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TURKMENISTAN

35th Anniversary of Independence

“Year 2026 - Independent Neutral Turkmenistan – Homeland of purposeful heavenly horses”

35 years of Independence

TURKMENISTAN'S ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEW HORIZONS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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The designation of 2026 as “Independent, Permanently Neutral Turkmenistan - Homeland of Purposeful Heavenly Horses” and the broad celebration of the 35th anniversary of Turkmenistan’s state independence provide an opportunity to take a fresh look at our country’s

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modern path of development. Although thirty-five years is not a long period in historical terms, for Turkmenistan it has been an era in which the institutions of statehood were strengthened, the foundations of the national economy were laid, broad areas of international cooperation were established, and major reforms aimed at improving the people’s standard of living were carried out. Independence, attained in 1991, enabled the Turkmen people to shape their own economic policy in accordance with national interests. The establishment of the national currency

and the financial, banking, tax, customs and foreign trade systems; the recognition of various forms of ownership; the formation of the legal framework for entrepreneurship; and the consistent improvement of legislation governing economic relations became important pillars of economic sovereignty. Alongside a gradual transition to market relations, the state’s balanced development of strategic sectors, maintenance of macroeconomic stability and provision of social guarantees shaped the distinctive character of the national development model. Today, under the leadership of the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov and building on the long-term initiatives advanced by the National Leader of the Turkmen people and Chairman of the Halk Maslahaty of

Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, this development path continues with new substance. Strategic documents such as the “Revival of the New Era of the Powerful State: National Programme for the Socio-Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2022-2052” demonstrate that economic policy is focused not only on today’s challenges but also on the interests of future generations. Such planning helps strengthen the economy’s resilience to external impacts, expand productive capacity and create new jobs.

Sustainable development and economic diversification

One of the key features of Turkmenistan’s economic strategy is the broadening of the economy’s sectoral structure while maintaining a steady pace of growth. According to official data, gross domestic product grew by 6.3 percent in 2025. Growth reached 1.8 percent in industry, 9.6 percent in trade and 7 percent in agriculture. In addition, 116 production and socio-cultural facilities were commissioned and 645,000 square metres of housing were completed using various sources of finance. These indicators confirm that

economic growth encompasses socially significant areas as well as production results.

The diversification policy is focused not merely on exporting natural resources, but also on processing them more deeply within the country, producing higher-value-added goods and creating new production chains. The commissioning of modern enterprises that process oil and natural gas and produce gas-chemical products, mineral fertilizers, polymers, textiles, building materials, foodstuffs and other goods has broadened the capabilities of national industry. The development of such industries increases the volume of import-substituting goods on the one hand and diversifies the commodity composition of exports on the other.

The coordinated operation of the public and private sectors is also an important condition for growth. Private entrepreneurs are playing an increasingly active role in food production, agricultural processing, construction, trade, transport services, the textile and furniture industries, and the service sector. Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, encouraging industries that use local raw materials, establishing export-oriented enterprises and developing public-private partnership mechanisms all help create a competitive economic environment. The particular emphasis placed in the economic strategy on production projects and on private and foreign investment broadens Turkmenistan’s opportunities for cooperation with international business.

Industry, energy and “green” growth

During the years of Independence, the energy sector has become one of the main sources of Turkmenistan’s economic strength. The country’s rich hydrocarbon reserves, the modernization



of their extraction and processing, the diversification of energy export routes and the contribution to international energy security are priorities of national policy. The establishment of gas-chemical and petrochemical enterprises and the production of high-quality petroleum products, polymers, mineral fertilizers and synthetic fuel are clear examples of the transition from a raw-material-based economy to a more deeply industrialized development model.

Turkmenistan’s energy diplomacy is based on the principle of balancing the interests of the supplier, the transit country and the consumer. Initiatives aimed at ensuring the reliable and sustainable delivery of energy resources to world markets seek not only to generate economic revenue but also to strengthen long-term cooperation between regions. In this context, the Turkmenistan-

Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline is not merely an energy project; it is a major interregional undertaking that brings Central and South Asia closer together economically and creates new jobs and production opportunities.

Today, the qualitative dimensions of economic growth are inseparably linked to environmental sustainability. Improving energy efficiency, introducing resource-saving technologies in production, exploring renewable energy sources, using water resources rationally and combating desertification occupy an important place on Turkmenistan’s “green” growth agenda. In the future, the development of solar and wind power, low-carbon industries and environmental innovations will not only help protect the environment but also create conditions for new professions, technologies and areas of investment.





Transport, logistics and digital transformation

Turkmenistan's advantageous geographical location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia is an important competitive advantage for the national economy. During the years of Independence, the modernization of roads and railways, international airports, sea and river ports, bridges and communications systems has substantially increased the country's transit capacity. Turkmenbashi International Seaport is capable of serving as a multimodal logistics hub connecting the markets of the Caucasus, Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East via the Caspian Sea. Developing transport corridors along the North-South and East-West routes helps shorten freight transit times, reduce trade costs and expand the opportunities for countries in the region to access world markets.

The efficiency of transport infrastructure is further enhanced by digital solutions. The "Concept for the Development of the Digital Economy in Turkmenistan for 2026-2028," approved in October 2025, provides for the development of e-government, digital education and science, financial technologies, information and communications networks, high-tech entrepreneurship and human capital. Implementation of this document will increase the importance of data in production management, improve the speed and accessibility of public services, and create conditions for the expansion of e-commerce and cross-border services.

The construction of the city of Arkadag in accordance with "smart city" principles is a notable example of integrating digital and environmental solutions into urban management. Digital

governance, modern communications, environmentally friendly transport, energy efficiency and convenient public services are combined in a single integrated system. Such projects go beyond building a new city: they also create a practical testing ground for national construction, service, IT and engineering companies. The experience gained can subsequently be applied to the modernization of other cities and regions.

Human capital and a socially oriented economy

The most important measure of economic achievement is its impact on people's standard of living. For this reason, economic policy in Turkmenistan is socially oriented. The construction of new housing, schools, kindergartens, institutions of higher education, healthcare and sports facilities, the

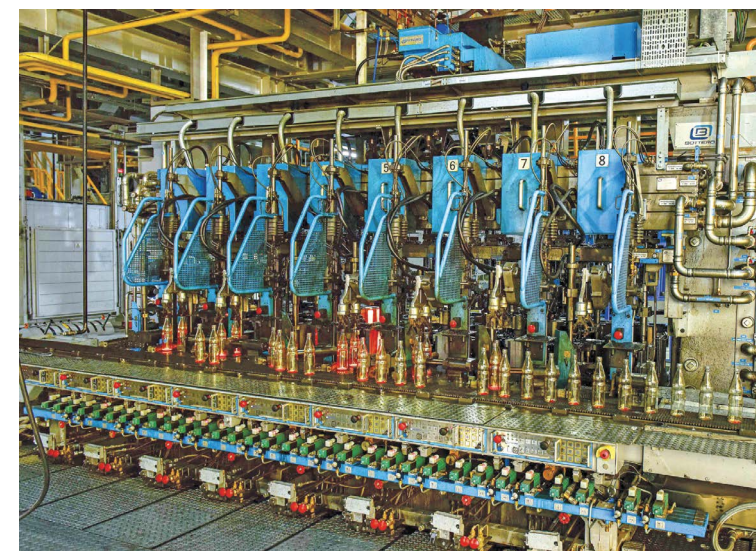
development of engineering infrastructure in rural areas and the provision of social protection for the population are intended to bring the benefits of economic growth to broad sections of society. Education, science and professional training are the main sources of the national economy's long-term competitiveness. Training highly qualified specialists in digital technologies, engineering, energy, logistics, international economic relations, ecology and management is essential for the effective operation of new industries. Joint programmes between higher education institutions and foreign partners, scientific and practical conferences, student and faculty exchanges, and the teaching of foreign languages and digital skills improve the quality of human capital. Strengthening links between science and industry, in turn, makes it possible to introduce innovations in a manner suited to local conditions.

Permanent Neutrality and opportunities for Turkmenistan-India cooperation

The international dimension of Turkmenistan's economic achievements is closely linked to its policy of permanent Neutrality. The principles of peace, mutual respect, equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states create a climate of trust in foreign economic relations. On March 21 2025, the United Nations General Assembly once again adopted by consensus the Resolution "Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan," confirming the international community's broad support for this legal status. A stable political environment, good-neighbourliness and the principle of resolving disputes through negotiations are particularly important for long-term energy, transport and investment projects.

Neutrality does not impede active economic diplomacy; on the contrary, it creates a reliable platform for reconciling the interests of different states, international organizations and business communities. International forums, exhibitions and business meetings regularly held in Ashgabat facilitate the establishment of new partnerships in energy, transport, trade, finance, digital technologies and the "green" economy. This approach strengthens Turkmenistan's position not only as a supplier of goods and raw materials, but also as a responsible partner linking interregional economic relations.

Relations between Turkmenistan and India are a clear example of these opportunities. At a high-level meeting held on 6 June 2025, it was noted that the two countries have substantial potential to expand trade, increase investment and implement joint projects in transport, energy, industry, advanced technologies, healthcare and the pharmaceutical industry. Particular emphasis was placed on the TAPI gas pipeline and the North-South International Transport Corridor. These routes can stimulate not only energy and freight flows between Central Asia and India, but also the exchange of knowledge and technologies and the development of entrepreneurial initiatives. Several practical areas may be prioritized on the future agenda of bilateral economic cooperation. First, technologies and investments in gas chemistry, petrochemicals and energy efficiency can be combined. Second, the experience of Indian companies in the pharmaceutical industry, healthcare technologies and medical services is valuable for



developing local production and joint research projects in Turkmenistan. Third, information technologies, software, artificial intelligence, digital banking services and professional training are areas in which new cooperation can grow rapidly. Fourth, expanding mutual trade in textiles, food, agricultural products and processed goods meets the needs of both markets. Fifth, coordinating logistics chains under the Ashgabat Agreement and the North-South Corridor will help reduce the time and cost of transporting goods.

The 35 years of Turkmenistan's Independence have been a period in which the economic foundations of national statehood were created, industrial and infrastructure capacity was expanded, entrepreneurship was developed and the people's living conditions were steadily improved. The results achieved rest on the harmony of a peaceful foreign policy, permanent Neutrality, long-term planning and an economic strategy that places human well-being first.

The main opportunities for future development lie in deeper economic diversification, digital and "green" technologies, knowledge-based production, a modern logistics system and the expansion of private initiative. By directing its economic potential towards regional peace and prosperity, Turkmenistan is establishing itself as a reliable, long-term and mutually beneficial partner for the international community. Expanding Turkmenistan-India relations in energy, transport, industry, advanced technologies, healthcare and education can further increase the practical results of this cooperation in the new decades of Independence.

