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TASHKENT URDU

ALL ABOUT SILK ROAD AND BEYOND



Tashkent Urdu is a leading international digital media platform based in Uzbekistan, dedicated to provide comprehensive and reliable coverage of both national and international news. Positioned at the crossroads of the historic Silk Road, the platform serves as a vital bridge between cultures and perspectives, bringing the stories of this vibrant and strategically significant region to a global audience. Tashkent Urdu caters to Urdu-speaking communities worldwide, featuring an inclusive perspective on events and developments. Its mission is to keep its audience informed and engaged with up-to-date breaking news, in-depth analysis, and feature stories that delve into the intricate social, cultural, and political dynamics of the Silk Road and surrounding regions. By focusing on regional and global issues, Tashkent Urdu fosters a nuance understanding of the interconnected world and the critical role of Central Asia in global scenario. Committed to high journalistic standards, Tashkent Urdu give a diverse range of content tailored to the interests and needs of its audience. From political developments and economic trends to cultural heritage and human-interest stories, the platform provides a rich blend of content that highlights the diversity and complexity of the Silk Road and its neighboring regions. Leveraging modern digital tools and a user-friendly interface, Tashkent Urdu ensures accessibility for its growing audience. Its multilingual team of experienced journalists and analysts brings authenticity and depth to its reporting, making it a trusted source for Urdu-speaking audiences seeking insightful and balanced news coverage. As a voice for the Silk Road's past, present, and future, Tashkent Urdu continues to expand its reach, celebrating the historical significance of the region while addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities.



Uzbek Ambassador **MEETS PRESIDENT ZARDARI** in Islamabad to Strengthen Ties

Uzbek Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev met President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari at the President house.



During the meeting, President Zardari said that Pakistan gives great importance to its brotherly relations with Uzbekistan. He said the relationship is based on shared history, culture, and mutual trust. He also appreciated the positive progress in bilateral ties and sent good wishes to Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The President stressed the need to increase trade between the two countries. He said both sides should diversify trade, improve market access, and make trade systems more efficient. He also encouraged stronger business links and more investment in key sectors.

Zardari highlighted that better regional connectivity is important for economic growth. He said Pakistan offers the shortest route to warm waters through the ports of Gwadar and Karachi. He also supported the early completion of the Trans-Afghan Railway project.

The Uzbek ambassador thanked the President for the warm welcome and reaffirmed Uzbekistan's commitment to strengthening relations with Pakistan. He expressed interest in expanding cooperation in trade, investment, and connectivity, and praised Pakistan's role in promoting peace and stability in the region.

The ambassador also reminded the President of an invitation from the Uzbek President to visit Uzbekistan. President Zardari directed officials to finalize preparations for the visit later this year.

Centrum Air Launches New **Lahore–Tashkent services, weekly flights** increase to six





Air connections between Pakistan and Uzbekistan have strengthened further with the launch of new flights between Lahore and Tashkent operated by Centrum Air.

Uzbekistan's Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev said that an additional flight service on the Lahore–Tashkent–Lahore route officially began on April 21. He said the first flight was successfully completed, showing strong passenger demand and growing ties between the two countries.

The ambassador noted that just one and a half years ago, there were no direct flights between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Now, the situation has changed significantly, with six regular weekly flights operating between the two countries. These include four flights from Tashkent to Lahore and two flights from Tashkent to Islamabad.

He added that the new service will operate twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, making travel more convenient for passengers.

The ambassador also said there are plans to start direct flights between Tashkent and Karachi in the future, which would further expand connectivity.

He described these developments as more than just improvements in air travel, saying they are helping to connect the people, economies, and future of both countries, and strengthening their growing partnership.

Uzbekistan Support Pakistan's Peace Efforts Amid Growing Regional Tensions

Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov has said that he held a telephone conversation with Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

In a statement shared on social media, Saidov said that Uzbekistan appreciates Pakistan's leadership and fully supports Islamabad's efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

He also praised Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to achieve an initial two-week ceasefire, calling them commendable.

Bakhtiyor Saidov expressed hope that continued diplomatic engagement and constructive steps will help bring lasting peace and stability not only in the region but also around the world.

He added that regular communication between the two countries will further strengthen cooperation and mutual understanding.









Uzbekistan Plans Major Reforms in Agricultural Land System

Uzbekistan is preparing major reforms in its agricultural land system to make land use more efficient, give priority to local farmers, and introduce clearer rules for foreign investment.

These proposals were discussed in a meeting chaired by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, where officials focused on better management of land resources and improving the performance of the agriculture sector.

Under the new policy, auctions of agricultural land will mainly be reserved for local farmers and businesspeople. Foreign investors will not receive land directly through auctions; instead, they will be given land through a secondary leasing system.

The proposed rules also suggest that foreign investors must invest at least $10 million and develop unused land to make it suitable for farming. Another proposal is to set land lease periods for up to 49 years.

The government says these reforms aim to give local farmers more independence so they can choose their own crops. In the past, limited control had left large areas of farmland underused.

According to official figures, the next phase includes plans to expand the cultivation of export-oriented crops on thousands of hectares, which is expected to increase foreign currency earnings.

Authorities also plan to promote large agricultural projects and livestock farming by auctioning both small and large land plots, along with offering incentives such as soft loans and subsidies.

President Mirziyoyev also criticized delays and paperwork in the land system and ordered it to be fully digitized to make registration and management more transparent.

The government says strict action will be taken against illegal land use, while rules for transferring land for public projects like roads and airports will be simplified.

These reforms are being seen as a major step to make Uzbekistan's agriculture sector more modern, transparent, and attractive for investment.





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Chess Revives Historic Links Between India and Uzbekistan



The ancient game of chess, which began in India over a thousand years ago, is once again helping to strengthen ties between India and Uzbekistan.

According to a report by The Hindustan Times, recent international matches between players such as Gukesh Dommaraju and Nodirbek Abdusattorov highlight the growing rivalry and connection between the two countries in world chess.

Chess originated in India in the 6th century as “Chaturanga,” a strategic game based on the four divisions of ancient armies. It later spread through Persia and Central Asia along the Silk Road, eventually becoming the modern global game known as chess.

Uzbekistan has recently taken major steps to promote chess, including introducing it in schools and training young players. These efforts led to a historic achievement in 2022, when Uzbekistan won gold at the Chess Olympiad.

India has also seen a strong rise in chess popularity, largely influenced by former world champion Viswanathan Anand, whose success inspired a new generation of top-level players. Young talents such as Javokhir Sindarov are expected to play important roles in future international competitions.

Experts say that while economic and diplomatic ties between India and Uzbekistan are growing, cultural connections like chess also play an important role in bringing the two regions closer. Through tournaments, training programs, and youth exchanges, chess is becoming a bridge between South Asia and Central Asia.

With rising competition and upcoming global events, this historic game continues to reconnect the two countries through a shared cultural and strategic heritage.

Uzbekistan's Foreign Trade Reaches $11.6 Billion in Early 2026

Uzbekistan's foreign trade increased significantly in the first two months of 2026, reaching a total volume of $11.6 billion.

According to official data, imports during this period stood at $8.1 billion, which is 29.8% higher compared to the same period last year. Exports were recorded at $3.5 billion.

China and Russia remained the top sources of imports, together accounting for more than half of the total imports. Other important import partners included Kazakhstan, South Korea, Türkiye, Germany, India, Belarus, Turkmenistan, and the United States.

On the export side, Russia emerged as the largest market for Uzbek products. Other major buyers included China, Afghanistan, France, Kazakhstan, Türkiye, Kyrgyzstan, the United Arab Emirates, Tajikistan, and Ireland.

The figures show that Uzbekistan's trade is gradually expanding beyond its immediate region toward Europe and the Middle East, reflecting the country's growing economic ties with global markets.



Uzbekistan Launches “Uzbekistan 2030” Plan for Major National Development



Uzbekistan has officially launched its new national development strategy called “Uzbekistan 2030,” aimed at major reforms in the economy, education, and infrastructure.

Officials said the plan was prepared after public consultation and aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. For the first time, it introduces a results-based system with 100 clear targets set for 2030, which will be monitored annually.

Authorities added that each goal has designated institutions, funding arrangements, and implementation plans. Progress will also be made available to the public through a digital platform.

The strategy focuses on two main priorities: human development and sustainable economic growth.

In education, the plan aims to increase preschool access to 80%, double teachers' salaries, train 500,000 education staff, and introduce 200 international-standard academic programs.

In healthcare, the government aims to raise average life expectancy to 78 years and increase health spending to 5% of the national economy. For youth development, the plan includes training 3 million people in modern skills and creating 300,000 jobs in the IT sector.

Economic targets include increasing GDP from $145 billion to over $240 billion and raising per capita income to $5,800. The government also aims to keep inflation at 5%, expand industrial production, attract more foreign investment, and increase renewable energy's share to 54%.

Officials said the strategy is designed to help Uzbekistan play a stronger and more active role in the global economy in the coming years.



Uzbekistan and Afghanistan Sign $400 Million Trade Agreements to BOOST ECONOMIC TIES

Uzbekistan and Afghanistan have taken a major step toward strengthening economic relations after business leaders from both countries signed 20 memorandums of understanding worth more than $400 million.

The agreements were signed during a joint trade meeting held in Uzbekistan's Fergana region. They cover a wide range of sectors including trade, investment, agriculture, transport, and industrial cooperation.

According to a statement from the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, these agreements are seen as an important milestone in expanding economic ties and strengthening trade relations between Tashkent and Kabul.

Business participants at the meeting emphasized the need to further expand cooperation. They said such partnerships would help increase bilateral trade, create job opportunities, and improve regional economic connectivity.

Experts say the signing of these agreements reflects growing seriousness from the private sectors of both countries in using current opportunities to build long-term and sustainable economic relations.





سرزمینِ پاکستان

قدیم شاہراہِ ریشم پر وہ قدرتی پل جہاں سے تہذیبیں گزرتی رہیں

پاکستان کی سرزمین قدیم زمانے میں دنیا کے سب سے اہم تجارتی نظام یعنی شاہراہِ ریشم (Silk Road) کا ایک مرکزی حصہ رہی ہے، جو صدیوں تک مشرق اور مغرب کو آپس میں جوڑنے کا ذریعہ بنی رہی۔

یہ کوئی ایک راستہ نہیں تھا بلکہ ایک وسیع اور پیچیدہ تجارتی نیٹ ورک تھا جس کے ذریعے چین، وسطی ایشیا، برصغیر اور مشرقِ وسطیٰ کے درمیان نہ صرف سامان بلکہ خیالات، مذاہب، فنون اور ثقافتوں کا بھی تبادلہ ہوتا تھا۔

پاکستان کی اسٹریٹجک جغرافیائی حیثیت نے اسے اس قدیم نظام میں ایک قدرتی پل بنا دیا تھا، جہاں سے مختلف تہذیبیں گزرتی اور آپس میں جڑتی رہیں۔

شاہراہِ ریشم کے ذریعے ریشم، مصالحے، قیمتی پتھر، کپڑے اور دیگر قیمتی اشیاء کی تجارت ہوتی تھی، لیکن اس کی اہمیت صرف معاشی نہیں تھی بلکہ یہ علم، مذہب اور تہذیب کے پھیلاؤ کا بھی ذریعہ تھی۔

پاکستان کے موجودہ علاقوں سے گزرنے والے اہم راستوں میں قراقرم پاس، خیبر پاس اور بولان پاس شامل تھے، جو مختلف ادوار میں تاجروں، مسافروں، زائرین اور بعض اوقات فاتحین کے لیے بھی اہم گزرگاہیں رہے۔

قراقرم پاس چین اور برصغیر کے درمیان ایک اہم رابطہ تھا، جو بلند پہاڑی سلسلوں کے باوجود تجارت کا ذریعہ بنتا رہا۔ خیبر پاس، جو پشاور کے قریب واقع ہے، صدیوں تک افغانستان اور جنوبی ایشیا کے درمیان سب سے اہم دروازہ سمجھا جاتا رہا اور یہاں سے مسلسل تجارتی اور ثقافتی آمد و رفت جاری رہی۔

اسی طرح بولان پاس ایرانی سطحِ مرتفع اور پاکستان کے میدانی علاقوں کو جوڑتا تھا اور خاص طور پر سرد موسم میں متبادل راستے کے طور پر استعمال ہوتا تھا۔

ان قدیم تجارتی راستوں نے پاکستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں گہرے تاریخی آثار چھوڑے ہیں۔ آثارِ قدیمہ کی کھدائیوں سے گندھارا تہذیب کے علاقوں، خصوصاً پشاور اور سوات وادی، سے بدھ مت کے مجسمے، خانقاہوں اور عبادت گاہوں کے آثار برآمد ہوئے ہیں۔

اس کے علاوہ مختلف ادوار کے سکے بھی دریافت ہوئے ہیں جن پر یونانی اور وسطی ایشیائی اثرات واضح ہیں، جو اس خطے کی کثیر الثقافتی تاریخ کو ظاہر کرتے ہیں۔ اسی طرح مختلف قسم کے برتن اور مٹی کے برتن بھی ملے ہیں جن میں فارسی، چینی اور مقامی فنِ تعمیر اور آرٹ کے اثرات دیکھے جا سکتے ہیں۔

شاہراہِ ریشم نے صرف تجارت ہی نہیں بلکہ تہذیبی اور مذہبی تبادلے میں بھی اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ اس راستے کے ذریعے بدھ مت اور ہندو مت جیسے مذاہب اس خطے میں پھیلے، جبکہ گندھارا خطہ بدھ مت کی تعلیم اور فن کا ایک بڑا مرکز بن گیا۔

بعد میں اسلام کی آمد کے ساتھ یہ راستے صوفی روایات کے پھیلاؤ کا ذریعہ بھی بنے، جنہوں نے اس خطے کی ثقافت پر گہرا اثر ڈالا۔ آج بھی پاکستان میں صوفی ازم کی جھلک موسیقی، شاعری اور روحانی روایات میں واضح طور پر دیکھی جا سکتی ہے۔

پاکستان میں شاہراہِ ریشم سے جڑے کئی تاریخی مقامات آج بھی محفوظ ہیں اور یونیسکو کے عالمی ورثے کا حصہ ہیں۔ ٹیکسلا اور موہنجوداڑو جیسے قدیم شہر نہ صرف اس خطے کی قدیم تہذیبوں کی عکاسی کرتے ہیں بلکہ شاہراہِ ریشم کے ذریعے ہونے والے ثقافتی تبادلے کی بھی نشاندہی کرتے ہیں۔

اسی تاریخی ورثے کا ایک جدید تسلسل قراقرم ہائی وے ہے، جسے اکثر "جدید شاہراہِ ریشم" کہا جاتا ہے۔ یہ سڑک پاکستان اور چین کو جوڑتی ہے اور آج بھی اسی تاریخی راستے کی اہمیت کو زندہ رکھے ہوئے ہے جو صدیوں پہلے تجارت اور رابطے کا ذریعہ تھا۔

شاہراہِ ریشم کے یہ بھولے بسرے راستے پاکستان کی تہذیبی شناخت کا ایک لازمی حصہ ہیں۔ یہ نہ صرف ماضی کی عظیم تاریخ کو ظاہر کرتے ہیں بلکہ اس بات کی بھی یاد دہانی ہیں کہ یہ خطہ ہمیشہ سے مختلف تہذیبوں کے درمیان رابطے اور تبادلے کا مرکز رہا ہے، جس کے اثرات آج بھی پاکستان کی ثقافت، معاشرت اور شناخت میں نمایاں طور پر موجود ہیں۔

