

Foreword Do'stlik Rising in New Uzbekistan

The history of a homeland is not written in dates alone. It lives in the destiny of its people, in their dreams and aspirations, in the appearance of towns and villages that have risen from the native soil, and in the memories and values passed from one generation to the next.

In this sense, the thirty-fifth anniversary of the state independence of Uzbekistan is far more than a historical date. It is a proud expression of thirty-five years since our people took their destiny into their own hands, restored their national pride and dignity, and, relying on their own strength and potential, began building a new life and a new society.

These years have left an indelible mark on the destiny of every corner of Uzbekistan, every town and village, and every mahalla.

The same is true of Do'stlik District.

Do'stlik... The very name carries warmth, sincerity, harmony and generosity of spirit. It is almost as though those who once chose this name for the land could foresee its future. For generations, this place has embraced people of different nations and ethnic communities as though they were children of one family. Here, labour has been regarded as a value, good neighbourliness as a blessing, and peace and harmony as the greatest wealth.

Do'stlik is a place that rose through human will, perseverance and labour in the vast and generous expanses of Mirzacho'l.

When we look back at the past of this land, we can see the imprint of human endeavour in every part of it. Once, hundreds and thousands of people worked tirelessly to create a new life across the wide steppe, cultivate the land, establish gardens and orchards, and build towns and villages. They represented different nationalities, yet they were united by a single aspiration — to develop this land, raise their children here and build a future.

It was through such labour, courage and solidarity that Do'stlik District was established in 1970. That year opened a new chapter in the district's history.

As the years passed, fields and settlements expanded, new communities emerged and social facilities were built. Do'stlik's economic and social potential continued to grow. In 1983, the granting of city status to the settlement of Do'stlik became one of the important historical milestones in the life of the district.

Yet the true character of Do'stlik, its present-day progress and the profound changes in people's lives cannot be understood separately from the years of independence.

Independence gave Do'stlik the opportunity to shape its own destiny in harmony with the destiny of the Motherland.

Over the past thirty-five years, significant changes have taken place across every sphere of life in our district. When we compare the Do'stlik of yesterday with the Do'stlik of today, the scale and substance of the development achieved over these years become even more apparent. The roads have changed. The mahallas have changed.

Most importantly, **people's attitudes towards life and their confidence in tomorrow have changed.** In recent years in particular, the reforms led by our

respected President Shavkat Mirziyoyev under the noble principle **“For Human Dignity”** have brought new meaning and momentum to the life of our district. Bringing reforms all the way to each mahalla, each household and the destiny of every individual has become a priority.

Today, anyone entering the mahallas of Do‘stlik sees these changes not merely in statistics, but first and foremost in people’s everyday lives.

They can be seen in smooth roads and well-kept streets, renewed homes, modern schools and kindergartens, healthcare facilities, in the confidence of an entrepreneur who has started a business, in the aspirations of a young person learning a profession, and in the eyes of parents looking to their children’s future with hope. It is in these details that the true face of today’s Do‘stlik is revealed. The mahalla is no longer simply a place where people reside. It has become a community where a person’s concerns are heard, solutions are sought to their problems, their initiatives are supported and, in many respects, their future is shaped. The work of the “mahalla seven” serves precisely this noble purpose: to work directly with people, ease their concerns and help them realise their potential. Across this land, every mahalla, every street and every household lives as an integral part of the progress of New Uzbekistan. As our respected President has said, the noble principle **“We earn the respect of others through our responsible labour”** has become one of the guiding standards of our lives.

I have come to understand deeply that these are not merely words, but **a golden expression that captures the very essence of leadership responsibility in a single sentence — an expression whose weight would not diminish even if measured on the finest scales.** For the true worth of a leader is determined not by office or title, but **by practical deeds for the people, by easing their burdens and by proving worthy of their trust.**

We see vivid proof of this not only in the remarkable transformations taking place in Do‘stlik District, but also in the steadily growing standing of Uzbekistan within the international community. Today, our country is earning the respect and confidence of nations around the world through peace and stability, consistent reforms, economic growth, large-scale development and an open policy. At the heart of this recognition lies the honest, dedicated and responsible labour that has always characterised our people.

Today, on the eve of the 35th anniversary of our independence, as I look back on the path travelled by Do‘stlik District, I once again feel that every school built, every mahalla improved, every new job created, and every expression of confidence and satisfaction on people’s faces is a practical embodiment of this great idea.

It is a source of pride for me to say that every mahalla in Do‘stlik District has its own character, every street its own rhythm, and every household its own dreams and aspirations, while the greatest force uniting them all is **love for the Motherland, gratitude for peace and a sense of belonging to the progress of New Uzbekistan.**

Today, representatives of more than 24 nations and ethnic communities live in Do‘stlik District, yet the people of the district share one table, one aspiration and

one Motherland. Their children study in the same schools, grow up in the same mahallas, dream beneath the same sky and mature in the service of the prosperity of their one homeland — Uzbekistan.

In this sense, the history of Do'stlik is not simply the history of one district. It is **the history of people and land, labour and perseverance, friendship and solidarity**. The thirty-fifth anniversary of independence is one of the most honourable chapters in that history.

The principal purpose of preparing the book-album you now hold in your hands is to look once more at the path we have travelled, to connect yesterday with today, and to preserve on the pages of history the transformations and renewal that have taken place on the land of Do'stlik during the years of independence.

Every page reflects the Do'stlik of yesterday and today, while every photograph captures human labour, destiny and aspiration. History lives through memory. Memory inspires gratitude. And where there is gratitude, there is love for the Motherland, confidence in the future and the determination to reach new heights. Today, as we look back, we take pride in the road we have travelled.

Yet however significant our achievements may be, we believe that **the brightest pages of Do'stlik's story are still ahead**.

For the greatest wealth of this land, as our respected President has emphasised, is **"its hardworking, courageous, generous and creative people."** As long as there are such people, development in Do'stlik will never cease. Progress will continue. Generations will change, years will pass and new history will be written.

Yet one truth will remain eternal: **Independence is our greatest treasure. And Do'stlik is a cherished part of our great Motherland — a place where warmth, harmony and the spirit of creation come together.**

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