COMPANY PROFILE · 2026

Sterling Meridian

Your trusted corridor between India and Uzbekistan

CROSS-BORDER EXPANSION ADVISORY



AN AXIS GROUP VENTURE

NEW DELHI · TASHKENT

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An introduction to Sterling Meridian, the opportunity in Uzbekistan, and how we help Indian businesses and our institutional partners succeed on the corridor.

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01

WHO WE ARE

A bridge built on years of presence in Uzbekistan.

ABOUT STERLING MERIDIAN

One accountable team, on both sides of the corridor

Sterling Meridian helps Indian businesses enter and grow in Uzbekistan with confidence. We give our clients one trusted team: in India to plan alongside them, and on the ground in Uzbekistan to turn plans into a working business, from the first visit to the first year of operations and beyond.

We are part of the **Axis Group**, which has worked in Uzbekistan for many years alongside its universities, institutions and communities. Sterling Meridian brings that presence, those relationships and that understanding of how things work locally to Indian entrepreneurs, manufacturers, exporters and investors.

Thousands

of Indian families who have
trusted the Axis Group

On the ground

Offices and teams
in Uzbekistan

Two nations

One accountable team in
India and Uzbekistan

Central Asia's fastest-reforming economy

Central Asia's most populous nation, a gateway to a regional market of over 80 million consumers, and a government actively inviting foreign investment through reform, privatisation and dedicated economic zones.

38.4 mn
Population, the largest in Central Asia (2025)

$43.1 bn
Foreign investment attracted in 2025

~6%
Average annual GDP growth, 2022–2030

15%
Standard corporate income tax rate

Pro-investment reform

Privatisation of state enterprises, a broad pipeline of public-private partnerships, and accession to the World Trade Organization targeted for 2026.

Fast, digital setup

Online company registration in a matter of days, broadly permitted full foreign ownership, and a national investment agency acting as a one-stop shop.

Dedicated economic zones

Free economic and pharmaceutical zones across the country, including a pharmaceutical zone in Andijan created to attract Indian investment.

SOURCES: INVESTMENT GUIDE UZBEKISTAN, PWC AND MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND TRADE (JUNE 2026); PWC TAX SUMMARIES (AUG 2026)

03 · THE INDIA–UZBEKISTAN CORRIDOR

A partnership entering its most ambitious chapter

In August 2026, India and Uzbekistan elevated their relationship to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and set a goal of quadrupling annual trade by 2030, with priority on pharmaceuticals, healthcare, energy, critical minerals, agriculture, IT and education.

$5 bn
Annual bilateral trade target by 2030

$1.3 bn
Bilateral trade in 2025, up 33% on 2024

2025
Bilateral Investment Treaty in force since May 2025

10%
Treaty cap on withholding tax on dividends, interest and royalties

13,000+
Indian students in Uzbekistan, the largest international group

Andijan
Pharmaceutical zone created to attract Indian investment

SOURCES: INDIA–UZBEKISTAN JOINT STATEMENT (AUG 2026); UZBEK MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND TRADE; INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT OF INDIA; NQAAE (AUG 2026)

The complete corridor, under one roof

Six practice pillars take a business from its first question about Uzbekistan to a thriving operation, and bring Central Asian businesses into India. One accountable team coordinates everything, supported by independent, qualified legal and tax professionals.

I

Enter

Decide with clarity

II

Establish

Set up properly

III

Connect

Find the right partners

IV

Operate and grow

Thrive after launch

V

Sector programmes

Packaged for priority industries

VI

Reverse corridor

Central Asia into India

One point of contact. Two nations. Every stage of the journey.

Legal and tax matters are handled by independent, qualified lawyers and accountants in India and Uzbekistan. Sterling Meridian never holds client funds; all payments go directly through banks.

From first question to established business

I Enter

DECIDE WITH CLARITY

- Opportunity Assessment
- Market intelligence and sector reports
- Investor visits and delegations
- Trade-fair representation

II Establish

SET UP PROPERLY

- Company setup and site selection
- Economic-zone and incentive applications
- Visas, residency and work permits
- Expatriate relocation
- Accounting and payroll coordination
- Translation and localisation

III Connect

FIND THE RIGHT PARTNERS

- Partner and joint-venture matchmaking
- Due diligence on counterparts
- Trade and sourcing desk
- Government tenders and PPP desk
- Franchise and brand entry

Growth, sector expertise and the reverse corridor

IV Operate and grow

THRIVE AFTER LAUNCH

- Corridor Desk: ongoing representation
- Market-entry marketing
- Skilled workforce mobility
- Regulatory and product registration support
- Export credit and certification coordination

V Sector programmes

PACKAGED FOR PRIORITY INDUSTRIES

- Pharmaceuticals and life sciences
- Healthcare and medical travel
- Education, training and graduate careers
- Agri-technology and food processing
- Renewables and engineering
- Hospitality, F&B and wellness

VI Reverse corridor

CENTRAL ASIA INTO INDIA

- Uzbek and Central Asian businesses entering India
- Company setup and licensing in India
- Indian partners, distributors and sites

A clear path, walked together

Explore

We assess the opportunity in your sector and arrange a visit to see it first-hand.

Establish

We coordinate your company setup, banking, registrations and site.

Partner

We find and vet the right local partners and support you to a signed deal.

Grow

Our Corridor Desk stays with you, solving problems as your business grows.

One point of contact

A single accountable team in India and Uzbekistan.

Honest counsel

We tell you when an opportunity is not right for you.

Independent experts

Qualified lawyers and accountants advise you directly.

Clarity on fees

Every engagement is agreed in writing before it begins.

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SECTORS OF FOCUS

Where India's strengths meet Uzbekistan's priorities.

Pharmaceuticals and life sciences

Manufacturing and registration in dedicated pharmaceutical zones, serving Uzbekistan and the wider region.

Healthcare and medical travel

Clinics, diagnostics and hospital partnerships, and trusted pathways for Central Asian patients to Indian hospitals.

Education and training

Building on the Axis Group's long experience with Uzbek universities and Indian students.

Hospitality, F&B and franchise

Indian hospitality, restaurant and retail brands meeting a fast-growing consumer and tourism market.

Manufacturing and engineering

Light engineering, textiles, components and renewables, supported by economic-zone frameworks.

Agriculture and food processing

Processing, irrigation, cold chain and agri-trade opportunities across the regions.

A dependable partner in bringing Indian investment

We work alongside embassies, regional administrations, investment agencies and economic-zone directorates to connect them with serious, well-prepared Indian businesses, and to help those investments succeed long after the first meeting.

Prepared investors

Indian companies who arrive with clear objectives, business information and documents in order.

Investor delegations

Curated business visits to regions and economic zones, planned around partners' priorities.

Long-term follow-through

On-the-ground support that helps announced investments become operating businesses.

Regular reporting

Transparent updates on interest, visits and progress for our institutional partners.

08

FOR PARTNERS

Stronger together on the corridor.

We work with professional firms, chambers, hospitals and agencies who share our commitment to doing business the right way. Our partners gain a trusted presence on both sides of the corridor; our clients gain the best specialist in every field.

Law and accounting firms

Independent counsel for clients in India and Uzbekistan, with Sterling coordinating on the ground.

Chambers and councils

Delegations, forums and follow-through that turn interest into investment.

Hospitals and healthcare groups

Trusted, patient-first pathways for Central Asian patients and healthcare ventures.

Specialist agencies

Marketing, recruitment, travel, inspection and regulatory partners, under clear written terms.

Every partnership is set out in writing, with clear roles and full transparency to clients.

09 · OUR COMMITMENTS

Integrity in every step

- We act in our clients' interests and give honest advice, including when to wait.
- We work only through official channels, with transparent, documented processes.
- We never hold or transfer client funds.
- We bring in independent, qualified professionals for every legal and tax matter.
- We respect the laws, culture and institutions of both India and Uzbekistan.

BEGIN THE CONVERSATION

We would be delighted to discuss your plans.

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