

**IMPROVEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND ECONOMIC
MECHANISMS OF STATE SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PILGRIMAGE
TOURISM**

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Annotation: This article devoted to open the theme improvement of the organizational and economic mechanisms of state support for the development of pilgrimage tourism. On the other hand, the latest information on the latest laws and their implementation aimed at state support for the development of pilgrimage tourism were noted.

Key words: *Pilgrimage tourism, Traditional pilgrimages, cultural heritage, cultural heritage, religious destinations, long drawn-out journey, Muslim community.*

Pilgrimage tourism is essentially the process of visiting pilgrimage sites. These are primarily religious destinations, and can even be said to have formed a very early version of tourism. Typically, pilgrimages are long journeys taken over days, weeks or even months **for religious purposes**. They are a whole journey, one that people of faith take in order to strengthen their relationship with their religion. However, pilgrimage tourism can include visits to specific churches or mosques or other religious landmarks in the city you might be visiting on holiday. It doesn't have to be a long drawn-out journey (a typical pilgrimage), it can be a quick visit that forms part of any other kind of tourism. Traditional pilgrimages are important to many people. They are linked to almost all religions across the globe; people travel to certain destinations to experience religious enlightenment. The journey itself, often long and sometimes difficult, is a chance to reflect. Whether taken alone or in a group, a pilgrimage is something that helps people in some way[1]. This might be something people choose to do after a loss: being alone with your grief as you journey to somewhere spiritual can be a great way to healing.

From 2016 tourism was declared as one of the important spheres of the country's economy in Uzbekistan. During these years, large scale measures were carried out on the developing of the tourism of pilgrimage together with all directions of tourism too. As a result, it was achieved that, the numbers of tourists which visited to our country increased. It's known

that, Uzbekistan is one of the rich countries to holy shrines in the world scale. This holy soil is regarded that, it is a land where many great persons which were the best famous in Islamic world had been buried. During the independence years, the studying and landscaping works of addresses where such humans which were famous with their great works in the strengthening the creed of Muslim community were carried out. And they were transformed to the places where pilgrimage of the people. These places are regarded not only for our people, but for the people whole Islamic world. Current days, only in Samarkand province there are 1105 archeological, 670 architectural, 37 attraction places, 18 monumental objects as well as, 1851 material and cultural heritage objects which entered to the 21 memorial categories. There are many places where were possible for pilgrimage among them[2]. During the latest three years these reasons served as basis for the developing the tourism of pilgrimage in our country and introducing it to the world. As a result, many achievements were achieved in these. For this reason, it is important that, the scientific analyzing of the works which carried out and their results.

Uzbekistan is intensively opening up to the world and its famous religious places can become the basis of the tourism boom in the country. Such famous scientists of the Muslim world as Imam al-Bukhari, Imam at-Termizi, Imam al-Maturidi, Bahauddin Naqshbandi, al-Zamakhshari and others lived and worked on the territory of modern Uzbekistan. Their mausoleums will play an important role in the development of tourism in the country. In addition, Uzbekistan is located in the center of Central Asia. The country has a rich cultural and historical heritage. Today, the authorities are making certain efforts to open the country to the world, paying special attention to the tourism sector. According to the forecasts of "Crescent Rating", by 2026 the number of pilgrim tourists will reach 230 million. Considering the centuries-old Islamic heritage of Uzbekistan, the development of pilgrim tourism has great prospects for the country. However, Uzbekistan is not yet a benchmark in this area. In a survey by the Center for Business and Tourism Development conducted among those who visited Uzbekistan in 2017, only 2.2% answered that they would like to visit the country as a tourist pilgrim. At the same time, according to the Crescent Rating on the World Muslim Tourism Index for 2017, Uzbekistan ranked 29th, while Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were in higher places. Since 2017, tourism has become a strategic sector of the national economy. The President signed a decree aimed at the active development of this industry. The main directions here are the introduction of halal certification, training of halal tourism guides and the construction of halal hotels. Uzbekistan is actively developing bilateral relations with other states in the field of pilgrim tourism. For example, agreements on the organization of special pilgrimage tours in

Uzbekistan were concluded with Pakistan and Turkey.

Today, most of the tourists visiting Uzbekistan come from the CIS countries[3]. Whereas close interaction of Uzbekistan with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in this area will contribute to:

- a) increase the flow of tourists from Muslim countries;
- b) expanding mutually beneficial trade and investment relations within the OIC.

Support for specialized tours of important Islamic shrines in Uzbekistan could increase the overall flow of tourists. The country has unique holy places, especially for Hanafi Muslims, including Sufis. The long-term absence of a unified tourism policy and strategy in the country is considered an urgent problem that impedes the development of this sector. Now the government of Uzbekistan has clearly stated its intentions to develop the tourism sector. Under President Sh. Mirziyoyev, more than 50 legal norms were adopted in the field of tourism. The role of the cult of saints in the shrines is invaluable in strengthening the qualities of diligence in the population. As the nobles worked tirelessly to reach the level of sainthood, the attitude of the people towards labor became imitative in the lives of the saints. These views are in line with the motto of Bahauddin Naqshband, "Dil ba yori, dast ba kor" ("The soul must be turned towards God and the hands should be in work"). In the public opinion regarding the holy shrines, purity is the main criterion, and such vile deeds as blasphemy, indifference to others, prostitution, and drunkenness are strongly condemned[4].

As well as, for the purpose to create the convenience to the pilgrims which are visiting to our country, new state standard was made by the state unitary enterprise named "Certificating center of the touristic services" of the State committee of the developing the tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan. From January 1 2018, the standard came into force based on this document on the touristic services, means of placing, common requires. According to the new rules which installed, it was noted that, it must be Quran in the least one tenth of the total number of rooms in each hotel as well as, prayer seat and indicator of Qibla in the least 30 percent of the rooms[5]. During these times many works were implemented on the simplifying the visa procedure for the tourists where are come to Uzbekistan. For the purpose, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan named "About additional organizational measures on the creating the favorable conditions for the developing of the tourism potential of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was declared in February 3 2018. According to this, the procedure without visa for the citizens of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Turkey, South Korea, Japan Israel as well as, the simplified visa procedure for the tourists where will be come from 39 countries were established. From March

in that year the citizens of Tajikistan and from October the citizens of France were added to the ranks of the foreigners who are visitors without visa[6].

To sum up all given facts above it should be noted that in Uzbekistan from 2016, tourism was declared as one of the important sectors of the economy of Uzbekistan. For this reason, the works of the development of tourism and pilgrimage tourism which is one of the important sectors of tourism, as well as, to introduce it to the world were carried out. In this, the relevant Decree and Decisions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were declared. Relevant works were carried out based on this. As well as, various measures, scientific seminars and conferences were organized for the purpose to develop the pilgrimage tourism and to study foreign experiments. In this sphere, the bilateral cooperation was begun with foreign firms and companies. This, in turn, served to significantly increase of the number of pilgrims who are visiting to Uzbekistan, in particular, holy shrines in our country.

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