

Raisi takes Iran-Uzbekistan relations up to new heights

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At the invitation of the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi, his Uzbek counterpart, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, visited Iran almost a year ago for the first time. This marked the second time a President of Uzbekistan had made the trip since 1992.

Leading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, Mirziyoyev sealed the deal on 10 cooperation agreements across a range of sectors. These included a preferential trade agreement; transportation and transit protocols; plans for cooperation on pharmaceuticals, standards, and insurance; a look into setting up shared free zones; and a program for partnerships on technological innovation and the agricultural sector.

On the other hand, the president of Iran made not one but two trips to Uzbekistan, the first official one taking place on September 14, 2022. During this three-day sojourn, the Iranian leader and his high-level delegation attended the 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's member states. This marked the finalization of Iran's permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Additionally, the trip saw the signing of 17 memorandums of understanding and cooperation agreements, along with a joint statement, between the top brass of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The cooperation agreements between the two nations spanned a wide range of areas again. These included ramping up collaboration in agriculture, energy, and customs; boosting sports, science, technology, and innovation partnerships; increasing cultural exchanges; joining forces in the health sector; making international transport through the Chabahar port a reality; developing environmental initiatives; growing the tourism industry; and streamlining visa processes for business leaders, academics, and tourist groups.

In an interview with Iran Daily, the head of the Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Chamber of Commerce chimed in on the countries' relationship, stating that things really kicked off between Iran and Uzbekistan during Raisi's presidency. "The level of relations between the two countries reached an unprecedented level during Raisi's tenure," Mousa Aghaei said.

In what follows, we discuss the economic and commercial ties, trade exchanges, and economic cooperation between the two nations with Aghaei.



The late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi (C) and his Uzbek counterpart, Shavkat Mirziyoyev (R), visit Tehran's specialized exhibition of innovations and technologies on June 18, 2023.

Special Issue
on Passing of
President Seyyed
Ebrahim Raisi and
his companions