbekistan were from member and observer states of the Organization of Turkic States.

Specifically, the number of visitors included 80,769 from Turkey, 9,552 from Azerbaijan, 1,177,970 from Kazakhstan, 1,576,312 from the Kyrgyz Republic, 174,332 from Turkmenistan, and 16,213 from Hungary.

Furthermore, on July 29, 2022, the President of Uzbekistan issued a decree titled "Measures to Accelerate Cooperation in the Field of Tourism with the Turkic States," which has been directly put into effect.

In summary, Uzbekistan is evolving not only as a popular travel destination but also as a genuine center of spiritual revival, where every devout Muslim can deeply experience a sense of reverence and historical heritage.



Uzbekistan and Pakistan share a bond written not only in history but in the heart of every traveler.” – Aga Iqrar Haroon

Exclusive Interview with Aga Iqrar Haroon by Abiha Hamid

Senior Journalist, Travel Writer, and Founder of Dispatch News Desk (DND News Agency)

Q1: Aga Iqrar Sahib, you have been one of the most respected journalists and travel writers in Pakistan. How did your journey in journalism begin?

Aga Iqrar Haroon:

My journey in journalism started in the early 1990s when I began working as a correspondent for various national dailies. Over time, I developed a deep interest in international affairs, particularly the social and cultural dimensions of Central Asia. That passion later inspired me to establish *Dispatch News Desk (DND News Agency)* — a platform dedicated to promoting regional cooperation, connectivity, and people-to-people understanding across Eurasia.

Q2: You have visited Uzbekistan many times. What impresses you the most about Uzbekistan?

Aga Iqrar Haroon:

Uzbekistan is truly the heart of the Silk Road — a land where history breathes through its streets. Every visit leaves me inspired. From the architectural wonders of **Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva** to the modern

transformation of **Tashkent**, Uzbekistan represents a perfect blend of tradition and progress.

But what impresses me most is the **warmth of the Uzbek people** — their hospitality, respect for visitors, and pride in their heritage. Uzbekistan has preserved its spiritual and cultural identity while opening its doors to the world.

Q3: How do you see tourism cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan evolving?

Aga Iqrar Haroon:

I believe this cooperation is entering a golden phase. The introduction of direct flights, visa facilitation, and promotional efforts by the **Uzbekistan Tourist Information Center Pakistan** have made travel more accessible.

Both nations share **deep cultural and spiritual roots** — the legacy of Hazrat Baha-ud-Din Naqshband and the Mughal connection through Zahir-ud-Din Babur bind us historically. If promoted strategically, **Ziyarat and heritage tourism** can attract thousands of Pakistani travelers to Uzbekistan each year.

I also see growing potential for **media collaboration** to showcase these stories and inspire travel through digital platforms.

Q4: What role do you think media can

play in promoting Uzbekistan’s image in Pakistan?

Aga Iqrar Haroon:

Media plays a decisive role in shaping perceptions. By producing documentaries, articles, and travel features on Uzbekistan’s historical sites, culture, and reforms, we can create awareness and curiosity among Pakistanis.

Platforms like *Newsletter Uzbekistan* are essential — they act as bridges of information. I strongly advocate for **joint media tours**, where journalists from both countries can experience and report firsthand on each other’s tourism and cultural landscapes.

Q5: How do you view Uzbekistan’s development under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev?

Aga Iqrar Haroon:

President Mirziyoyev’s leadership has ushered in a new era of openness and modernization. His emphasis on tourism, heritage preservation, education, and connectivity has positioned Uzbekistan as one of the most progressive countries in Central Asia. The reforms in the tourism and investment sectors have made Uzbekistan an attractive destination for both travelers and entrepreneurs.

Q6: Finally, your message for the readers of Newsletter Uzbekistan.



Aga Iqrar Haroon:

My message is simple — **visit Uzbekistan once, and your heart will always return there.**

It is a land of saints, scholars, and beauty — a reflection of Islamic civilization at its finest. Let us continue to strengthen our cultural and spiritual bonds, travel together, and write new chapters of friendship between **Pakistan and Uzbekistan.**

SCO Investment Projects in Uzbekistan From Industry to Tourism

In recent years, Uzbekistan has established itself as one of the most dynamically developing economies within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The country is not only becoming an active participant in trade flows but also a key platform for implementing large-scale investment initiatives. Its strategic geographic location, political stability, wide-ranging reforms, and

Expanding Investment Presence

The dynamics of investment are no less significant. Since the beginning of 2025, more than 1,300 new enterprises with SCO member-state participation have been established in Uzbekistan, bringing the total to over 9,900 companies—a 15% increase since the start of the year. Particularly notable is the growth of enterprises with 100% foreign ownership, which has exceeded 18%. This demonstrates investors' confidence in Uzbekistan's jurisdiction and their willingness to develop business both independently and through joint ventures.

Russia and China remain the largest sources of investment. Moscow traditionally leads in industry, energy, metallurgy, and mechanical engineering, while also advancing digital technologies. Beijing serves as a key driver of innovation, investing actively in IT, green energy, and transport projects. The

digitalization. Belarus, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan contribute smaller investment volumes, but their role in mechanical engineering, energy, trade, and services remains significant. Meanwhile, Iran and India are expanding their presence in industry, pharmaceuticals, and high-tech sectors, while Pakistan invests in textiles, agriculture, and trade. Together, these complementary areas form a diversified investment landscape.

A New Focus: Tourism

Beyond industry and energy, tourism has emerged as a new vector of cooperation. SCO countries are investing in hotels, tourism complexes, and transport infrastructure. Uzbekistan's rich historical and cultural heritage is transforming tourism into a new driver of economic growth. The development of tourism clusters in Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva has the potential to attract

millions of travelers and, in the long term, generate revenues comparable to those of the industrial sector.

Conclusion

Recent experience shows that SCO member-state investments encompass nearly every sector of Uzbekistan's economy—from heavy industry and machinery to pharmaceuticals, digital technologies, and tourism. Russia provides a solid industrial

foundation, China drives innovation, Kazakhstan strengthens logistics and digital projects, while other member states build their niches in energy, agriculture, and services.

The main conclusion is clear: Uzbekistan is emerging as an economic bridge between East and West, and partnership within the SCO is becoming a strategic guarantee of sustainable development, paving the way for sectoral diversification, the growth of enterprises, and the expansion of technological potential.

favorable investment climate ensure a steady inflow of capital from all SCO member states.

By the end of 2024, Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover with SCO countries reached USD 32.5 billion, an increase of 1.4% compared to the previous year. In January–July 2025 alone, this figure rose by 15%, amounting to USD 20.8 billion, including USD 5.7 billion in exports and USD 15.1 billion in imports. This growth reflects not only expanding trade volumes but also deeper integration with key partners.

cumulative volume of Chinese investments has exceeded USD 60 billion, including automotive manufacturing and joint electric vehicle production. Russian businesses, in turn, are strengthening their positions in oil and gas, machinery, and education, creating a sustainable basis for long-term cooperation.

Kazakhstan holds a special position due to mutual investment flows: more than 1,100 Kazakh-owned enterprises operate in Uzbekistan, while Uzbek businesses are actively expanding in Kazakhstan. This reciprocal model is shaping a common economic space, particularly in logistics and



The construction of the new airport completed

On August 27, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev got acquainted with the new airport built on the basis on “Tashkent – East” airfield.

As our country develops and strengthens its international standing, its connections with the external world are becoming increasingly active. In this regard, consistent measures are being taken to comprehensively develop transport infrastructure.

One of such strategic projects is the business aviation complex based at the “Tashkent-East” airfield. Its construction began in 2017. Despite the pandemic and subsequent challenges, this large-scale project was successfully completed.



The total area of the airport is 561 hectares. The 4-kilometer runway and three taxiways were completely reconstructed, enabling the reception of even the heaviest aircraft. An apron for 20 aircraft was built.

Modern hangars for “Boeing-787,” “A320,” business jets and helicopters were constructed, ensuring their safe storage under optimal conditions.

VIP and CIP terminals were built at the airport. The hall for high-ranking guests is equipped with all the necessary facilities for official meetings, negotiations and briefings.

The CIP terminal, designed to accommodate 100 passengers per hour, will include shops and dining areas.

Of particular importance is that the airport is equipped with modern radio engineering and meteorological systems of ICAO Category III-A. This will allow to ensure takeoffs and landings even in difficult weather conditions.

Thanks to the convenient location, the new airport will become an important transport hub for the capital and New Tashkent. Opportunities for hosting international visits and business trips will expand, and conditions for foreign investors will improve. As a result, economic activity will increase, the service sector will receive an impetus for development, and new jobs will be created.

The Head of State also spoke on site with representatives of the public and the older generation.

– After long preparations, we have built a new airport that will provide a high level of service for the guests of our country. This will help ease the load on Tashkent International Airport. A large complex is also planned to be built for it in another location. Overall, large-scale projects are being implemented in all regions. May these new facilities strengthen our well-being and serve the people, and may peace always reign in our country, – noted the President.



Uzbekistan's competitiveness and advantages in the SCO tourism market

In recent years, Uzbekistan has strengthened its position in the international tourism market, particularly in the region of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). From January to June 2025, the country welcomed over 5.3 million international tourists, more than double the figure of the previous year, while tourism service exports rose to USD 2.4 billion, marking a 164% increase.

For the SCO member states, tourism serves as a driver of economic growth and an important tool for cultural exchange and diplomatic rapprochement. Uzbekistan stands out within the Organization thanks to its rich cultural heritage, modern infrastructure, and liberal visa policy.

Uzbekistan's historical landmarks provide the country with a significant competitive advantage within the SCO region. Cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva – all included on the UNESCO World Heritage List – have become major cultural magnets for tourists. These cities are home to hundreds of architectural monuments, mosques and madrasahs, traditional markets, and craft centers, offering travelers a truly unique experience.

Building on this heritage, Uzbekistan has also expanded its hospitality sector. In the first half of 2025, Uzbekistan established 60 new hotels, 287 family guest houses, 146 hostels, and 24 other accommodation facilities – a total of 517 new establishments offering 12,800 additional beds. As a result, the total number of accommodation facilities reached 6,448, with overall capacity exceeding 170,000 beds.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has actively cooperated with global hotel brands, with

international chains such as Hilton, Intercontinental, Bentley, Bill Wyndham & Co., and Azimut implementing investment projects across various regions of the country. This has had a positive impact on both the quality of service and the level of trust from the international community.

Additionally, 368 new tourism companies and travel agencies were established in the country, bringing the total number of tour operators to 4,052. Across the republic, 3,415 tour guides are currently active, with 215 new specialists trained in just the first half of this year. These developments have improved the quality of tourism services and significantly enhanced conditions for visitors to the country.

Uzbekistan's visa policy is also one of the

BBC, National Geographic, CNN, Travel Tomorrow, Warner Bros. Discovery, Saga Travel Group, as well as with online platforms like Ctrip.com, Holiday Factory, Voyage Privé, and others.

In 2024, Uzbekistan participated in 22 international tourism exhibitions held in 19 leading countries worldwide, presenting its national pavilion. A number of large-scale initiatives are also being implemented within the SCO region. In particular, as part of the Year of Tourism of Uzbekistan in China, presentations were held in more than 20 provinces, alongside participation in tourism exhibitions and over 500 B2B meetings. As a result of these events, 44 agreements were signed to facilitate the arrival of Chinese tourists to Uzbekistan.

From an economic perspective, tourism plays a key role in Uzbekistan's economy. In 2024, 591 projects were implemented with a total investment of USD 2.8 billion, creating 19,428 new jobs. For 2025, the government

has set even more ambitious targets: attracting 11 million foreign tourists, generating tourism revenues of USD 3.8 billion, and creating 50,000 new jobs.

Furthermore, the country is implementing the "Tourism-2040" strategy aimed at the long-term development of the industry. This strategy includes focus areas such as sustainable tourism development, eco-friendly travel, involvement of local communities, infrastructure expansion, and the adoption of digital technologies.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan's competitiveness in the SCO tourism market is ensured by a range of factors: a rich historical and cultural heritage, modern infrastructure, an active international marketing strategy, favorable visa policies, and a stable economic strategy. Taken together, these make the country an important regional player and a significant global actor in the tourism market.

Umid Shadiey,
Chairman of the Tourism Committee



most progressive in the region. Today, citizens of more than 90 countries can enter the country visa-free, while an additional 56 countries have access to an electronic visa system. This has become a key factor in the growth of tourist arrivals.

All of these measures have contributed to a significant increase in the number of tourists visiting Uzbekistan. In the first six months of 2025 alone, more than 4.3 million tourists from SCO member states visited the country, accounting for over 80% of all international visitors.

Uzbekistan is also actively promoting its tourism image on the international stage. Cooperation is underway with global media companies such as World Media Group, Blue Sky, Sky One, Wanderlust, Euronews,



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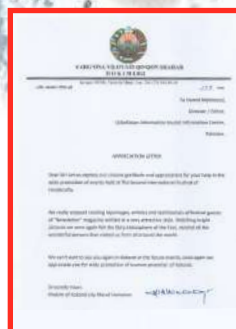
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