## A BRIEF LOOK AT THE HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INDIA AND UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: The article attempts to examine the nature of interaction that exists among the citizens of India and Uzbekistan which had kept anonymously from the world. The relationship between India and Uzbekistan has been developing continuously since past ancient times they have an exchange of so many cultural and economic core values. This journal article examines how the entrepreneurial spirit, innovative capacity, and adaptability of citizens have been critical to the remarkable economic transformations in India and Uzbekistan. By shedding light on this vital, yet often overlooked, dimension of the India-Uzbekistan relationship, the journal article offers insights into how citizen-led growth can underpin enduring geocultural partnerships.

**Key words**: India Uzbekistan Bilateral ties Anonymously Economy Collaboration Geopolitical Partnerships Diaspora and Testament.

The relationship between India and Uzbekistan has deep historical roots, marked by a vibrant exchange of cultural and economic ideas. However, the pivotal role played by Uzbek citizens in shaping their country's remarkable economic transformation has often gone unnoticed on the global stage. The Indian diaspora in Uzbekistan has quietly carved out a remarkable niche for itself, with a vibrant

community of around 11,000 nationals spread across the country's major cities. Drawn from diverse Indian regions, this community has won widespread acclaim for its positive image and active involvement in a range of sectors, from pharmaceuticals and hospitality to education and healthcare. Interestingly, the India-Uzbekistan partnership has taken on a new dimension in recent years, with Uzbekistan becoming a premier destination for Indian medical students, currently numbering increases at Samarkand, Tashkent, Fergana, Andijan, Bukhara, seeking quality education amidst the geopolitical uncertainties elsewhere. The positive response between local Uzbek people and Indian people leading a positive community in the present generation at various provisions of Uzbekistan. The love, caring and affection as the core values of Uzbek model towards foreigners especially Indians leading to build Uzbekistan as better nation with respect to cultural and economic relations. As the two nations deepen their economic and cultural ties, the Indian community in Uzbekistan stands as a testament to the enduring people-to-people connections that underpin this burgeoning strategic relationship.

Looking back to the history, we can see that the noticeable relationships between the two nations has been developing since around X century. Abu Rayhan Biruni, who was born in Kat city in current Uzbekistan learnt the Sanskrit language and visited to India. He wrote "Tarikh al Hind" (History of India) in which he had given proof for existence of a new continent (America) for the first time, more than 500 hundred years before Columb.

The cultural, economic, trade communication between the nations continued more and more. Till Babur's arrival to India, Jaloliddin Manguberdi (King of Kharazmshah state) had also visited and played and important role in the development of the relationship.

We can say that XV-XVII centuries witnessed a big and strong relationship of the nations. Babur and his dynasty always tried to strengthen the relationships. For example Babur welcomed the traders of Andijan, Bukhara and other parts of

India-Uzbekistan relations (1st march 2024). Embassy of India. <a href="https://eoi.gov.in/tashkent/?2615?000">https://eoi.gov.in/tashkent/?2615?000</a>
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Uzbekistan. The Great Akbarshah and Abdullakhan II exchanged ambassadors more than 6 times.

From the moment Uzbekistan emerged as a sovereign country in 1991, India wasted no time in extending its hand in friendship. India was one of the first countries to recognize the state sovereignty of Uzbekistan after the latter's independence. The protocol on establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Uzbekistan was signed in Tashkent on 18 March 1992. PM Shri Narendra Modi visited Uzbekistan on July 6-7, 2015, during which he held bilateral talks with the then President Islam Karimov on advancing the bilateral strategic partnership. PM also visited Uzbekistan in June 2016 as part of the meeting of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

In January 1994, President Islam Karimov embarked on his inaugural state visit to India. Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi bestowed upon him an honorary degree, and he engaged in discussions with Indian entrepreneurs. The visit culminated in the signing of agreements covering various realms, including economic and cultural collaboration, telecommunications, postal affairs, and the establishment of an Indian Cultural Centre in Tashkent. In the years since, the India-Uzbekistan relationship has transformed into a true strategic powerhouse, fuelled by a flurry of high-level exchanges, bold reforms, and a shared vision for regional prosperity. Both countries boast diverse populations with varying educational backgrounds, skills, and entrepreneurial aspirations. India, recognized globally for its IT services, pharmaceuticals, and service sectors, benefits from a youthful and large workforce. Meanwhile, Uzbekistan, rich in natural resources and strategically located along historic trade routes, is increasingly attracting investment and trade opportunities.

At the heart of this deepening rapport are the personal bonds forged between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistani President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Their frequent summits and meetings have injected new momentum, opening the door to cooperation on everything from defense to energy to people-to-people ties. Landmark events like the 2020 virtual summit and 2022 India-Central

Asia dialogue have further cemented India's status as a crucial partner for Tashkent.<sup>2</sup>

But the India-Uzbekistan story is about more than just political theater. Under President Mirziyoyev's leadership, Uzbekistan has embarked on a sweeping program of economic and social modernization, creating ample opportunities for mutually beneficial collaboration. As the two nations continue to navigate the shifting geopolitical landscape of Central Asia, their relationship stands out as a model of how sustained engagement and forward-thinking can yield dividends for all.

Economic relations. The trade ties between India and Uzbekistan are regulated by the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, which was signed in May 1993. This agreement encompasses typical elements found in trade agreements, such as reciprocal Most Favored Nation (MFN) treatment, the encouragement of economic, industrial, scientific, and technical collaboration, including personnel training, the active involvement of small and medium-sized enterprises in bilateral economic ventures, as well as provisions for counter-trade. Additionally, in 1993, both nations inked an Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation, followed by another pact for Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection in May 1999.

The Silk Route, a transcontinental network of trade and cultural exchanges, has long been a crucial conduit connecting the civilizations of Europe, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. This term (Silk Route) though was first used by Ferdinand von Richthofen, who had termed the Trans-Asian overland networks as the "Silk Route" or "Silk Road" in the late nineteenth Century, which includes various primary veins and secondary capillaries used for a range of commercial and cultural exchanges. Stretching from the Roman Empire to the Middle Kingdom, the Silk Road was more than just a trade route - it was a vibrant tapestry of commerce, culture, and connectivity (Prof.Dr. Akhlaque A.'Ahan', 2022, p. 374)

At its economic core, the Silk Road facilitated the free flow of goods, from the luxurious silks of China to the precious gems of India. But this vast network also

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> India-Uzbekistan relations (1<sup>st</sup> march 2024). Embassy of India. <a href="https://eoi.gov.in/tashkent/?2615?000">https://eoi.gov.in/tashkent/?2615?000</a>

served as a conduit for the exchange of ideas, religions, and philosophical traditions, including the spread of Sufism across Eurasia. Encompassing modern-day Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent, the Silk Road empowered merchants, artisans, and scholars to transcend the boundaries of their own civilizations. This spirit of economic and intellectual interconnectedness fuelled the remarkable prosperity of the Silk Road's golden age.

Today, as the world grapples with the challenges of globalization, the legacy of the Silk Road stands as a testament to the transformative power of cross-cultural collaboration and the enduring value of economic integration. By exploring this captivating historical tapestry, we may uncover the timeless lessons that can guide us towards a more prosperous and harmonious future.

Cultural relationships. The rich cultural ties between India and Uzbekistan are exemplified by the legacy of renowned Indian poet Mirza Ghalib He was great poet of Mughal era of Urdu language. "The Indian poet Ghalib (1797-1869) migrated from Samarkand city of Uzbekistan. He wrote a book, namely Dabir-ul-Mulk, Najm-ud-Daula. He described the Mughal Empire and the Indian struggle against British rule, cementing his reputation as a literary giant of the era. India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, further strengthened the bilateral relationship through his visits to Tashkent and Samarkand in 1955 and 1961, paving the way for deeper collaboration. Significantly, the historic Tashkent Declaration of 1966, brokered by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was signed in the Uzbek capital, But very sadly, after one day Lal bahadur Shastri died from the heart attack at Tashkent. These episodes underscore the central role that Uzbekistan has played in shaping the cultural and political contours of the India-Uzbekistan partnership over the decades.

The Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture (LBSCIC) plays a pivotal role in promoting Indian cultural diplomacy through educational initiatives aimed at countries like Uzbekistan. One of its significant endeavours includes offering Government of India Scholarships to Uzbekistani nationals. It was established by the Government of India, LBSCIC aims to strengthen bilateral relations by

facilitating cultural exchanges and fostering mutual understanding. LBSCIC's Government of India Scholarships not only facilitate academic pursuits but also contribute significantly to cultural exchange, thereby enhancing the bilateral ties between India and Uzbekistan through educational diplomacy.

The practice of Indian yoga in Uzbekistan serves as a powerful bridge for promoting cultural ties between the two nations. Through yoga, Uzbekistan embraces India's ancient traditions, fostering mutual understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage. Yoga's popularity in Uzbekistan highlights its universal appeal and its role in promoting physical and mental well-being across diverse communities. The practice facilitates cultural exchange, deepening connections between practitioners and fostering a shared sense of spirituality and mindfulness. Overall, yoga serves as a profound symbol of India's cultural influence in Uzbekistan, promoting harmony and cooperation through holistic practice.

The economic growth and cultural exchange between India and Uzbekistan are profoundly influenced by the active participation and positive interactions of their citizens. Despite historical ties and growing bilateral relations, there remains untapped potential in trade and economic collaboration. The Indian diaspora in Uzbekistan serves as a bridge between the two nations, fostering understanding and cooperation. Cultural affinity, exemplified by shared admiration for Indian cinema and warm hospitality towards Indians, strengthens the people-to-people connections. As both countries continue to deepen their partnership, leveraging the role of citizens will be pivotal in shaping a prosperous and enduring alliance.

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