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Uzbekistan President's Islamabad Visit Promises Big Wins



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Uzbekistan, Pakistan poised to deepen ties

THE forthcoming state visit of Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Islamabad on February 05, 2026 is poised to usher in a new era of deepened strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Scheduled amid accelerating bilateral momentum, the trip will coincide with high-level engagements, including the Uzbekistan-Pakistan Business Forum and a "Made in Uzbekistan" exhibition in the Pakistani capital. This visit comes at a pivotal juncture when both nations are actively converting historical goodwill, shared cultural heritage, and geographic proximity into concrete economic and connectivity gains. Under President Mirziyoyev's dynamic leadership, Uzbekistan has pursued bold reforms that have opened doors for regional integration, while Pakistan, guided by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's vision of geo-economics, seeks to strengthen links with Central Asia. The upcoming summit is expected to build on the High-Level Strategic Partnership Council established following Sharif's visit to Tashkent in February 2025, institutionalizing cooperation across multiple domains. At the heart of the agenda lies the ambitious Trans-Afghan Railway project, a flagship initiative that promises to bridge Central and South Asia. The proposed corridor, linking Termez in Uzbekistan through Afghanistan to Pakistan's ports (including Karachi and potentially Gwadar), could slash transit times to 3-5 days and reduce transport costs by over 40%. For landlocked Uzbekistan, this means reliable access to the Arabian Sea and global markets; for Pakistan, it positions the country as a vital transit hub for Eurasian trade. Progress has been steady: In 2025, feasibility studies advanced significantly, with trilateral talks involving Afghanistan yielding key agreements on routing and financing. Stakeholders view the railway not merely as infrastructure but as a geo-economic game-changer that could transport up to 20 million tonnes of cargo annually, fostering regional integration and unlocking untapped potential in trade, energy, and industry. Trade Surge and Economic Momentum Economic ties have shown remarkable growth. Bilateral trade exceeded \$440 million in 2025—twelve times higher than in 2016—with Uzbek exports surpassing \$320 million. Leadership on both sides has set an ambitious target of \$2 billion "in the near future," bolstered by the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) signed in 2022 and operational since 2023. The PTA currently offers customs benefits for 17 categories of goods from each side, with negotiations underway to expand the list substantially. Business engagement is thriving. As of late 2025, around 180 Pakistani-invested companies operate in Uzbekistan, active in textiles, food processing, pharmaceuticals, construction, and logistics. Pakistani investments reached approximately \$70 million from January to July 2025, nearly double the 2024 figure. Uzbek firms are exploring opportunities in Pakistan for household appliances, tractors, smart meters, and more, paving the way for technology transfer and joint ventures. Trade facilitation measures are accelerating: Uzbekistan established trade houses in Lahore and Karachi in 2025, while Pakistan plans reciprocal missions in Tashkent and Samarkand. Business forums and exhibitions have proven highly effective—the "Made in Pakistan" event in Tashkent (2024) and the "Made in Uzbekistan" exhibition in Lahore (February 2025) generated agreements worth hundreds of millions, including \$500 million from the Lahore event alone. Energy cooperation is emerging as a strategic pillar, with potential in oil and gas exploration, infrastructure modernization, and diversification to enhance security and support industrial growth. In the digital domain, collaboration in software, IT solutions for public services, and startups is gaining traction as a fast-moving frontier for innovation and competitiveness. Experts, including Nigora Sultanova, Chief Research Fellow at Uzbekistan's Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies, emphasize broadening engagement beyond high-level deals to include SMEs, academia, youth, and civil society. This inclusive approach aims to transform cultural affinity into sustainable mechanisms for investment, employment, and shared prosperity. The Uzbekistan-Pakistan relationship is fully geared to become a central pillar in the emerging architecture linking Central and South Asia. President Mirziyoyev's visit, coinciding with preparations for deepened PTA implementation, railway advancements, and expanded industrial partnerships, signals a shift from goodwill to pragmatic, results-oriented cooperation. As Prime Minister Sharif once noted in praise of Uzbekistan's reforms, "miracles are possible only through a clear vision, high dynamism, hard work, and a resolute pursuit of a common goal." The February 2026 summit holds the promise of realizing that vision, forging a partnership that benefits not only the two nations but the broader region.

Ansar

Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan

**Dear compatriots!
Esteemed deputies
and senators!
Honored guests!**

TODAY, presenting the Address for the upcoming year to the Oliy Majlis and our multinational people, I am, first of all, pleased to see all of you in good health and high spirits.

Over the past nine years, together with you and our people, we have gone through a significant path of development. Our economy has been reshaped, we have expanded market relations and social protection, and strengthened the rule of law. Most importantly, the results of our reforms are felt in every mahalla, every household, and every individual in their daily lives.

In short, we have learned to turn reforms into concrete, practical results. This is clearly reflected in our cities and villages, which are increasingly taking on a new appearance, exemplified by modern enterprises, trade and service facilities, schools, kindergartens and hospitals, well-maintained streets and mahallas, transport and logistics systems, and digital services.

Dear compatriots!

Today, we are concluding a challenging year amid global changes that until recently no one could have imagined, growing economic contradictions between states, and security threats.





Regardless of how difficult the circumstances were, in 2025 outstanding achievements were made across all sectors thanks to the consistent continuation of initiated democratic reforms, the support of the people, the enthusiasm of our youth, the strengthening of the mahalla system based on unity, changes in people's mindset and worldview, a more cohesive society, the initiative and dedicated work of entrepreneurs, workers, and farmers, as well as a friendly foreign policy based on mutually beneficial cooperation. First and foremost, even amid disruptions in global production and transport-logistics chains and rising prices for raw materials and financial resources, our country's economy continues to grow confidently and steadily. These achievements are recognized by the international community and authoritative global organizations. Just nine years ago, reaching an economic volume of \$100 billion seemed like a very high benchmark for us. This year, for the first time in our history, gross domestic product exceeded \$145 billion. Such high figures clearly demonstrate the scale of what our people are capable of – all of us together. In a year when the “rules of the game” in the global trade system are changing, this year we will increase exports by 23 percent, bringing the total to \$33.4 billion. Most importantly, our country's gold reserves, being a strong foundation of our further reforms, have exceeded \$60 billion for the first time. This year, foreign investment attracted into the economy reached \$43.1 billion, with the share of total investment in GDP at 31.9 percent. This provides a foundation for sustainable high economic growth in the coming years. Uzbekistan's international authority and prestige on the world stage, as well as its positions in global rankings, continue to strengthen. In particular, leading international rating agencies raised the country's sovereign rating from BB- to BB. For many, this may seem like a simple fact. But economists, investors, and bankers fully understand the magnitude of

these achievements. Thanks to this change alone, the interest rate on resources attracted from abroad will decrease by 1–1.5 points, and expenditures on external debt will be reduced by over \$300 million per year.

In addition, in the Technology Readiness Index published by the World Bank, Uzbekistan rose 71 positions and entered the top 10 countries in the world. The year 2025 has also been one of significant changes in further improving infrastructure to enhance the well-being of the population and businesses. In particular, due to radical changes in the energy sector, we increased electricity production to 85 billion kilowatt-hours. Imagine, if we had remained at 60 billion kilowatt-hours of generation in 2017, would we have been able to double the size of our economy today? Could we meet the growing production demand and the needs of 38 million people?

This year, clean drinking water reached the homes of 715 thousand residents in 188 mahallas for the first time, and water supply was improved for another 2.3 million. Or – water for irrigating household plots reached 470 thousand households in 867 “challenging” mahallas.

This year, 8.1 million square meters of apartment buildings or 135 thousand apartments have been constructed, and people themselves have built 19 million square meters to improve their housing conditions. Business representatives have constructed 24 million square meters of non-residential facilities. In total, over the past nine years, 210 million square meters of residential and non-residential facilities have been commissioned. I emphasize these figures for a reason. If we had not found the necessary resources for road, water, electricity, and other infrastructure; if we had not created conditions for builders and construction material enterprises; if we had not established a mortgage system – could such major constructive work have been possible? 168 thousand children from low-income families were admitted to state kindergartens on a preferential basis. Starting this year, we have also imple-

mented an inclusive education system in 208 kindergartens. It is worth noting that the national poverty rate has decreased from 8.9% at the beginning of the year to 5.8%.

Remember, when we started this work, one-third of our population lived below the poverty line. Thanks to the implementation of a completely new social protection system, providing over 100 types of services – such as loans, subsidies, and compensations – delivered through the “mahalla seven”, more than 8.5 million people have lifted out of poverty, and unemployment has been reduced by half.

Already this year we achieved the target set three years ago to halve poverty by the end of 2026.

Speaking of our most important achievements, we should proudly note the victories of our courageous athletes in prestigious international competitions.

2025 has been truly historic for Uzbek football. Our national team qualified for the World Cup for the first time. Our talented chess players performed admirably at the World Cup. A particular source of pride and admiration for all of us is that our young grandmaster Javokhir Sindarov became the youngest ever winner of the World Cup.

Most importantly, our achievements in the world of chess do not stop there. Last week, at the World Rapid and Blitz Championship for players aged 9–17, our representatives won 5 gold, 2 silver, and 5 bronze medals, and the team secured the first place overall. At this year's Youth Para-Asian Games, our athletes, demonstrating courage and resilience, won 125 gold, 77 silver, and 52 bronze medals, the highest result among all participating countries.

Undoubtedly, our talented young men and women make a significant contribution to the prosperity of New Uzbekistan through their achievements in education, science, culture, art, sports, and other areas. This year, our schoolchildren and students won 51 gold, 101 silver, and 126 bronze medals at international subject Olympiads, showcasing their knowledge and potential to the world. We again express sincere gratitude to our children, who are the pride of our nation, as well as to their parents and teachers.

As is known, next year Uzbekistan will host the 46th World Chess Olympiad, in 2027 the FIFA U-20 World Cup, and in 2029 the Youth Asian Games.

Additionally, in 2026, for the first time in our country prestigious international Olympiads in chemistry and computer science for schoolchildren will be held, international engineering Olympiads for students of Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states, as well as professional Olympiads for students of technical colleges from Turkic countries, will take place. I am confident that our children will participate with distinction in these competitions as well. All this helps transform our Homeland into a country advanced in sports and science and enhance its international authority.

Recently, our country is increasingly becoming an international dialogue platform for discussing global issues. In particular, this year we hosted the 150th anniversary Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, UNESCO General Conference session, the Central Asia – European Union Summit and the International Climate Forum.

Additionally, at the meeting of the leaders of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan held in March in Khujand, a historic agreement on the junction point of the three countries' borders was signed for the first time in history, and a “Declaration of Eternal Friendship” was adopted.

At the recently held Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of the region in Tashkent, we proposed the creation of a strategic format for the Central Asian Community to elevate

integration processes to a new qualitative level. The decision to admit Azerbaijan as a full member of the Central Asian format is of historic significance. This step will undoubtedly strengthen strategic connectivity and stability between Central Asia and the South Caucasus.

At the same time, in October, an Agreement on Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation between Uzbekistan and the European Union was signed in Brussels. The Central Asia – U.S. Summit held in November contributed to elevating multilateral and long-term partnerships to a fundamentally new level. Last week, at the meeting of the leaders of Central Asia and Japan in Tokyo, we reached important agreements in the fields of education, healthcare, digital technologies, infrastructure, and industry. Earlier this week, in Saint Petersburg, a meeting was held with the heads of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which also outlined new directions for our cooperation. All of this is taking our international relations to a fundamentally new level.

We will continue to build bridges of cooperation with countries near and far – East and West, North and South.

Esteemed participants of this meeting! Two years ago, when we adopted the “Uzbekistan – 2030” Strategy, we set the goal of increasing the gross domestic product to \$160 billion by 2030. As you can see, thanks to our potential, ongoing reforms, the initiative of our entrepreneurs, and growing cooperation with our foreign partners, we will be able to achieve this goal as early as 2026. In today's global economy, it is important not to forget that highly qualified professionals and specialists, as well as modern technologies, are key to remaining competitive.

If we:

- In industry: develop high value-added sectors such as electronics and electrical engineering, biochemistry and polymers, pharmaceuticals, and mechanical engineering;
- In services: increase the number of revenue-generating services such as IT, artificial intelligence, fintech, consulting, and transport-logistics services;
- In agriculture: widely apply bioengineering to increase productivity, use advanced agrotechnologies, and implement water-saving methods;
- Transition to green energy and zero-waste production to ensure a balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability;
- In education and healthcare: extensively introduce advanced foreign practices to elevate quality to a new level;
- And if we implement new technologies and train specialists for modern professions based on science, research, and innovation,

then we have every opportunity to increase the volume of our economy to over \$240 billion within the next five years.

This forecast is based on accurate and thorough calculations! This is confirmed by the conclusions of the International Monetary Fund and authoritative experts.

Dear compatriots!

Today, we are a large nation of over 38 million people. We are a resilient and proud people, earning respect worldwide through our hard and tireless work, confidently moving toward the future.

We do not live waiting for change; on the contrary, we create it ourselves with our intellectual and spiritual potential.

Each year, the population grows by an average of 2 percent, and more than 1 million young men and women enter adulthood. Looking at our youth and seeing their achievements, we take pride in the immense creative energy joining us.

Undoubtedly, in these challenging times, the mahalla, as a unique system of self-governance, plays a vital role in rais-



ing resilient, patriotic youth, as well as in further uniting and strengthening our nation.

The values of mahalla and good neighborliness are harmonious. They make an invaluable contribution to the further enrichment of social capital in our society. This is evidenced by the fact that 90 percent of participants in social surveys conducted in our country consider themselves part of the mahalla community.

The high sense of belonging to the fate of our Homeland, mahalla as close to us as the family home, show that this institution is primarily a source of social cohesion.

National unity is extremely important and necessary for us at this stage of development, when the world is experiencing highly acute and dangerous processes.

It is true and the history of mankind demonstrates this: the nation and the society that is united by a single idea, single goal – prospers.

No matter how difficult the challenges we faced throughout history, we drew strength above all from unity. In hard times, our people, the residents of the mahalla, stood shoulder to shoulder and overcame difficulties. Families lived by helping one another; neighbors supported neighbors. We must always remain faithful to these unique values and raise our young generation in this spirit. In our modern society, the presence of diverse opinions and viewpoints is natural. This is a primary requirement of democracy. However, regardless of nationality, language, or faith, there exists a great idea that unites our 38-million-strong nation. And that is the interests of the Motherland, the interests of our people.

The role and influence of the mahalla system in achieving this great goal are invaluable. When there is peace and harmony in the mahalla, our society will be peaceful and united. If the mahalla develops, the entire country will prosper. In this regard,

I propose to declare 2026 as the “Year of Mahalla Development and Community Prosperity” in our country.

Dear friends!

To implement the priority tasks defined by the theme of the New Year, we will adopt a separate state program. It will certainly address such pressing issues as transforming more than 9 thousand mahallas in our country into centers of kindness, solidarity, justice, and education. I will elaborate on this in more detail later. The goals set before us can we will achieve together – with mahalla chairpersons and activists with vast life experience, respected elders, women, energetic youth, intellectuals, enterprising businesspeople, defenders of the Homeland, in short, with our entire nation.

Esteemed deputies and senators!

We are entering a decisive stage in building the New Uzbekistan. Our work in this direction requires deep transformation in every sphere and sector. Our goal is clear: in the coming years, to join the ranks of upper-middle-income countries. From the Ferghana Valley to the Aral Sea region, from the Zarafshan Oasis to Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya, from Tashkent to Jizzakh and Sirdarya – no matter which region of our country a citizen lives in, starting today, they should feel the results of reforms more tangibly in their daily lives. Therefore, the upcoming 2026 will be a year of fundamental transformations in the development of public administration, the judicial and legal system, economic sectors, education, science, healthcare, culture, sports, and ecology – in all spheres. Now, let us focus in detail on the main part of the Address – the program consisting of six key priority areas that will be implemented in 2026. The first priority is the further improvement of mahalla infrastructure, giving them the appearance of the New Uzbekistan.

The improvement of the country begins, first and foremost,

with the mahalla. People will evaluate our reforms based on roads, water supply, electricity, transport, as well as the conditions in kindergartens, schools, and family clinics. Therefore, the development of the mahalla system has been and remains a priority area of state policy. Through the full-scale improvement of mahalla infrastructure, we will continue our work on the comprehensive development of the country, transforming its appearance and improving living conditions.

Currently, in some districts, only certain issues are addressed – roads in one area, water or electricity in another, kindergartens, schools, and healthcare in a third, and housing in yet others. It must be openly acknowledged that these isolated actions cannot fully solve all problems in the mahalla. Therefore, starting next year, a comprehensive approach to mahalla development will be implemented.

We select 2–3 districts in each region, we will create a system to comprehensively resolve all issues across all mahallas. We have already started this experiment in the Urgut district. In the district, a modern eco-city for 100 thousand residents will be built. Next year, 544 billion soums will be allocated for the construction and renovation of 72 kindergartens, schools, clinics, internal roads, canal concreting, and the construction of two rural reservoirs. A similar approach will be implemented in 33 selected districts and 330 mahallas with challenging conditions. Business infrastructure will also be developed simultaneously in these areas. For these purposes, a total of 8.5 trillion soums will be allocated from all sources.

Currently, deputies are provided with 500 billion soums, approximately 3.3 billion soums per deputy to address issues in their constituencies. Additionally, 330 million soums will be allocated for each deputy's initiative to create "green zones" and "green parks". Thanks to this approach, by 2030, we will bring the image of the New Uzbekistan to mahallas in all districts. In order to effectively organize this work, it's necessary to create conditions to at least double the revenues of budgets of districts and cities. To this end, starting January 1, 2026, in the city of Tashkent, 5 percent of value-added tax revenues will be retained locally, while in other regions, 20 percent will be retained, with half of these funds transferred to district budgets. In addition, 50 percent of revenues exceeding the forecast, as well as proceeds from the lease of arable land and market sales, will be fully transferred to the district budget. Regional and district hokims will be allowed to eliminate inefficient and duplicate staff positions and allocate the saved funds to address issues raised by the population. As a result, an additional source of 5 trillion soums will be created in district budgets, which will be directed toward improving mahalla infrastructure. Next year, for the first time, we will allocate 20 trillion soums directly to the regions for the development of mahalla infrastructure. Most importantly, every soum of these funds must generate added value for our population. Therefore, these funds will not be directed to a specific district, but to specific projects that create jobs in the mahalla and generate income for the population. Any mahalla chairman, assistant hokim, or mahalla banker who develops and justifies a project can receive the necessary funds. This will be fair. This is a project-based approach to the effective use of budgetary resources. We will launch new reforms in urbanization and sustainable city development. We will define specific criteria to prevent the uncontrolled expansion of cities, thereby avoiding the unjustified loss of arable land. For example, if cities with a population of over 250 thousand people continue to expand as chaotically as they do now, by 2050, 27 thousand hectares of farmland could be lost. Clearly, this is unacceptable. Also, for the first time in our republic, we will define 45

agglomeration territories. Next year, the "Sustainable City" platform will be launched to monitor the livability index. Using this index, problems in each mahalla within cities will be identified, and appropriate solutions will be found.

We have transformed the issue of poverty reduction into a nationwide movement. Let me repeat: during this period, we have successfully lifted over 8.5 million people out of poverty. Our main goal is to ensure our people with a stable income. A person with financial means seeks to dress well and eat properly, access quality education and quality healthcare, enjoy meaningful leisure, and, in short, live in prosperity.

It is important to note that in this process, our entrepreneurs, acting as a decisive force, are at the forefront and demonstrate exceptional dedication by reating industrial and service facilities and providing new permanent jobs, training the population, especially youth and women in professions and helping them gain employment and stable income directly within the mahallas. Therefore, continuing the policy of supporting entrepreneurship, in 2026 we will maintain the main tax rates unchanged, allocate over 10 trillion soums to projects for the development of entrepreneurial infrastructure, provide 140 trillion soums in resources for the development of small and medium-sized businesses. Of this amount, 43 trillion soums will be directed to support women's and youth entrepreneurship. In addition, in 2026, 5 trillion soums in loans will be allocated to launch over 10 thousand production and service projects. Up to 10 percent of the interest on loans in the national currency and up to 4 percent in foreign currency will be covered by the Company for entrepreneurship development. From the budget, 400 billion soums will be allocated for these purposes. As a result, 100 thousand new jobs will be created in the mahallas. In 2026, bankers and mahalla hokim assistants will be provided with an additional 7.5 trillion soums to ensure employment for 360 thousand people through implementation of 40 microprojects in each mahalla.

Next year, we will adopt a three-year program to widely involve mahalla residents, especially women, in sports and create the necessary infrastructure for this, allocating 1 trillion soums. To further increase the interest of mahalla youth in reading, we will annually supply school libraries with 10 million fiction books. Thanks to this work, in 2026 we will provide permanent employment for 1 million people and lift 181 thousand families out of poverty, reduce poverty and unemployment levels to 4.5%, increase the number of mahallas free from poverty to 3,500.

Dear compatriots!

Our second priority is to transition the economy to a technological and innovative development model.

In today's conditions of increasing global competition, only countries that produce high value-added products can secure their place in the global market. Therefore, achieving high efficiency across all sectors of the economy must become the main criterion for our future reforms.

For example, through the development of high-tech and energy-intensive industrial sectors this year, we managed to reduce fuel and energy consumption by 13 percent per dollar of output. This alone allowed us to generate an additional \$1 billion of added value. This example demonstrates that where there are new technologies and highly skilled specialists, growth and development occur. Therefore, the most effective path to increasing the gross domestic product to over \$240 billion by 2030 is to transition all sectors to a technological and innovative growth model. This will be the main focus of our economic development strategy in the coming years.

A favorable business environment, demographic growth, and

attention to human capital make Uzbekistan one of the most attractive countries for investors. Over the past nine years, we have attracted \$130 billion in foreign investment across all sectors of the economy. This year alone, we have reached new investment agreements with our foreign partners totaling \$140 billion. Next year, we will attract \$50 billion in foreign investment. From now on, every dollar of investment must primarily serve to implement advanced technologies, produce high value-added products with specific foreign markets, increase the efficiency of energy, water, land, and other natural resources, train local specialists to work with new technologies and boost labor productivity. In other words, an investor who brings high technologies, new competencies, and is export-oriented will become our most reliable partner.

All of this will contribute to the creation of 1 million high-income jobs over the next five years, driven by \$180 billion in foreign investment. We also have ambitious plans to increase the inflow of investments into our country. A new system will be established, focused exclusively on investments, responsible for turning every deal into a project, attracting investments quickly, and ensuring their efficiency.

In addition, it is advisable to create a separate system for the development of local industry and cooperation.

Overall, enhancing the competitiveness of the economy, improving investment efficiency, and the technological transformation of industrial sectors require completely new approaches. For this purpose, the activities of the ministries of economy and finance, investment, industry, and trade will be fundamentally revised. We will launch an industrial development program aimed at transitioning to a new technological level and expanding the value-added chain. Within the framework of this program, over the next five years, we aim to increase the added value in industry from the current \$36.5 billion to at least \$60 billion, meaning a 1.6-fold growth, increase the output in high-tech and medium-high-tech sectors by 2.5 times. To ensure thorough preparation for this, in 2026, 782 new industrial and infrastructure projects will be launched with a total value of \$52 billion.

Next year alone, 228 new large-scale production facilities will be launched, amounting to \$14 billion. For example, at the gold deposits in Navoi, a \$320 million ore mining project will be launched, and an additional 2 million tons of ore will be processed. The next phase of development at the Muruntau deposit and major silver mining projects totaling \$2.3 billion will be implemented. As a result, processing capacity of 18 million tons of ore per year will be created, and by 2030, gold production is expected to reach 175 tons. Another major project is the construction of a new metallurgical complex worth \$2.7 billion with a capacity of 300 thousand tons of copper cathode at the Almalyk plant. At the Samarkand Chemical Plant, investments of \$381 million will establish the production of 370 thousand tons of phosphorus fertilizers and 540 thousand tons of compound fertilizers annually. In Kashkadarya, the construction of a chemical plant worth \$200 million dollars will begin. Overall, in 2026, new projects in chemical industry worth \$4.5 billion will be launched, in mining and metallurgical sector, oil and gas industry, automotive industry, textile industry, and building materials production – \$3 billion in each sector, in electrical engineering – worth \$2 billion, in pharmaceuticals – \$800 million. Thus, the total export volume in 2026 is expected to reach \$40 billion, with the share of finished and semi-finished products reaching over 55%.

Next year economic growth is projected at 6.6%, with GDP reaching \$167 billion. There are ample opportunities to further increase this figure through continuous improvements in

labor productivity, energy efficiency, and cost reduction. Therefore, we will launch the program Doubling Productivity and Efficiency in the industrial sector. The Ministry of Economy and Finance will implement a separate project focused on labor productivity and energy efficiency. Within this project, \$200 million in loans and grants from international financial institutions will be attracted, and for industrial enterprises highly qualified foreign technologists and engineers will be invited, business processes will be digitalized, audits will be conducted to reduce energy costs and other expenses, advanced technologies will be implemented.

In this context, a Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution will be established. Based on the center, a “regulatory mechanism” will be established to implement Industry 4.0 solutions in industrial enterprises, such as robotics, the Internet of Things, and smart factories. This will allow enterprises to test new technologies before integrating them into production. As a result of reforms in accreditation, metrology, and standardization over the past two years, Uzbekistan has risen 15 positions to 52nd place in the Global Quality Infrastructure Index among 185 countries. This is, of course, good. At the same time, to further enhance the competitiveness of our products, we will take the field of technical regulation to a new level.

To achieve this, we will move from a “State Control” system to a “Market Control” system, which has demonstrated high efficiency in international practice. We will also encourage enterprises that produce high-tech, innovation-based products. If they increase the production of such products compared to the previous year, they will be granted a subsidy of 5 percent of the value of the increased production volume. Income earned by the enterprise’s specialists from research and development activities will be exempt from taxation.

Through such reforms, over the next five years labor productivity will reach \$30,000 from the current \$16,500, energy costs for creating added value of \$1,000 will be reduced by 1.5 times in the industrial sector.

This year, we attracted \$270 million in foreign investments into local startups in areas such as IT, fintech, and artificial intelligence. Starting next year, we will expand the “Digital Startups” program and launch a new support system “from startup idea to export.” At the same time, to create private startup centers, the Youth Fund will provide interest-free loans of up to 5 billion soums for a period of five years. 10 percent of the funds remaining within universities will also be directed toward the development of incubation centers.

In addition, a Fintech Office and an Innovation Hub will be established at the Central Bank, attracting specialists from Singapore. This will create the opportunity to bring 20-30 fintech startups to the international market each year and attract a total of \$1 billion in investments.

Overall, it is necessary to develop the market for new financial instruments, such as venture funds, startups, and fintech, and to legally guarantee the rights of all participants in this sector. To achieve this, the Parliament, together with the government, should draft a law “On Alternative Investment Funds” by March 1. This year, exports of IT services reached \$1 billion for the first time. We have set an ambitious goal—to increase exports of IT services to \$5 billion by 2030. To enhance competitiveness in the global market, we have established the International Center for Digital Technologies and provided a range of incentives for investments in IT infrastructure. Next year, in Tashkent city, Bukhara, Fergana and Tashkent regions, four data centers, two supercomputers, and artificial intelligence laboratories in 15 universities will be established. This will enable the implementation of more than

100 AI projects in key areas such as healthcare, transport, agriculture, geology, banking and finance, and public safety. Today, thousands of talented young people are conducting research in IT and artificial intelligence. To implement their projects in fields such as quantum technology, drones, and robotics, a Digital Technology Center will be established. The Asian Development Bank has supported this and expressed readiness to allocate \$200 million.

We have also made significant strides in the development of space research and the implementation of satellite communication technologies, which go hand in hand with artificial intelligence. In this regard, we are thoroughly preparing to host the International Astronautical Congress in Samarkand in 2028. Today, I want to share another important piece of news. For the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan, we have begun work to launch a satellite into space and send the first Uzbek astronaut who is a citizen of our country. I am confident that this will give a powerful boost to the scientific and technological development of the New Uzbekistan, elevating national progress to a new level.

Dear participants!

As you know, sustainable growth in both production and consumption requires long-term funding. Therefore, the capital market is an important institutional tool that stimulates economic growth and we must attract global depositories to our national stock market. In this regard, we must promptly adopt the new draft law “On the Capital Market,” developed jointly with international financial organizations.

To reduce currency fluctuation risks, local companies will be allowed to issue bonds both in foreign currency and on the domestic market. Next year, our enterprises will be able to list their shares on international markets. Therefore, the development of the capital market will enable entrepreneurs to attract an additional \$1 billion.

Dear members of Parliament!

Now, with your permission, I would like to focus on the third priority area – stimulating demand in the domestic market. Abundance in our markets, price stability, and growing consumer demand are the most important factors indicating an improvement in the quality of life. One of the key factors driving domestic demand is the level of inflation.

Over the past nine years, we have created a favorable business environment and increased the volume and assortment of goods and services, raised household incomes and sharply reduced poverty levels, provided low-income families with no less than \$1 billion in affordable loans annually, contained price growth, reducing inflation to a “single-digit” level. As a result, the purchasing power of the population has doubled. For example, five years ago our population purchased 210 thousand apartments and 600 thousand cars annually, while this year – 270 thousand homes and 1 million cars. If household incomes and purchasing power had not increased, would the real estate and automobile markets have reached \$20 billion? Surveys and analyses conducted by international experts confirm that the financial situation of 75 percent of the population has sharply improved. Of course, we will not stop at these results and will continue working consistently to raise incomes and the purchasing power of the population. According to analyses, if household incomes increase by 10 percent, consumption will grow by 8 percent. This means increased demand for new goods and services, which in turn translates into additional production capacity and new jobs.

Based on the population’s needs, in 2026, 23 trillion soums will be allocated for housing mortgages, which generate the highest demand in the economy. To partially compensate for

the down payment and interest payments when purchasing housing, a subsidy of 2.7 trillion soums will be provided. In addition, the amount of concessional mortgage credit per apartment will be increased by 15 percent.

Next year, 140 thousand apartments in multi-story buildings are planned to be constructed, which will naturally increase demand for essential consumer goods. To support this demand financially, 125 trillion soums will be allocated for consumer loans in 2026, this year 104 trillion soums were allocated. Overall, in 2026, we plan to increase the volume of construction work by 11 percent, reaching \$30 billion.

Let’s calculate the impact on the economy. For industries such as building materials, home textiles, electrical equipment, furniture production, and the service sectors supporting these facilities, an additional market of \$5 billion will be generated. This will create 300 thousand new jobs.

Rising household incomes increase demand for services, giving a powerful boost to transforming the service sector into an “engine” of the economy. This year alone, the volume of services has grown by almost 15 percent, reaching \$82 billion. To stimulate demand for services in 2026, 85 trillion soums in loans and 9 trillion soums in subsidies will be allocated to the sector. In particular, 7 trillion soums will be allocated from the budget for educational services.

Over the next five years, we have set an ambitious goal – to double the number of foreign tourists – from 11 million to 20 million, and increase the volume of tourism services to \$20 billion. In pursuing this goal, we are placing special emphasis on the development of tourism infrastructure. In Samarkand, modern alleys and bridges will be constructed to connect the complexes of Bibi-Khanym, Registan, the Amir Timur Mausoleum, Ulughbeg Observatory, Shakhzi-Zinda, and the Afrosiyob Museum. In Shakhrisabz, the first phase of the large “Gelon” tourist complex will be commissioned. In the Pop district, a mountain recreation area called “Arashan” will be created. In Khiva, Itchan-Kala will become an immersive – that is, a living and “smart” museum city. In Khorezm and Karakalpakstan, a major tourist route highlighting archaeological monuments will be established. Additionally, next year entrepreneurs will launch over 3,500 new service facilities worth more than \$4 billion. To organize tourist zones, 5,000 hectares of land will be put up for auction over the next three years. Moreover, starting in 2026, the program “Heritage Hotels of Uzbekistan” will be launched. To create “boutique hotels” at cultural heritage sites, prestigious hotel chains will be invited based on public-private partnerships. Participants of the program will receive benefits related to land, property, income taxes, and customs duties. Thanks to these measures, in 2026 the volume of the services market is expected to exceed \$100 billion.

The growth in tourist flows requires a doubling of passenger transportation in aviation and on railways. Therefore, in 2026, the number of aircraft in the fleet will be increased from 105 to 120. A new system of subsidizing domestic flights will be introduced. Now a fixed subsidy will now be allocated for each ticket sold, regardless of its price. This will help reduce ticket costs and increase demand. At the same time, a Civil Aviation University will be established to train pilots, technical personnel, and specialists in service and airport management. We will supply six high-speed trains from the South Korean company Hyundai Rotem, with the first batch arriving in the coming days. Overall, a five-year program for the development of domestic railway infrastructure will be adopted. To connect cities with high-speed trains, starting in 2026, construction of an additional 500 kilometers of railway will begin. Next year, 110 kilometers of railway will be built, linking

the capital with the Buka, Pskent, Bekabad, Bayavut districts and the city of Nurafshan. Construction of a new high-speed passenger rail line along the “Tashkent–Samarkand” route will also commence. Railway stations in Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Navoi will be transferred to private management. According to a United Nations estimates, quality roads stimulate our economic growth by at least 2 percent. To improve the condition of highways and enhance transit potential, a five-year program will be implemented. Under this program, 4 thousand kilometers of main roads connecting Andijan with Kungrad, Tashkent with Termez, Samarkand with Shakhrisabz, and Alot with Saryasiya will be upgraded to international “autobahn” standards.

Already in 2026, the reconstruction of 300 kilometers of operational roads passing through Karakalpakstan, Bukhara, Kashkadarya, and Surkhandarya will be completed.

Extensive preparations have been made, and partners have been identified for the construction of 800 kilometers of high-speed roads along the Tashkent–Samarkand, Tashkent–Andijan, Tashkent–Bostonlyk, Pungon–Namangan, and Karshi–Shakhrisabz routes. Construction of the Tashkent–Samarkand road will begin in March, while practical work on the remaining routes will start no later than July 1. An additional 1,200 kilometers of roads will be reconstructed by 2030 in cooperation with international financial institutions.

From now on, road design, the impact of traffic on the environment, and creating “barrier-free” environments for pedestrians will be legally required to consider public opinion.

As a priority principle, the implementation of advanced technologies and standards in road construction will be established. If our Parliament takes into account a comprehensive road planning system when adopting the new edition of the Law “On Highways”, this will be appropriate. Rising household incomes and the influx of foreign tourists over the next five years will increase demand for food by 1.5 times. Therefore, we are setting an ambitious goal – to increase agricultural production from the current \$40 billion to \$60 billion. Two weeks ago, we met with representatives of the agricultural sector and thoroughly discussed all issues related to improving crop yields based on new technologies. In the new year, 52 trillion soums will be allocated to support agriculture. The system for supplying food products to the population at stable prices will also be fully reformed. To ensure that our markets are supplied with essential food products at stable

prices throughout the year, starting in 2026, we will transition to a permanent intervention system. The resources allocated to “Food Funds” in the regions will be increased 2.5 times, reaching 500 billion soums. In addition, small cold storage facilities with a capacity of up to 100 tons will be built in 1 thousand mahallas specializing in fruits and vegetables. These measures will help reduce the inflation rate next year to 6–6.5 percent.

Dear fellow citizens!

The development of professions and the creation of a new labor market architecture is the fourth priority area of our program for the coming year. Currently, under the influence of new technologies, digitalization, and artificial intelligence, the quantity, structure, and content of jobs are changing rapidly worldwide. Over the next five years, 30 percent of existing professions will be fully automated, and 50 percent will require the acquisition of new skills.

These processes are also affecting our country. In industry automated production lines have become common, in agriculture – “smart” technologies, in transport – intelligent management systems. Now, the labor market in our country must operate on a completely new architecture, as a unified mechanism integrating profession, qualifications, technology, and education. According to experts, a child’s interest in a particular profession begins to form in the 7th grade, while the profession they can fully master becomes clear by the 9th grade. Therefore, we are introducing a selection system for 9th-grade graduates based on their mastery of subjects and professional interests. Young people who do not wish to enter universities will be directed to technical colleges.

Recently, we approved a five-year program for implementing a modern architecture and new environment in technical colleges. I want for our youth to be competitive globally in in-demand professions and, if necessary, to stay one step ahead. To achieve this, we will elevate technical colleges, the key link in vocational education, to a new qualitative level. Starting in 2026, we will annually fully renovate and equip at least 100 technical colleges to meet technological requirements and the needs of in-demand professions. The number of technical colleges implementing advanced educational programs from countries such as Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, China, and Korea will reach 100. Today, I want to share another piece of news: in 2026, Innovative Vocational Skills Colleges and “City of Professions” programs will be launched in 7 regions, and in 2027, in the remaining regions.



Specifically the Innovative Vocational Skills Colleges will function as methodological and practical bases for other technical colleges in the region, the “City of Professions” will guide school students toward modern professions in sectors such as construction, services, agriculture, industry, transport, green energy. Three years ago, we introduced this system in our country, covering 15 percent of students. Today, approximately 70 thousand students are studying in fields such as automotive engineering, green energy, construction, transport, textiles, agriculture, tourism, services, and IT under a dual-education system, earning salaries of up to 10 million soums per month.

We will take the collaboration between technical colleges and employers to a new level. In particular, enterprises that effectively organize training based on the dual-education system will receive concessional loans of up to 5 billion soums for 7 years, an additional 5 points in the entrepreneurship rating, extension of the current social tax incentive regime of 1% per technical college student employed for three more years.

Also, starting in 2026 scholarships will be paid to 100 thousand technical college students, children who study excellently and confidently master their chosen profession will receive enhanced scholarships. Special attention must be given to training personnel with high intellectual potential for priority sectors of the economy. It has been decided to place the Jizzakh Polytechnic Institute under the management of the prestigious Obuda University in Hungary. During a recent visit to Japan, agreements were reached to establish a new university in Uzbekistan for specialized disciplines in partnership with the University of Tsukuba. We will continue this initiative by engaging leading universities worldwide with our higher education institutions in the fields of exact sciences and technical disciplines.

Another issue is that 300 thousand specialists with higher education enter the labor market annually. We will create a digital ecosystem that will serve as a “bridge” between university graduates and employers. In this system, students’ academic performance and information about company vacancies will be displayed online. This ecosystem will enable graduates to find suitable jobs, while allowing enterprises to attract qualified personnel.

This year, we met twice with healthcare workers and adopted specific decrees and decisions on all the issues discussed.

Dear friends!

Ensuring ecological balance, developing green energy, and the rational use of water resources is the fifth priority of our program. A credit line of \$100 million will be opened for large enterprises to install filters, treatment facilities, and emission monitoring stations for harmful substances in the atmosphere. Next year, Samarkand will host the next Assembly of the Global Environmental Fund and the Central Asia International Eco-Exhibition. These events will create significant opportunities for enterprises, regions, and businesses to find partners and jointly launch new eco-projects. In Tashkent and Tashkent region, there are about 2 thousand greenhouses heated by coal and gas. They are emitting 137 thousand tons of harmful substances annually. We are now phasing out coal-fired boilers without filters, relocating them outside the capital, and introducing centralized heating through modern boiler systems. To support this, agro-clusters of at least 200 hectares will be created, including greenhouses eligible for special subsidies. Traffic congestion in our cities not only complicates daily life but also causes serious environmental damage. Therefore, based on global experience, an environmental sticker system will be introduced according to the level of harmful emissions of vehicles. Cars with high emission levels will have restricted access to the capital, regional centers, and major cities. To replace such vehicles with new ones or to install filters, the government will provide support measures.

A special Fund will be established for this purpose. Those who replace an old vehicle will receive partial compensation for auto loan interest. Drivers willing to install filters and reduce

harmful emissions will be provided with a subsidy to cover part of the costs. The development of public transport in our large capital and major cities will be a priority task. Dedicated lanes for buses and taxis will be expanded on city streets. In Tashkent, Samarkand, and Namangan, a traffic management system using intelligent traffic lights will be implemented. A five-year program will be implemented to increase the number of environmentally friendly vehicles. To achieve this auto loans will be provided at 12% for domestic electric vehicles and 16% for foreign electric vehicles. To organize electric vehicle charging stations, entrepreneurs will receive concessional loans at 10%, an opportunity to purchase land plots at auctions at half the market price.

When charging vehicles at electric stations, the difference in the cost of 1 kWh above 300 soums will be compensated from the state budget. Citizens providing taxi services using electric vehicles will also receive a number of benefits.

Most importantly, if these processes are properly organized, the capital, regional centers, and major cities will become territories where only environmentally friendly vehicles operate.

To prevent dust and sandstorms, in Surkhandarya, a green zone of 10,000 hectares will be created, in Syrdarya, an 84-kilometer green wall will be built. In Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara, and Navoi, a total of 250,000 hectares of trees and shrubs will be planted, including 115,000 hectares on the dried Aral Sea bed. Each region will have botanical and dendrological gardens, as well as 20 shaded walking alleys. To implement eco-standards in enterprises, at least 30,000 environmental specialists will be needed over the next five years. Therefore, in 2026, “green” technical colleges will be established in each region, preparing 10,000 specialists per year through a dual-education system.

Next year, the activities of the Central Asian Green University will be expanded. Comprehensive laboratories will be created to assess the quality of air, water, and soil, and studies will be conducted in cities to enhance natural ventilation. In total, 1.9 trillion soums will be allocated to the environmental sector in 2026. Over the past five years, solar, wind and hydro power plants with a total capacity of 6,000 MW have been commissioned, and the share of green energy in total generation has reached 30%. Recently, together with our partners, we launched the construction of new green capacities totaling 3,500 MW at a cost of 4.2 billion dollars. Thanks to this work, in 2026 alone, 7 billion cubic meters of natural gas will be saved, and the emission of 11 million tons of harmful substances into the atmosphere will be prevented.

Dear citizens!

The problem of water scarcity in the world is becoming increasingly urgent. Therefore, from the very beginning of our reforms, we have elevated the rational use of water to the level of state policy. Recently, a major three-year program worth \$5.5 billion dollars was approved, aimed at the widespread application of water-saving technologies, modernization of water facilities, and irrigation projects. Under this program, the coverage of water-saving technologies will reach 61%, or 2.6 million hectares. As a result, 2.5 billion cubic meters of water will be saved annually, and 200,000 tons of greenhouse gases will be reduced.

In total, 3.3 trillion soums will be allocated in 2026 for activities related to the implementation of water-saving technologies. In addition, 1,300 km of major main canals will be concreted, with 3 trillion soums allocated from the budget. This will additionally allow the saving of 500 million cubic meters of water per year. In addition, a separate project will be adopted to convert open drains and collectors into a closed system. For this purpose, an initial allocation of \$100 million will be provided in 2026.

Large-scale projects will also be launched to convert canals into closed systems. The first step in this direction will be a \$134 million project to convert the Pakhtaobod Canal in Kashkadarya region into pressurized pipes. This will additionally free up 20,000 hectares of arable land and ensure reliable water supply for another 25,000 hectares. At the same time, it is necessary to

restore irrigation and drainage systems to increase green areas in the capital, regional centers, and cities. In short, water must circulate through all the ditches and canals of city streets. Within the framework of a major program worth \$160 million in Tashkent, a 150-kilometer closed drainage system will be constructed, and 197 kilometers of canals and collectors will be repaired, 63 kilometers of new canals will be built, creating a cool microclimate in the city. Leaders of other regions will also attract at least \$20-25 million from external sources, and starting next year, similar projects will begin in regional centers and major cities. Dear deputies and senators! We will continue reforms in modern public administration and a fair judicial system, which are our sixth priority task. First of all, starting in 2026, the "Electronic Government" platform will be completely updated.

Now, over 1,000 government services, more than 5,000 functions and responsibilities, 200 databases and information systems, and over 100,000 civil servants' powers of mahallas, districts, regions and the republic will be integrated into a single digital platform. Incoming requests, their assignment to performers, and control over response times will be managed using artificial intelligence. In other words, the executor, timeline, and resources for each issue –from the mahalla to the republican level, will be accessible in one place. And most importantly: we will create an ecosystem for providing government services without human intervention, eliminating corruption and excessive bureaucracy. We will develop a system for delivering government services in a proactive and complex manner. If a citizen applies for cadastral documents for a new house, the new platform simultaneously handles connections to water, electricity, and gas. The number of such integrated services will reach 100 by 2026. Sh.Shermatov, A.Toshkulov, U.Khusainov will test the platform next year in the Namangan and Surkhandarya regions, as well as in Tashkent, including its districts and mahallas, facilities for construction, justice, higher education, tax authorities and their regional and district divisions. Each minister, sector head, and hokim must also implement similar processes in their territories next year, actively working to make government services even more accessible to the population.

Dear participants!

Today, Oliy Majlis possesses all the control powers typical of strong parliaments. In particular, since 2023, the Parliament determines the volume of external debt. How do you feel about granting the Parliament the authority to approve external debt under state guarantees? After studying the opinions of numerous manufacturers and entrepreneurs, from January 1, 2026 we are establishing an open, transparent, and fair public procurement system for all. This opens great opportunities for our entrepreneurs to participate in a guaranteed market of 300 trillion soums with their goods and services. From now on, cases of direct government procurement of goods, works, and services will be determined only by law. As is known, within the framework of constitutional reforms, we separated the positions of regional hokims and chairpersons of local councils. Now, this system will be implemented from January 1, 2026, in 208 districts and cities. This serious political reform requires a fundamental change in the relationship between hokims, executive bodies, and the Councils. From now on, the execution of parliamentary requests will be analyzed quarterly, and in cases of negligence, submissions will be sent to the prosecution. The role of civil society institutions is extremely important for ensuring the effectiveness of reforms. Therefore, the policy of supporting them will be consistently continued in the future. Specifically, a five-year strategy for the development of civil society will be developed. The system for providing social orders to these institutions will be digitized, and the funding volume will be doubled. In addition, the procedure for establishing charitable organizations will be simplified, and mechanisms for accountability and transparency will be improved. I repeat: during the period of large-scale reforms in our

country, we will never abandon the policy of openness. Ensuring freedom of speech and the press remains our priority.

Dear deputies and senators!

We are consistently continuing efforts to bring the judicial and legal system closer to the people.

We have begun the organization of fair court proceedings based on the concept of a "digital court". Now we will strengthen the protection of human rights through the digitalization of investigations. From the receipt of a criminal report to the submission of the case to court, artificial intelligence technologies will be implemented at all stages, and the human factor will be minimized. The work of investigative judges in our country has become another significant step in the application of the internationally recognized "habeas corpus" institution. Starting from 2026, investigative judges will also be granted the authority to modify or cancel sanctions and coercive measures. We will gradually increase public participation and its role in ensuring fair judicial proceedings. The "jury of representatives" institution will be gradually implemented, which has shown positive results in countries with the English legal system. In such cases, especially serious crimes that provoke public resonance will be considered with the involvement of public representatives, contributing to more just judicial decisions.

Without reliable enforcement of judicial decisions, it is impossible to restore the rights of citizens and entrepreneurs. Therefore, we will implement effective alternative mechanisms for compulsory enforcement. As a result, artificial intelligence will be introduced in this sector, and within the next two years, 30% of enforcement actions will be carried out without human involvement. As you can see, in a rapidly changing world, the threat of drug abuse has become one of the most serious threats to the population's genetic health. Unfortunately, in the era of globalization, this danger does not bypass Uzbekistan. This year, more than 14,000 drug-related crimes were registered, of which around 3,000 were committed by young people, which should alert us all. Drug trafficking is increasingly taking on cross-border and virtual characteristics. This requires the application of new methods for detecting crimes, as well as deep mastery of modern knowledge and skills. Recently, we adopted a National Program on this issue. We will turn the fight against drug-related crime into a nationwide movement and create a zero-tolerance environment for this evil in society. It is a mistake to think that this task is solely the responsibility of law enforcement agencies. Every child, every young person in our country is our own child, and we will never allow them to fall into the trap of drugs!

To completely eradicate drug abuse, eliminate its root causes, and build a strong spiritual and moral immunity among youth, we will mobilize all our forces and resources. The Republican Working Group on Combating Drug Crimes, utilizing all the capacities and resources of state agencies, must establish a new system next year to intercept channels of drug production and distribution. This is a directive of the President, this is the will of parents, this is the demand of society. Where peace prevails, the rule of law is upheld, and the safety of citizens is ensured, investment flows in and tourism develops. However, recently we have observed the emergence of crime groups who place themselves above the law, put pressure on entrepreneurs and attempts to seize their businesses, commission complex financial crimes causing serious damage to our economy, consider themselves "courts" and resolve financial disputes between people. Most regrettably, some athletes possessing physical strength, under the pretext of "easy money," are joining such criminal groups. Another negative phenomenon is that criminal groups consisting of citizens of Uzbekistan are also operating in certain foreign countries, which adversely affects the international reputation of our nation. Let everyone hear this clearly: we have enough strength and power to completely put an end to the activities of such criminal groups, and we will definitely do so!

In Uzbekistan – there is a state, a Constitution, laws that reliably protect our citizens, entrepreneurs, and investors in any situation! Respecting women and upholding their dignity, protecting our children – since ancient times, these have been matters of honor and pride for men.

However, in our society, cases of violence against women and children are completely inconsistent with the great history, high spirituality, and enlightenment of our people, who regard the family as sacred!

Over the past two years, more than 2,000 crimes related to domestic violence against women and children have been recorded. We should never forget that domestic violence is not just a family matter – it is an issue for the entire society. No one has the right to leave a woman alone with her problem. The relevant Coordination Council for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children must create an effective system, involving all state agencies and broad segments of society, to put an end to these negative phenomena.

If our Parliament and civil society institutions actively engage in this process, the result is guaranteed.

And once again I emphasize: corruption is a grave threat that impedes state development, undermines the rule of law and justice, and weakens public trust.

Allowing corruption is tantamount to betraying our reforms. In the fight against this scourge, we declare a “state of emergency” on corruption in 2026.

In all government bodies, a deputy responsible for compliance and internal anti-corruption control will be appointed. Additionally, the role of a representative from the Accounts Chamber will be established. These executives will identify dishonest individuals within the system, exercise oversight to prevent misappropriation of budget funds and abuse of official powers, and report directly to the President.

Personal accountability for every soum of state funds and resources will be strengthened.

Those who think, “I have a position and title, no one can tell me what to do” are mistaken. Under the law, everyone is equal! Security services, internal affairs, the prosecutor’s office, tax and customs authorities, finance, banks, large state-owned companies, ministries, and hokimiyats – in short, no organization or body will remain outside control.

Those who obstruct the compliance service will be considered accomplices in corruption, and the responsibility will be strict. Starting January 1, the Compliance Service of the Administration of the President will launch this mechanism across all government bodies and organizations, taking the situation under strict control.

Regardless of rank or position, for every case of bribery and abuse of power, the Compliance Service of the Administration of the President will personally inform me.

Dear participants of the session!

The world continues to face complex geopolitical and economic challenges. In this difficult context, we will continue to strengthen equal and constructive relations with all countries and pursue a proportionate and open foreign policy.

We give priority to further developing our centuries-old relationships of friendship, good-neighborliness, strategic partnership, and mutual trust with our closest neighbors. We will deepen cooperation with the states of Central Asian region in trade and economic relations, transport logistics, energy, water resources, ecology, security, culture, and education. Expanding trade and economic cooperation with Afghanistan and more fully integrating it into the region’s economic processes remain among our main objectives.

Our focus will continue to be on expanding multifaceted and mutually beneficial relations with key foreign partners – Russia, China, the USA, Türkiye, Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the

UAE, Qatar, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, India, Pakistan, and other countries. In addition, among our strategic priorities – strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation with countries in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America in new and promising areas, expanding relations with the countries of the South Caucasus and South Asia. Taking this opportunity, allow me to address the esteemed ambassadors of foreign countries present here today. I express special gratitude to the governments of your countries for expanding ties with us, the active support of Uzbekistan’s accession to the WTO. We are elevating cooperation with prestigious international and regional organizations and economic institutions to a new level. Together with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and other leading financial institutions, we will continue work on technological modernization of the economy, infrastructure development, and implementation of projects in sustainable energy and transport. We will also continue to expand traditional and comprehensive partnerships within the frameworks of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization of Turkic States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Dear fellow citizens!

Today, we have set for ourselves major goals for 2026 and the next five years. The significant results achieved and the new priorities require a revision of the “Uzbekistan – 2030” Strategy. This document, concerning the development of our country over the next five years, will be refined based on broad public discussion and the opinions of our citizens. I call on parliamentary representatives to actively participate in this process with their proposals.

Next year, we will continue to develop the sphere of spirituality and widely celebrate important dates in our social and cultural life. In particular, we will celebrate the glorious 35th anniversary of Uzbekistan’s independence, which serves as the foundation of all our achievements and victories.

We must also begin preparing for the momentous anniversaries of our ancestors, Amir Temur and Alisher Navoi. We will certainly take the necessary measures to ensure that these significant dates are honorably and magnificently commemorated. I am confident that mahallas, educational institutions, work collectives, intelligence, embassies abroad, and our entire nation will actively participate in these celebrations. Dear citizens! Addressing you, and through you, I want to address our entire nation and country. Today, history itself, life itself places a great responsibility upon us.

Our beloved homeland is becoming a country where people live and work on new political, legal, social, and spiritual foundations, where people think independently, are free, and liberated. We all know very well, our ancestor Mirzo Ulugbek created a star map for humanity 6 centuries ago. Today, we must create a roadmap that will guide current and future generations toward a happy life.

If we truly understand this truth and act in unison, we can achieve any lofty goal, and no force will be able to divert us from our path. If we remain united, acting as one nation, we will undoubtedly achieve our grand goals! I believe in our brave and generous people, in the incomparable strength and potential of Uzbekistan, in the will and determination of our dear youth! Taking this opportunity, I sincerely thank you, dear fellow citizens, true sons of our sacred land, devoted defenders of the Motherland, who, thinking of the welfare of the people and the fate of our country, work tirelessly and wholeheartedly. I wish you all good health, family happiness, success, and prosperity in the new year.

President of Uzbekistan signs the Board of Peace Charter

ON January 22, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in the signing ceremony of the Board of Peace charter in the Swiss city of Davos. The event, chaired by the President of the United States Donald Trump, was also attended by heads of state, prime ministers, and foreign ministers from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Argentina, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Morocco, Mongolia, Paraguay, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, and other countries. The establishment of the Board of Peace aligns with Uzbekistan's foreign policy priorities, aimed at supporting peace initiatives and multilateral cooperation. The new body is being formed as part of the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan to end the conflict in the Gaza Strip, which was supported by a UN Security Council resolution. The Board of Peace is designed to reduce the risks of escalation and create a favorable environment for the economic and social recovery of the Gaza Strip. An opportunity is created to build a New Gaza with a prosperous economy, a peaceful life, with a prospect of establishing a Palestinian state. The Board includes respected and influential leaders from around the world. By signing the Charter, Uzbekistan became one of the founding states of the Board of Peace. This signifies our country's readiness to consistently participate in the Board's work and make a practical contribution to the implementation of its mandate in close cooperation with all founding states and international partners.





A new era for Uzbekistan, Pakistan ties

By Abduaziz Khidirov

IN February 2026, the state visit by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan took place, aiming to become a defining stage in the development of the strategic partnership between the two countries. The talks were held against the backdrop of unprecedented intensification of bilateral political dialogue aimed at the practical implementation of a key economic objective: increasing the volume of mutual trade to \$2 billion in the coming years. The central element of the agenda was structural transformation of economic cooperation: the parties intended to move from a model of simple trade in goods to the formation of sustainable industrial cooperation chains, the establishment of joint high-tech production facilities, and the systematic removal of tariff barriers within the framework of an expanded Preferential Trade Agreement.

Growth dynamics and strategic priorities

An analysis of current macroeconomic indicators indicates a steady, positive trend in bilateral cooperation. By the end of 2024, trade turnover between Uzbekistan and

Pakistan amounted to \$404 million. The growth trend not only continued but also strengthened in 2025: from January to November, the volume of mutual trade reached \$434.4 million, 16.9 percent higher than in the same period of the previous year. Compared with the figures for January-November 2023 (\$356.0 million), the increase amounted to 22.0 percent, confirming the resilience of trade and economic ties to external volatility.

Despite steady progress, the parties acknowledged that the current figures do not reflect the true economic and resource potential of the two countries. During high-level negotiations, the leaders defined clear target benchmarks (KPIs) for the governments' economic blocs. The immediate tactical objective is to increase mutual trade to \$1 billion in the short term.

As a strategic medium-term goal, a target of \$2 billion has been approved. To achieve such multiple growth, based on the positions of the diplomatic agencies and relevant ministries, a qualitative revision of the trade balance structure is required. The simple exchange of raw materials has exhausted its growth potential – the implementa-



tion of the ambitious agenda calls for a transition to deep cooperation and the systematic removal of tariff barriers that restrict market access.

Liberalization instruments and digital integration

To implement ambitious plans to increase trade turnover significantly, the governments of Uzbekistan and Pakistan are focusing on creating a favorable legal and technical trade regime. The foundation for expanding volumes is the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), signed in March 2022. At present, the relevant agencies of both countries are actively working to revise the terms of the agreement

with a view to scaling it up. The parties intend to substantially expand the range of goods covered by the preferential customs regime, with plans to increase the list from 17 to 100. It is expected that the formalization of agreements on the expanded PTA format will take place in the near future, providing a direct incentive for exporters.

In parallel with tariff liberalization, mechanisms for the digital administration of cargo flows are being introduced. A key infrastructural solution will be the launch of an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system between the customs services of Uzbekistan and Pakistan. The technical teams on both sides are already working to operationalize this system, which will ensure the real-time exchange of cargo information. The digitalization of documentation aims to eliminate the need for physical verification, minimize bureaucratic delays at borders, and enhance the predictability of delivery times. A significant element of the agenda is the systematic removal of non-tariff barriers, which often constrain trade more than duties. During government-level negotiations, measures were agreed upon to unify standards and harmonize sanitary, phytosanitary, and quarantine requirements. The standardization of documentation and inspection protocols will create conditions for accelerated clearance of agricultural products and light industrial goods, thereby reducing operational and logistical costs for businesses.

Financial infrastructure is the backbone of trade

A critical prerequisite for the sustainable growth of trade turnover and the transition to more complex forms of economic cooperation is the establishment of reliable settlement mechanisms. For a long time, the lack of direct interbank channels and the complexity of conducting transactions remained significant constraints for businesses, forcing entrepreneurs to use third-country jurisdictions. A breakthrough in addressing this systemic issue will be the opening of a branch of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) in Uzbekistan. According to Alisher Duschanov, Trade and Economic Counsellor at the Embassy of Uzbekistan, the branch is scheduled to become fully operational in 2026. The emergence of an institutional financial player of this level will not only legitimize and expedite payments but also create a platform for

“ The economic agenda of the visit went beyond trade in raw materials, focusing on industrial cooperation and value chain creation. The textile industry serves as the flagship of this process ”

trade financing of export-import operations.

Preparations for this step have been carried out systematically. In April 2025, a delegation from the Central Bank of Uzbekistan, together with representatives of the country's leading commercial banks, visited Karachi to hold negotiations with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and key financial institutions, including HBL, Meezan Bank, and Bank Al-Habib. The parties thoroughly addressed the issues of opening correspondent accounts and harmonizing compliance control procedures. The integration of banking systems will enable small and medium-sized businesses to minimize transaction costs and currency risks, which is a necessary condition for achieving the declared trade volumes.

Sectoral drivers: a course toward deep processing

The economic agenda of the visit went beyond trade in raw materials, focusing on industrial cooperation and value chain creation. The textile industry serves as the flagship of this process. Uzbekistan, which is implementing a strategy to deepen cotton fiber processing, has set an ambitious goal of attracting \$2 billion in foreign investment into the sector to modernize capacities and expand export potential. Pakistani companies, with their significant experience in garment manufacturing and the global marketing of textile products, are viewed as strategic partners. During meetings with representatives of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), Uzbekistan's Ambassador Alisher Tukhtayev emphasized that combining Uzbekistan's low-cost energy resources and raw materials with Pakistan's technologies would enable the production of competitive goods for third-country markets. At present, 130 joint ventures with Pakistani capital are already operating in Uzbekistan.

The second strategic area is pharmaceuticals. Given that the annual volume of pharmaceutical imports into Uzbekistan amounts to approximately \$3 billion, the localization of production is becoming a priority of state policy. Pakistani investors are showing strong interest in establishing production facilities in specialized zones, such as the innovative scientific and industrial pharmaceutical

cluster Tashkent Pharma Park.

Successful cases are already being implemented: Novugen Pharma has launched production in the country, and during recent business forums, memorandums of cooperation were signed with Bio Labs and Caraway Pharmaceuticals. Investors are provided with tax incentives and exemptions from customs duties on the import of equipment and raw materials, making entry into the Uzbek market economically attractive.

The potential for cooperation also extends to other high-tech sectors. In the leather and footwear industry, projects are being developed to process leather raw materials and produce high-value finished goods for export. In the mining sector, negotiations are underway to develop copper deposits: a Pakistani delegation has already visited the Almalik Mining and Metallurgical Complex (AMMC) to assess the prospects for a technological partnership. In addition, the parties intend to expand cooperation in the production of agricultural machinery and electrical equipment, using the industrial zones of both countries as a springboard for entering the markets of the CIS and South Asia.

Agro-industrial cooperation: complementarity and technology transfer

The agricultural sector demonstrates strong complementarity between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, providing a natural foundation for balanced bilateral trade growth. Pakistan has established itself as one of the key export markets for Uzbek fruit and vegetable products: according to data for January 2025, this country accounted for 19.5 percent of Uzbekistan's total fruit and vegetable exports. The Uzbek side intends to increase the supply of fresh produce, legumes, and processed food products, leveraging the region's transit potential.

Reciprocal trade flows are being formed through the import of in-demand food items, including tropical fruits. In January 2026, in Islamabad, a delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan held a series of negotiations with leaders of Pakistan's private sector. In particular, logistical routes and delivery volumes of Pakistani mangoes and mandarins to the Uzbek market were discussed in detail with OFood's leadership. At the same time, negotiations are underway with Sindhu United Links Exports (Pvt.) Ltd. on the processing and packaging of potatoes and "1121 Sella" rice for subsequent export to Uzbekistan and the CIS countries. Details of chilled meat supplies in compliance with sanitary standards are also being worked out in cooperation with Fauji Meat Ltd. Cooperation extends beyond trade operations, encompassing agricultural science and innovation. During the Uzbekistan delegation's visit to Islamabad, an agreement was reached to develop and sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). The document is intended to systematize joint work in seed production, breeding, and the introduction of advanced agricultural technologies.



“ The economic agenda of the visit went beyond trade in raw materials, focusing on industrial cooperation and value chain creation. The textile industry serves as the flagship of this process. Uzbekistan, which is implementing a strategy to deepen cotton fiber processing ”

Scientific and technical partnership is already being discussed at the level of specific projects. With the Pakistani company Watercon, aspects of cooperation are being explored, including the cultivation of seed potatoes using aeroponic and in-vitro methods, the introduction of frost-resistant olive varieties, and the creation of oil-processing infrastructure. A separate area will be the exchange of experience in livestock farming: the parties intend to cooperate in adapting high-yield goat breeds (with milk production of up to 10 liters per day) to the climatic conditions of Uzbekistan.

From intentions to systemic integration

The state visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Pakistan marked the completion of the stage of build-

ing political trust and the transition to a phase of rigorous economic pragmatism. An analysis of the current agenda shows that the economic diplomacy of Tashkent and Islamabad is shifting its focus from declarative statements to the creation of fundamental infrastructure, both physical and financial.

The strategic backbone of this process is the Trans-Afghan railway project. Its implementation, which has moved to the feasibility study stage, is viewed by the parties not merely as a transport route but as an instrument for the geo-economic transformation of the region. The creation of direct railway access to the ports of Karachi and Gwadar will enable Uzbekistan to overcome its landlocked status, reducing transport costs and delivery times severalfold. For Pakistan, this corridor opens access to the markets of Central Asia and the CIS, turning the country into a key transit hub of Eurasia.

The practical implementation of a package of agreements – from expanding the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) to launching joint industrial projects in the textile and pharmaceutical sectors – will lay the foundation for institutionalizing relations. A key political outcome of this process will be the launch of the Supreme Council of Strategic Partnership, with its first meeting scheduled for 2026. This new engagement format, formalized in high-level protocols, will enable bilateral dialogue to be placed on a footing of systematic coordination, ensuring the monitoring of agreement implementation and a prompt response to changes in the global environment. Thus, the cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan is being transformed into a sustainable model of regional partnership, where economic benefits are reinforced by developed infrastructure and the political will of the leaders of both countries.

Main efforts and attention to be focused on the districts and mahallas with difficult conditions



AN expanded meeting chaired by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev was held to discuss key tasks in the area of poverty reduction and employment for 2026. At the beginning of the meeting, the Head of our state briefly reviewed the results of 2025.

It was noted that last year, the growth of the national economy reached much higher rates than preliminary forecasts, amounting to 7,7 percent, and the gross domestic product exceeded \$147 billion. Growth rates in all sectors of the economy were higher than in 2024. The volume of foreign investment attracted reached \$43 billion, and exports amounted to \$33,8 billion.

Despite high economic activity and growing consumer demand, the inflation rate fell from 9.8 percent in 2024 to 7.3 percent.

- As economic growth strengthens, there is an opportunity to increase the amount of funds allocated to infrastructure development. This, in turn, serves to ensure employment, income growth, and an increase in the well-being of the population, - noted the President. The Head of State noted that in the past year alone, 366 thousand families were lifted out of poverty, and as a result of measures taken to ensure employment and increase incomes, the poverty rate fell from 8,9 percent to 5,8 percent, and the unemployment rate from 5,5 percent to 4,8 percent.

- All this is the result of reforms and shows that trust

between the state and the people is steadily growing. However, there is still a lot of work to be done, - said the President.

As noted, the mahalla is a key link that provides a clear answer to the question of where reforms are working and where they are failing. If there are still unemployed or low-income families in the mahalla, it means that the reforms have not reached that place. If the “mahalla seven” fail to solve the problems of the population, it means that the system is not working.

- There are opportunities and resources, there are solutions and programs. The only thing missing is responsibility, including personal responsibility, - highlighted the Head of State.

The President criticized the fact that hokims and the “mahalla seven” lack the methodological knowledge and practical experience to take advantage of the available opportunities, and that the responsible ministries and departments do not provide them with support. Responsible officials have been instructed to develop a methodological guide within a month based on a study of the opportunities in mahallas with high levels of unemployment and poverty, as well as best practices. The hokims, in turn, will be personally responsible for its implementation at the local level, ensuring employment for the population, increasing incomes, and finding specific solutions to the problems faced by people.

The meeting set targets for providing permanent employment to 1 million people this year, lifting 181 thousand families out of poverty, increasing the number of poverty-free mahallas by 2,5 times to 3,5 thousand and reducing unemployment and poverty to 4.5 percent. Issues related to ensuring employment and increasing incomes in “difficult” areas and mahallas were discussed in detail. It was noted that, first and foremost, it is necessary to ensure a stable electricity supply to such settlements. To this end, small solar power plants with a capacity of 300 kilowatts will be built in each of the 903 mahallas and transferred to them as a free asset. These stations will create an economic asset in each mahalla, generating additional income of 400-500 million soums. The “green” income generated will be used to implement “green” measures, in particular, energy-efficient renovation of houses of needy families, reduction of electricity costs, and improvement of the quality of life. Members of low-income families living in these mahallas will be involved in the operation of solar power stations. These measures will also be implemented in another thousand mahallas with a high level of specialization. Small solar stations will be transferred to the mahallas in ready-to-use condition for a period of seven years on interest-free lease terms.

The President emphasized that deepening the specialization of mahallas is key to reducing unemployment and poverty.

It was noted that currently, 903 “difficult” mahallas have 100 thousand hectares of private and leased land. If the hokims, together with the “seven,” improve water supply in these mahallas, provide seeds and seedlings, and establish specialization, the income and living conditions of the population could improve significantly. Additional financial mechanisms will be introduced to encourage specialization in mahallas. In particular, 50 percent of the cost of purchasing certified seedlings for owners of private plots and farms will be reimbursed from the budget. Subsidies ranging from 20 thousand to 70 thousand soums will be allocated for trellises. Owners of plots who have introduced drip irrigation will be paid compensation of 160 thousand soums per 100 square meters.

Experienced farmers will receive a reward of 2 million soums for every 10 households that have established export production, and an additional 75 million soums if at least 30 percent of all households with garden plots achieve this.

In addition, this year, 4,000 low-income families will be provided with 50 acres free of charge for 10 years, for a total of 2,000 hectares of forest land for the creation of mulberry orchards. To organize sericulture cooperation, families in need will be allocated 4 million soums in subsidies, and those wishing to engage in sericulture at home will receive up to 20 million soums in interest-free

loans for the arrangement of premises and the purchase of equipment. The meeting noted that this year, 140 trillion soums in loans will be allocated for the development of small and medium-sized businesses.

- It should be said openly that banks currently offer loans to all regions and cities on the same terms. But the opportunities and conditions in Almazar and Bozotov differ. Therefore, in 37 “difficult” regions, loans will be provided at 12 percent under the “Family Business” program, - said the President.

In all regions, the maximum amount of a preferential loan under the family business support program will be increased by 1,5 times and will reach 50 million soums. Unsecured loans of up to 100 million soums can be obtained for the purchase of imported and certified breeding animals, and up to 150 million soums for equipping a guest house, installing small refrigeration equipment, and mini-technologies for storing and processing products. In 563 mahallas located in border areas and enclaves, the amount of credit for entrepreneurial projects will be increased to 1 billion soums. To this end, an additional 2 trillion soums will be allocated under the Family Entrepreneurship program, in addition to the planned 3.6 trillion soums.

To deepen the specialization of mahallas, banks will allocate a total of 17 trillion soums in loans this year. At the same time, 4 percent of the loan will be compensated for production projects, and 6 percent for processing projects.

It was noted that the work of the hokims' assistants should be organized on a project basis.

A portfolio of projects to be implemented on a project basis will be formed for each district. In “difficult” mahallas, vacant land plots and state-owned facilities will be sold at 2-3 times the reduced initial cost. The 100 “difficult” mahallas that have shown the best results in job creation and increasing the population's income will be allocated additional funding in the amount of 1 billion soums. The hokim assistants working in these mahallas will be sent on monthly training courses to countries such as China, Türkiye, Korea, and Malaysia.

As an example, a project to be implemented along the Kaykovus canal in the Almazar district was cited. A two-kilometer section of this canal passes through eight mahallas in the Old City. Now, the hokim assistants of these mahallas will unite into a single project group and, based on a holistic concept, will engage in the development of trade, service, and recreational infrastructure along the canal bank. Similar project teams consisting of hokim assistants will be organized to implement projects in the areas of tourism, education, medical care, renovation, and the development of waterfront areas and busy streets.

Modern infrastructure for tourism and service sector is created

ON January 23, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited tourism and service facilities on Zarkaynar Street in the Hastimom mahalla of the Almazar district. Tourism is a sector that, with relatively small investments, creates many jobs, increases people's incomes, and improves the appearance of the area. The city of Tashkent has great potential in this area.

In particular, in order to fully utilize this potential, a project covering an area of 447 hectares is being implemented in the Almazar district. As part of this project, tourist and service facilities will be built on six district streets connecting 15 mahallas.

The development work on Zarkaynar Street is part of this project. The historical appearance, traditions of national architecture, and spirit of craftsmanship formed over centuries are the hallmarks of this district.

With 150 billion soums allocated from the republic's budget, 576 houses in the national style have been restored here, giving the area an appearance that harmonizes with the historical environment.

One hundred entrepreneurs invested 166 billion soums in the creation of seven hotels, eight restaurants, five craft centers, one shopping center, and 125 service enterprises. As a result, 1,500 citizens were provided with permanent jobs.

While exploring the renovated street, the Head of our state inspected





houses renovated in the national architectural style, well-maintained streets, and the conditions created for the population. He had a sincere conversation with local residents, tourists, and artisans.

- We want to create conditions for tourists, but at the same time it is important to build the foundation correctly. For example, folk crafts are one of the key areas that reflect our national identity. Therefore, providing craftsmen with everything they need for production is our direct task. It is also necessary to train qualified personnel. To this end, it would be advisable to establish a university of crafts. We have already met with entrepreneurs, and now we are organizing separate meetings with artisans, - noted the President. The responsible persons were given specific instructions on further improving work in the areas of tourism and services, increasing economic activity while carefully preserving the historical appearance of the mahallas, and, most importantly, forming a sustainable system that serves the interests of the people.

The Head of our state was also presented with a master plan for the Olmazor innovative growth area.

The presentation showcased the spatial development concept, the results of the needs assessment, and decisions on the functional zoning of the territory.

According to the master plan, so-called “development corridors” will be formed, covering the areas of education and innovation, tourism and trade, cultural heritage, business, and IT services. Around the Old City, there are plans to connect the Student Town, universities and technology parks, healthcare facilities, as well as the Center for Islamic Civilization, the Khazrati Imam complex, the Chorsu market, and the historic city center. In addition, the northern business district will see the development of offices, an IT park, and business centers.

The goal of the master plan is to preserve the historical heritage while developing modern infrastructure and bringing the economic potential and urban environment of the area to a whole new level.

- **A master plan covering at least five years must be developed for each street. Yesterday in the Swiss town of Davos, I saw how the urban environment is developing while preserving existing buildings and taking local conditions into account. We too must preserve the Old Town and, moreover, develop it. To this end, a separate program called “Old Town” should be prepared, - noted the President**

The President visits a modern clinic in the Almazar district

PRESIDENT Shavkat Mirziyoyev got acquainted with the activities of the “Sinomed” multidisciplinary medical center in the Almazar district.

At a meeting with medical and pharmaceutical workers on November 10 last year, the Head of our state noted that 30 percent of medical services are provided by the private sector, and support for the private sector in the field of medicine and the creation of additional conditions will continue. In line with these goals, broad opportunities are being created for the activities of multidisciplinary medical centers.

Located in the Almazar district, the Sinomed multidisciplinary medical center today provides services in all relevant areas, such as obstetrics, pediatrics, surgery, traumatology, orthopedics, endocrinology, and others. The center was built at a cost of \$30 million, and modern medical equipment was imported from the UK, Italy, Japan, and Germany.

The clinic has both diagnostic and inpatient departments. The center can treat up to 4,500 patients annually. It has created more than 300 jobs and employs over 80 doctors. More than 60 specialists have undergone advanced training abroad, particularly in South Korea, Germany, Türkiye, India, Japan, and the United States. In addition, for-

eign specialists work at the clinic. The center has opened Tashkent's first private maternity complex, capable of serving 30 women at a time. There are plans to increase the number of beds in the future. The clinic also provides vaccinations and preventive medical examinations for children. Call centers and specialized nursing teams have been set up at the clinic. There are also facilities for conducting home visits to examine patients.

In addition, the largest private vaccination center in the republic has been established here, as well as the only sterilization center in the private sector. The Head of our state reviewed the services provided at the multidisciplinary medical center, as well as the conditions created for patients, including outpatient rooms. In addition, in the field of motherhood and childhood, the Head of our state reviewed the systematic procedures prepared for women from the moment of pregnancy to childbirth and the postpartum period.

- Obstetric services and prenatal care are among the most important issues. Childbirth, especially the birth of the first child, should not be stressful for women. If she undergoes regular medical examinations and receives timely treatment, she will develop an understanding of self-care, healthy motherhood, and child-





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hood, - noted the President. The Head of our state spoke with children playing on the playground organized at the multidisciplinary center.

- Our main achievement is that doctors like you are applying the knowledge you have gained in our country. It should be noted that when introducing private medicine, it is important to remember about competition. People will have a choice when there is competition. If the number of private medical centers increases, the population will be able to receive quality services that correspond to the funds spent on treatment, - noted the Head of State in a conversation with the clinic staff.

Priorities on upgrading the activities of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign diplomatic missions determined

ON January 15, an expanded meeting was chaired by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and diplomatic missions abroad. Opening the session, the Head of our state noted that the meeting is taking place amid sharp geopolitical changes in the world and increasing threats to the sovereignty of states. In this regard, the need to critically assess current foreign policy activities and move to a renewed format for organizing the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign diplomatic missions was emphasized.

The President noted that 2025 had been a productive year for the country's foreign policy. During the year, high-level visits were made to 26 foreign countries, and for the first time in recent history, visits to Uzbekistan were organized by the leaders of a number of countries. Multilateral dialogues in the "Central Asia Plus" format became productive. In recent years, strategic partnerships have been established with 11 countries, bringing the total number to 19, and allied relations have been built with Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Tajikistan. – As a result of an open, pragmatic, thoughtful and proactive foreign policy, Uzbekistan is consistently strengthening its position as one of the global centres of peace and diplomacy, – emphasized the President.

Since 2017, 16 new diplomatic missions and consulates have been opened abroad, bringing their total number to 60, and the number of countries with which diplomatic relations have been established to 165. There has also been an increase in the number of staff and salaries of employees of embassies, consular offices, representative offices to international organizations, and employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the same time, a fundamental question was raised as to whether all diplomatic missions are making full use of the opportunities provided. – In the current environment, an ambassador is not just a person who conducts political dialogue. An ambassador is a state representative who attracts investment and technologies, opens new export markets, launches transport and logistics corridors, increases tourist flows, creates conditions for legal labor migration and, most importantly, protects the rights of our citizens, – emphasized the President.

In this regard, it was noted that key performance indicators for ambassadors should include the volume of export revenues from the countries of residence, growth in tourist flows, and the effectiveness of organizing legal labor migration.

Particular emphasis was placed on the need to increase exports and investments by strengthening economic diplomacy. As part of bilateral and multilateral events in 2025, agreements



were signed on investment projects and trade contracts totaling \$160 billion. For the first time in history, foreign trade turnover exceeded \$80 billion, exports reached \$33,5 billion, and foreign investment exceeded \$43 billion. Exports to 75 countries increased by almost \$4,5 billion.

In view of this, the ambassadors have been tasked with expanding export deliveries to the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and Africa, as well as implementing specific projects in the fields of industry, agriculture, the chemical industry, the textile industry, greenhouse farming, and the service sector. At the same time, it was noted that Uzbekistan's products remain insufficiently recognized in certain markets.

It was noted that the growth of logistics costs has a negative impact on the competitiveness of domestic products. In this regard, the need to diversify transit routes, optimize logistics chains, and develop additional proposals to reduce transportation costs when entering European markets was indicated.

In the agricultural sector, tasks have been set for researching and implementing water-saving technologies, modern agricultural technologies, and innovative greenhouse solutions. Along with this, measures have been outlined to expand export markets for chemical industry products, bring domestic manufacturers up to international standards and requirements, and organize specialized exhibitions and presentations.

The need to intensify trade and economic cooperation with the African continent as one of the promising new export destinations has been emphasized. To this end, a clear roadmap is to be developed with the participation of relevant ministries and foreign diplomatic missions.

It was noted that ambassadors should be directly interested in finding promising projects, attracting them, and implementing them in practice. In this regard, it was decided to introduce financial incentives for ambassadors who bring specific investment or export projects to a logical conclusion.

Criticism was levelled at the insufficient realisation of existing potential in a number of areas. In particular, it was noted that opportunities to attract international grants are not being fully exploited. It was noted that with closer and more systematic interaction between ministries, industry leaders, and ambassadors, it would have been possible to attract an additional \$200-300 million in grant funds last year.

As noted, international organizations and donor countries announce grant programs worth approximately \$200 billion annually. In this regard, the task has been set to implement a unified, systematic, and effective approach to working with grants. In addition, the need to take concrete measures, together with the ambassadors to the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, China, Japan, and Singapore, to attract leading foreign universities ranked in the top 100 worldwide as partners of Uzbek higher education institutions was emphasized. It was noted that cooperation between regions and diplomatic missions in expanding foreign economic relations is still insufficient. The need for active participation of regional governors, together with ambassadors, in the systematic promotion of export-oriented products of the regions and in facilitating the entry of local enterprises into foreign markets was emphasized.

Providing Uzbek citizens with legal and high-paying jobs abroad was identified as another priority area. The expansion of the geography of organized labor migration was noted, while it was pointed out that in a number of countries, work in this area is not sufficiently effective, and relevant instructions were given in this regard.





It was emphasized that embassies and consulates should actively protect the rights and legitimate interests of citizens and provide qualified legal assistance in each specific case. The task has been set to abandon "office diplomacy", strengthen work in the field, and establish direct dialogue with compatriots. In the field of tourism, the need to further strengthen the role of ambassadors, introduce new approaches to promoting the country's tourism and cultural potential, make effective use of visa-free regimes, and attract international outsourcing companies has been identified. Issues related to expanding foreign policy ties, high-quality and timely preparation of high-level visits, retraining of diplomatic personnel, and the formation of a reserve of promising specialists were also discussed.

The intensification of foreign information policy and the improvement of the country's international image through systematic work with foreign media and the implementation of special media projects were identified as priority tasks.

The need to update the Concept of foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, review its priority areas, and define clear tasks for protecting national interests and strengthening the country's position in the international arena was emphasized.

As the President noted, the new concept should comprehensively reflect long-term strategic goals, the logic of internal reforms, as well as national interests in the areas of economic diplomacy, security, investment, exports, transport and logistics, water and climate issues.

In order to give proper recognition to the achievements of diplomats, it was proposed to establish the honorary title of "Honored Diplomat of the Republic of Uzbekistan".

“ The President noted that 2025 had been a productive year for the country's foreign policy. During the year, high-level visits were made to 26 foreign countries, and for the first time in recent history, visits to Uzbekistan were organized by the leaders of a number of countries ”

At the end of the meeting, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized: “The time has come for a new generation of diplomats – those who achieve concrete results and firmly defend the interests of Uzbekistan in the international arena”. In the course of the session, reports and proposals of our ambassadors abroad were heard.

President of Uzbekistan meets with participants of the Olympic Council of Asia General Assembly

PRESIDENT of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received the leaders of the Olympic Council of Asia and participants of the organization's General Assembly. At the beginning of the meeting, the newly elected president of the Olympic Council of Asia Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani conveyed the sincere greetings and best wishes of the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to the Head of our state. The Leader of our country expressed gratitude for the decision to hold the assembly in Tashkent, noting the high level of trust in Uzbekistan as a reliable partner in the international sports movement. It was noted that the development of sports has been identified as a priority area within the "Uzbekistan – 2030" Strategy. The Uzbek side's readiness to further strengthen cooperation with international sports organizations and implement joint programs and initiatives aimed at achieving practical results was emphasized. At the conclusion of the event, the President of our country presented the director general of the Olympic Council of Asia and president of World Aquatics, Husain Al-Musallam, with a high state award – the "Dustlik" Order of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in recognition of his significant contribution to the development of sport and the strengthening of international sports cooperation.





President of Uzbekistan congratulates participants of the 46th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia





ON January 26, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in the 46th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia, held in the city of Tashkent.

The event was also attended by leaders and representatives of leading international and regional sports organizations, including First vice president of the Association of National Olympic Committees, president of the Qatar Olympic Committee Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, president of the World Anti-Doping Agency Witold Bańka, president of the International Gymnastics Federation Morinari Watanabe, president of the International Weightlifting Federation Mohammed Jalood, president of the World Boxing organization Gennadiy Golovkin, president of the International Hockey Federation Tayyab Ikram, president of the Asian Paralympic Committee Majid Rashed, president of the International Sambo Federation Vasily Shestakov, secretary general of the Association of National Olympic Committees Gunilla Lindberg, and president of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa Mustapha Berraf. Furthermore, the assembly was attended by special guests and officials, including Special Representative of the President of the United States Paolo Zampolli, Minister of sport of the Russian Federation Mikhail Degtyarev, Minister of sport of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Saud, as well as Minister of youth and sports of the State of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, among others. In his speech, the Head of our state noted the special role of

sport as a universal tool for strengthening dialogue, mutual understanding, and trust between nations amid growing global challenges. The President of Uzbekistan congratulated Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani on his election as President of the Olympic Council of Asia, noting his high professionalism, extensive international experience, and significant contribution to the development of sport not only in Asia but throughout the world.

Particular attention was devoted to the development of multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and the Olympic Council of Asia. The successful hosting of the Council's 77th Executive Committee session in the country, the election of a representative from the republic as Vice President for Central Asia, and the planned hosting of the 2029 Asian Youth Games were noted.

The Head of State also provided information on the large-scale reforms being implemented in the field of physical culture and sports in the New Uzbekistan.

A three-stage system of comprehensive competitions, the "Presidential Olympiad", has been introduced, modern sports infrastructure, including an Olympic Town, has been established, while the system for selecting and training high-performance athletes is being expanded. The high results of Uzbek athletes in the international arena were highlighted, including their successful performance at the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, as well as the development of mass

sports in the country today with more than 15 million of our citizens regularly engage in physical activity.

It was also emphasized that international and Asian sports organizations have signed more than 20 agreements with Uzbekistan's national sports federations.

Particularly, the International Weightlifting Federation will support the development of the Akbar Juraev Weightlifting Club in the Bostanlyk district of the Tashkent region, United World Wrestling will establish a regional Wrestling Academy, and the Asian Volleyball Confederation plans to open volleyball sports clubs in every region. With the technical assistance of the International Hockey Federation, two field hockey stadiums will be built.

Uzbekistan's commitment to the principles of fair play and the consistent fight against doping was reaffirmed.

In this context, the importance of holding the regional meeting of Central Asian anti-doping organizations and an international forum in Tashkent was highlighted.

The Head of our state confirmed that the New Uzbekistan is open to comprehensive and long-term cooperation with all countries in the sphere of sport, emphasizing its readiness for the further development of sports diplomacy and joint initiatives. At the conclusion of the event, Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani was awarded the "Shon-Sharaf" Order by the National Olympic Committee of Uzbekistan for his special contribution to the development of the Olympic movement and the promotion of significant sports initiatives.

Ambassador Alisher Tukhtaev

Uzbekistan–Pakistan Bilateral Relations are Entering a New Phase

On the eve of the State Visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to Pakistan, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev, gave an interview to a correspondent of «CENTERLINE» magazine, in which he shared his views on the current state and future prospects of bilateral cooperation

FIRST of all, thank you for taking the time for this interview. As is well known, Pakistan is considered one of Uzbekistan's important partners in political, economic, cultural – in short, all spheres. In your opinion, which areas are the most promising for further expanding bilateral cooperation and elevating it to a new level?

– I am pleased to have the opportunity to give this interview on the eve of the state visit of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to Pakistan. I should emphasize that since Pakistan is an important strategic partner for Uzbekistan, this visit will be a significant step toward further strengthening our strategic partnership. Uzbekistan – Pakistan strategic cooperation is currently entering a new phase. Since Uzbekistan gained independence, the two countries have launched a number of cooperation programs. It is worth noting that Uzbekistan is moving toward a new stage of its development. The New Uzbekistan is open to the world and strives to achieve modernization through engagement with foreign countries. In this process, foreign direct investment and trade relations play a crucial role. Therefore, the future of the Uzbekistan–Pakistan strategic partnership will primarily focus on trade, economic cooperation, and tourism exchanges. We aim to maintain the momentum of bilateral cooperation and further enhance it.

– **Uzbekistan and Pakistan are connected by deep historical, cultural, and spiritual ties that have been formed over centuries. How do you envision the future development of these relations under modern conditions?**

– Uzbekistan views Pakistan as a friend and a strategic partner and seeks to elevate cooperation to a new level based on our historical ties and cultural similarities. Our relations have developed over centuries through trade and cultural exchanges. Under current conditions, we plan to strengthen these ties through economic integration, transport connectivity, and investment cooperation. Uzbekistan has identified key priority areas in its cooperation with Pakistan, including the expansion of economic partnership and trade, the development of infrastructure projects – such as railways, transport systems, and energy – as well as the strengthening of collaboration in education, culture, and people-to-people ties.

These strategic priorities are mutually beneficial for both sides and contribute to sustainable economic development. In addition, Pakistan, with a population exceeding 256 million, is Uzbekistan's reliable strategic partner in South Asia and serves as an important gateway to global markets. Currently, nearly 80 bilateral agreements are in force between the two countries, covering political, economic, transport, security, educational, and cultural spheres.

– **How would you assess the current level of trade and economic relations and interdependence between Uzbekistan and Pakistan? What measures are being taken to further develop bilateral cooperation in these areas?**

– Trade and economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan is one of the most important priority areas on the



bilateral agenda. Pakistan's access to the Arabian Sea provides Uzbekistan with opportunities to diversify its transport routes and secure stable access to the markets of third countries. Turning to specific figures, prior to 2017, the volume of trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan amounted to USD 36.2 million. By 2024, this figure had increased to USD 403.9 million, and as of December 1, 2025, it exceeded USD 434 million. Uzbekistan's exports to Pakistan have increased significantly. At the same time, imports from Pakistan to Uzbekistan have also grown sharply. The range of traded goods continues to expand as well. In particular, trade in agricultural products, textile raw materials, pharmaceutical products, foodstuffs, and other types of goods is becoming increasingly active. To accelerate trade and economic partnership between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, import and export procedures have been simplified, while tariff and non-tariff barriers have been reduced. In addition, trade exhibitions and business forums are regularly organized in both Uzbekistan and Pakistan with the participation of business communities from the two countries. The business circles of both states are demonstrating strong interest in mutual cooperation and the implementation of joint projects. During the official visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Uzbekistan in February 2025, the parties expressed a strategic commitment to further deepening economic partnership. In particular, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has clearly set the task of increasing the volume of bilateral trade turnover to 2 billion US dollars. The main priority areas have been identified as industrial cooperation, the pharmaceutical and textile industries, agriculture, as well as the transport and logistics sectors. Achieving these objectives requires sys-

tematic and consistent measures, including the development of stable logistics routes, the simplification of transit and customs procedures, as well as the activation of business ties and institutional support for joint projects.

– What opportunities are available in Uzbekistan for Pakistani investors and entrepreneurs? In which sectors do you see the greatest potential for cooperation?

– Supporting foreign investors is at the center of attention of the Head of State of Uzbekistan. Efforts are being made to create a favorable business environment not only for Pakistani entrepreneurs, but for all foreign investors. The sector-specific legislative framework has been strengthened, and legal and regulatory instruments aimed at protecting investors' rights have been enhanced. As a result, interest among foreign entrepreneurs in the Uzbek market has significantly increased. Every year, new joint projects are being launched. In the Free Economic Zones established across the regions of Uzbekistan, foreign business representatives implementing projects are provided with all necessary conditions and incentives. Among the key high-potential sectors in Uzbekistan, the agro-industrial and food production sector can be highlighted. Uzbekistan is an important destination for investments in large farming clusters, processing lines, and agricultural logistics. The textile and light industry also possesses high potential. Pakistan is a country with a large textile market and extensive experience in this field, and Uzbekistan offers a number of opportunities for the development of this sector. We invite Pakistani business representatives to engage in business activities in Uzbekistan in these areas.

In addition, tourism and the hotel industry can be further strengthened through the development of historical and cultural ties, along with the expansion of hospitality and service sectors. Participation in projects aimed at modernizing transport and logistics services, establishing logistics centers, as well as initiatives in construction, energy, the introduction of new technologies and innovations, and programs supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, is also highly beneficial. In short, the incentives, Free Economic Zones, and favorable conditions being created by Uzbekistan for investors are opening broad opportunities for attracting foreign investment.

– Uzbekistan is pursuing an active policy to enhance regional connectivity, particularly by expanding transport corridors and energy links. How do you assess the role and significance of the two countries in achieving these shared objectives?

– You are absolutely right. Uzbekistan is implementing a consistent strategy aimed at strengthening regional integration and expanding transport connectivity. As a country located in Central Asia, Uzbekistan has identified the expansion of trade corridors toward South Asia as a key strategic priority. Pakistan is one of the main routes for exporting Uzbek products to South Asian markets. In particular, Pakistan's ports of Karachi and Gwadar serve as gateways for Central Asia's access to global trade corridors. Moreover, Pakistan is regarded as an important partner in transport and logistics integration.

Key projects in this area, including the modernization of railway and logistics corridors, are being continuously supported through intergovernmental agreements.

– Large-scale infrastructure projects such as the Trans-Afghan railway play a crucial role in deepening regional integration. What is Uzbekistan's position on these initiatives, and how can cooperation between the two countries be structured to ensure their successful implementation?

– As you know, this project is extremely important. Its full implementation will be beneficial for all parties involved. Uzbekistan views such infrastructure projects as a fundamental pillar of regional integration. In particular, the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pa-

kistan railway project is recognized as a vital transport corridor that will directly connect Central Asia with South Asia. The objective of this route is to strengthen economic ties between the regions and expand trade and transit opportunities. The project serves not only the interests of the two countries but also contributes to increasing trade volumes across the entire region, enhancing transit capacity, and accelerating economic integration processes. In July 2025, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan signed an intergovernmental agreement on the development of the feasibility study (FS) for the railway project along the Termez – Naibabad – Maidan Shahr – Logar – Kharlachi route.

The Trans-Afghan Railway project, first proposed in 2018, is aimed at connecting the city of Termez in Uzbekistan with the Afghan cities of Mazar-e-Sharif and Kabul, and subsequently with the city of Kharlachi in Pakistan. Once construction is completed, the railway will extend for more than 700 kilometers across Afghanistan, creating a direct overland route between Central Asia and the Arabian Sea. The cost of the project is estimated at 5 billion US dollars. The implementation of this project is of great significance for the development of both transport and trade relations in the regions of Central Asia and South Asia.

– Final question, what efforts are being made to develop tourism and humanitarian ties between Uzbekistan and Pakistan?

– The development of tourism and humanitarian relations has been designated as a priority area of our state policy. Important measures are being implemented in this direction. First and foremost, visa regimes are being simplified, and favorable conditions are being created to facilitate people-to-people exchanges. In this regard, systematic efforts are underway to ease business and tourist travel. In addition, special attention is being paid to organizing cultural events, festivals, and exhibitions.

At the same time, a number of joint projects are being implemented to develop tourism infrastructure. In particular, joint programs are being developed in the areas of historical heritage sites, ecotourism, and cultural routes.

Another important point that should not be overlooked is that the number of flights between Uzbekistan and Pakistan has been increased to four per week: two flights on the Tashkent-Lahore route and two flights on the Islamabad-Tashkent route. Three of these flights were launched in 2025. Since the launch of these routes, more than 30,000 passengers have been served. In the near future, there are also plans to launch flights between Tashkent and Karachi. Last year, with the support of the Embassy of Uzbekistan, 12 roadshows and promotional events in the field of tourism were organized, and participation was ensured in two major international exhibitions. By the end of 2025, the number of tourists traveling from Pakistan to Uzbekistan exceeded 18,000, which represents a 3.6-fold increase compared to 2024.

Our cooperation in education, particularly in the field of higher education, is also developing steadily. Today, nearly 1,500 young people from Pakistan are studying at leading higher education institutions in Uzbekistan in priority fields such as medicine, information technologies, engineering, international relations, economics, and Islamic studies. I believe that, with the aim of elevating cooperation in the field of education to a new level, it is necessary to further promote initiatives such as expanding student and faculty exchange programs, establishing joint scientific laboratories and research centers, as well as increasing the number of educational grants and scholarship programs. Such intellectual and cultural dialogue among the younger generation will, in the future, create a strong human foundation for the Uzbekistan-Pakistan strategic partnership.

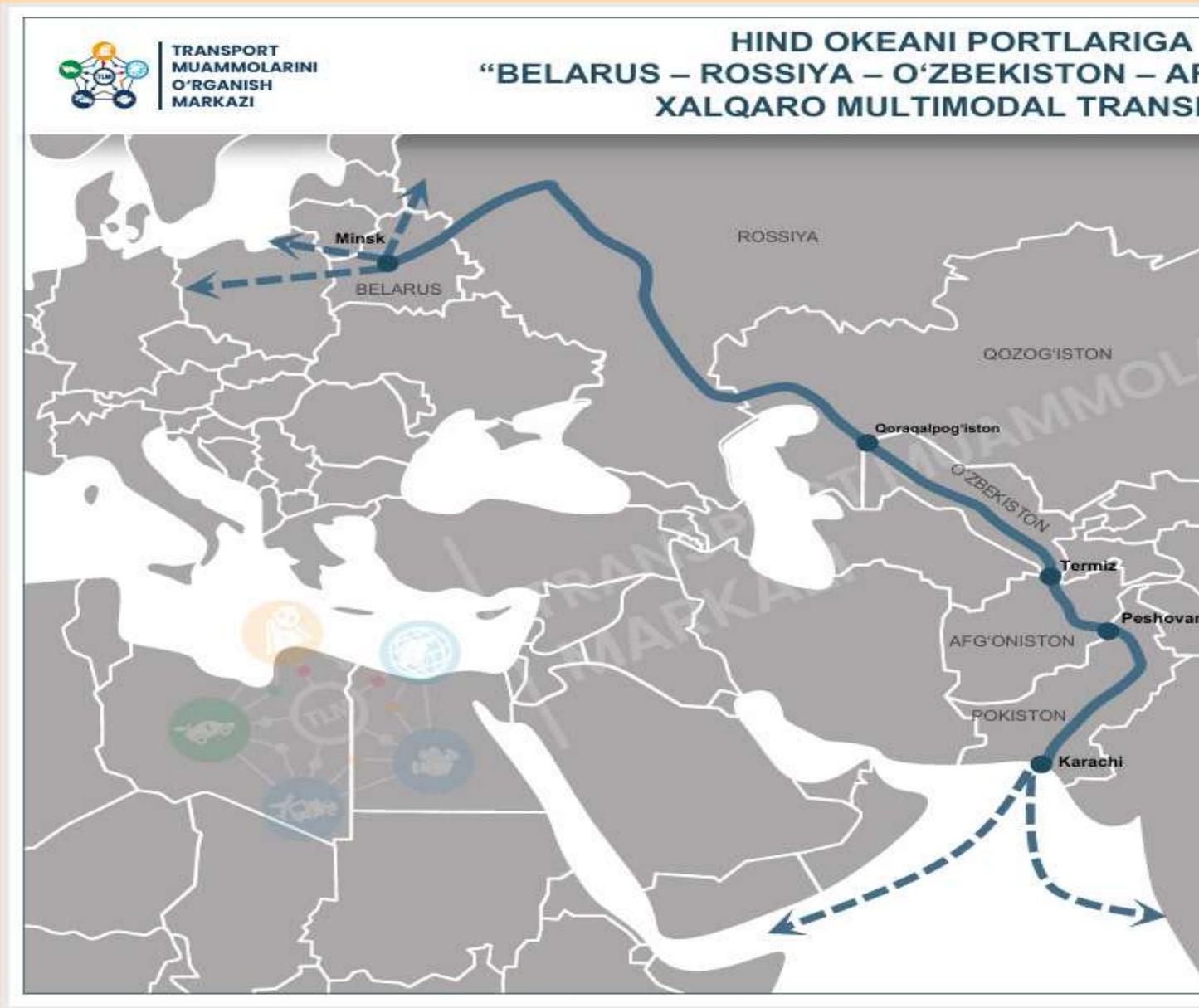
– Mr. Ambassador, we express our gratitude for the interview and for the valuable information you have shared.

– Thank you

The strategic importance of Pakistani ports in Uzbekistan's foreign trade

THE current unstable situation in global geopolitics, as well as disruptions and problems arising in transport and logistics systems, have a direct impact on trade relations between states, as well as on the stability of national economies and the standard of living of the population. In such conditions, the strategically rational organisation of the country's foreign trade transport corridors and their resilience to various unforeseen changes, as well as ensuring economic stability and strengthening food security for the population, are of great importance.

Due to its unique geographical location, the Republic of Uzbekistan is one of the countries that requires the passage of at least two states to reach the sea. At the same time, our country has long been at the crossroads of important trade routes due to its location in the centre of the Eurasian region. This circumstance has led to our country being regarded as a strategic space where cargo flows for transport networks are concentrated and distributed. Currently, the



rational and full use of this geographical and transit potential contributes to the development of foreign trade relations not only in our country, but also throughout the region.

The Government of Uzbekistan is leveraging this potential by implementing several initiatives in the transport sector. These include the project to build the Uzbekistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan railway, as well as the international multimodal transport corridor Belarus–Russia–Kazakhstan – Uzbekistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan. This multimodal transport corridor is being promoted as part of the wider project. These projects will connect Uzbekistan with the nearest seaports and provide the shortest sea route to the markets of South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. By the end of 2025, the volume of cargo transported along the Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan corridor exceeded 400,000 tonnes, representing a 11 per cent increase on last year. Notably, the volume of imports from foreign countries surged by 22 per cent, reaching 243,000 tonnes. This underscores the escalating significance of transport through Pakistani ports

for the domestic market of Uzbekistan.

The strong ties of mutual trust between Uzbekistan and Pakistan have resulted in the establishment of transport and logistics cooperation. In particular, in 2022, an inter-governmental agreement on transit trade was signed, as a result of which by the end of 2025, the volume of export and import cargo transportation between the two countries reached 450,000 tonnes. This figure has increased by 37% since 2024 and by almost 60% since 2021. These figures are indicative of the increasing strategic importance of Pakistan in Uzbekistan's foreign trade. This route provides Uzbekistan with access to three key seaports in Pakistan. Karachi, Kasim and Gwadar. These ports provide direct sea links to hundreds of ports around the world. This facilitates the delivery of our country's export products to markets in South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, ensuring efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Preliminary analysis indicates that transportation through Pakistani ports can reduce delivery times by 10-15 days and total logistics costs by 20-30% compared to traditional routes. This is a significant advantage, particularly when it comes to the export of agricultural and textile products.

Current geopolitical situation (as of the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026): freight routes between the two countries have been suspended due to the closure of the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan since October 2025. This situation has worsened since October, when trade between the two sides fell by 40% (from \$2.46 billion in 2024 to \$1.77 billion in 2025).

This has resulted in a redirection of trade routes. In particular, some of the cargo flows between Afghanistan and Pakistan have been reoriented towards routes to seaports through the territories of Central Asian states – Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan – as well as through Iran. At the same time, Pakistan's well-developed port infrastructure will continue to play a pivotal role as the primary maritime gateways for regional trade and transit in the long term.

In light of the current geopolitical landscape and the closure of traditional transport routes, it is recommended that temporary (alternative) international transport corridors be established. It should be emphasised that the Uzbekistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan transport corridor is the shortest route, reducing the total distance of freight transport from the European Union, CIS countries and China to South Asian countries by an average of 20-30% compared to traditional sea and rail routes.

Finally, it should be noted that Pakistani ports function not only as a transit point for Uzbekistan, but also as a significant strategic base. This contributes to the diversification of foreign trade, the reduction of logistics costs and the expansion of the geography of exports. The transport projects currently being implemented and the steady growth in freight volumes clearly confirm that this direction is one of the most promising in our country's foreign trade. It is also clear that the transport infrastructure and seaports in this direction are of strategic importance for Uzbekistan's foreign trade.

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Development Issues



Strategic partnership toward regional stability and integration

ON January 23, a roundtable discussion titled “Uzbekistan – Pakistan: Bridging regions and creating new opportunities” was held at the International Institute for Central Asia in Tashkent. The event, organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Pakistan in Uzbekistan, brought together representatives of relevant ministries, business circles, analytical centers, and the academic community. It is worth noting that in recent years, relations between the two friendly countries have risen to an entirely new level. In particular, the formalization of the strategic partnership in 2021 indicates that bilateral ties have reached a qualitatively new stage. Today, this cooperation is characterized by active political dialogue, expanded trade and economic relations, increased investment flows, and intensified cultural and humanitarian exchanges. In particular, the official visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif to Uzbekistan in February 2025 provided strong momentum to this process. During the visit, important agreements were reached to deepen cooperation in trade, transport, science and education, culture, and security. The sides set clear targets to increase bilateral trade turnover to \$2 billion. Last year, the increase in mutual trade volume to \$400 million indicates that Pakistan is becoming an important foreign trade partner for Uzbekistan. As part of efforts to strengthen economic cooperation, the opening of the UzbekPak International Trading Centre and the UzbekPak Cultural Centre in Karachi became an essential institutional step. These platforms serve not only to promote industrial and agricultural products, but also to strengthen cultural ties between our peoples. Cooperation in transport and logistics is another priority area of Uzbekistan – Pakistan relations. The Uzbekistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan Trans-Afghan railway project has significant potential as a strategic transport corridor linking Central and South Asia.



In addition, agreements reached to develop air cargo transportation between Tashkent and Karachi, including the delivery of agricultural products, are gaining practical importance. During today’s meeting, these pressing issues were discussed, creating a significant opportunity to develop approaches for a new qualitative stage of the strategic partnership and to advance concrete initiatives in trade, transport, education, science, culture, and tourism. Within the framework of the event, special attention was paid to strengthening ties among the analytical, academic, and business communities of Uzbekistan and Pakistan. In addition, practical recommendations were developed for inclusion in the agenda of the high-level dialogue, and new initiatives were put forward to enhance Pakistan’s cooperation with Central Asian countries. In a word, cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan is turning into a strong bridge built on trust, pragmatism, and shared interests. The roundtable discussion held in Tashkent has become an essential step toward further expanding and strengthening this bridge.



RCCI, Uzbekistan Explore Joint Ventures

D N A

RAWALPINDI: A meeting and interactive session was held between the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) and Mr. Shohrukh Gulamov, Deputy Minister of Investment, Industry and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in Islamabad aimed at strengthening bilateral economic cooperation and exploring new avenues of trade and investment.

President RCCI, Mr. Usman Shaukat, along with Senior Vice President Mr. Khalid Farooq Qazi, participated in the meeting. Former RCCI President Dr. Shumail Daud was also present on the occasion. During the interaction, both sides discussed matters related to close cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, with particular emphasis on the scope of joint ventures, enhancement of trade and investment ties, and collaboration in key sectors, including the pharmaceutical industry.

President RCCI, Usman Shaukat, recalled and briefed the Deputy Minister about RCCI's recent Business Opportunity Conference held in Tashkent in November, which marked an important step toward deepening economic engagement between the two countries. He highlighted the subsequent meetings with Uzbek Chambers of Commerce, ministerial-level engagements, and the visit to the Export Pharmaceutical Park, which opened new prospects for collaboration, especially in the pharma sector.

Mr. Usman Shaukat emphasized that RCCI remains committed to facilitating B2B linkages, encouraging investment partnerships, and translating diplomatic goodwill into tangible economic outcomes. He noted that sustained interaction between chambers and government institutions would play a vital role in unlocking the full potential of bilateral trade. Mr. Shohrukh Gulamov appreciated RCCI's proactive role in promoting Pakistan-Uzbekistan economic relations and expressed interest in further strengthening cooperation through joint ventures, trade facilitation, and sector-specific collaboration.

The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to continue engagements and work closely to promote mutually beneficial



trade and investment opportunities between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Islamabad ()Sharing the grief of the families affected by the tragic gas cylinder explosion in G-7, the Clean and Green Islamabad Movement expressed heartfelt sympathy, condolences, and practical support. The movement stood by the affected families in this difficult time, offered moral support, and provided relief cheques, stating that while financial assistance can never compensate for the loss of precious lives, it is a small gesture of solidarity and practical support to help the affected households cope with this painful tragedy. In this regard, Chairman of the Clean and Green Islamabad Movement, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, visited the affected house in G-7 Islamabad. He extended heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic incident, expressed solidarity with the bereaved families, and offered special prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the incident was extremely heartbreaking and had plunged not only the affected families but the entire city into deep sorrow. He stated that the untimely demise of groom

Sherry Hanif, bride Mehak, Joraan Bibi, Sanbal, Naem, and Waseem was an irreparable loss that could not be expressed in words. While talking to the bereaved families, he said that they were not alone in this time of grief and prayed that Almighty Allah grant them patience and strength. He also prayed for the early recovery of those injured in the incident, including Kashif, Salma, Mukhtaran Bibi, Aamir, Farzana, Maryam, Rita, Aryan, Ejaz, Aina, and the minor daughter of Sanbal, and said that the entire nation was praying for their health and well-being.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari further provided relief cheques to the affected families and emphasized that strict implementation of safety measures, proper usage of gas cylinders, and quality checks were essential to prevent such tragic incidents in the future so that no other family would have to endure such a painful loss. On the occasion, ICCI Executive Members Roheel Anwar Butt and Malik Mohsin Khalid, former ICCI Vice Presidents Nisar Mirza and Nasir Qureshi were also present. The delegation expressed deep sorrow and condolences to the affected families. Former Federal Minister J. Salik was also present at the site and shared his condolences with the bereaved families.

Bridges of Friendship

Toward New Horizons of Uzbek–Pakistani Partnership



Nigora Sultanova

IN recent years, the deepening cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan has emerged as a significant new strategic direction across Eurasia. Two countries standing at the historic crossroads of ancient trade

routes are now consistently building a modern “architecture of connectivity” that permeates all key areas, including the economy, culture, education, and technology. Their shared centuries-old historical roots, dating back to the era of the Great Silk Road, are being transformed into concrete projects and initiatives capable of strengthening economic resilience, ensuring technological independence, and creating a solid foundation for regional integration.

Since the early 2020s, relations between Tashkent and Islamabad have been developing steadily, largely driven by the strong political will of the leaders of both countries. The Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, signed in 2021, set a high pace for bilateral dialogue, opening a new chapter in the history of relations. Regular meetings at the highest level, active consultations between the foreign ministries, and engagement within international forums make it possible to address pressing issues in a timely manner, identify mutually acceptable solutions, and explore promising areas of cooperation.

A vivid confirmation of the strengthening bilateral ties was the official visit of the Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Uzbekistan in February 2025 and his meeting with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The leaders of both countries expressed deep satisfaction with the impressive dynamics of multifaceted cooperation encompassing the economy, investment, transport, digital technologies, and cultural and humanitarian exchanges. Admiring the achievements of Uzbekistan’s large-scale reforms under the Presidency of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Shehbaz Sharif stated that “miracles are possible only through a clear vision, high dynamism, hard work, and a resolute pursuit of a common goal.” The culmination of the Prime Minister’s visit was the establishment of the High-Level Strategic Partnership Council, which imparted a new strategic impetus to bilateral relations. This step not only consolidated the prior agreements but also created a strong institutional platform for systematic cooperation. The legislative framework of bilateral cooperation plays a key role in strengthening strategic interaction between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. A special contribution in this regard is made by inter-parliamentary friendship groups, which consistently promote legislative initiatives aimed at simplifying business procedures, increasing transparency, and creating a reliable legal environment for the implementation of joint projects. Their

work forms a long-term platform of trust that ensures stability and predictability in bilateral relations.

The economic sector, in turn, serves as the most visible indicator of cooperation dynamics. Pakistan confidently ranks among Uzbekistan’s leading trade partners in South Asia, demonstrating strong interest in the Uzbek market. Over recent years, bilateral trade turnover has increased manifold and continues to grow steadily. In 2025, mutual trade exceeded \$440 million, which is twelve times higher than in 2016, with particular attention drawn to Uzbek exports amounting to over \$320 million.

These figures not only reflect the growing interest of businesses in both countries in expanding mutually beneficial cooperation but also demonstrate the emergence of a more diversified and resilient trade model incorporating new industries and segments. The current environment creates a foundation for further development of investment flows, financial services, and joint projects in mining, energy, and digital technologies, opening additional opportunities for deepening strategic partnership.

In line with agreements reached at the highest level, concrete steps have been outlined to increase bilateral trade turnover to \$2 billion in the near future.

An important tool for achieving this goal has been the Preferential Trade Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which provides customs benefits for 17 categories of goods from each side. This significantly facilitates market entry for companies and stimulates the expansion of trade flows. At the same time, business ties are expanding rapidly. An increasing number of Uzbek and Pakistani companies are finding partners, establishing joint ventures, and exploring new niches. As of October 1, 2025, around 180 companies with Pakistani capital are operating in Uzbekistan, reflecting growing business confidence in joint projects and long-term partnership.

Cooperation spans a wide range of sectors – from the textile and food industries to the production of construction materials, electrical equipment, and logistics. Regular meetings of the intergovernmental commission, business forums, and specialized exhibitions serve as effective platforms for direct dialogue, experience exchange, and contract signing. The agreements concluded at these venues already amount to hundreds of millions of dollars, generating tangible economic returns and laying a solid foundation for further expansion of cooperation.

In 2024, Tashkent hosted the first International Exhibition “Made in Pakistan” and a joint Logistics Forum, featuring more than 80 leading Pakistani companies. These events created a platform for direct business dialogue, demonstrating real opportunities for joint ventures and logistics cooperation.

In turn, a national exhibition “Made in Uzbekistan” was held in Lahore in February 2025, resulting in the signing of 181 bilateral trade agreements worth \$500 million. These events clearly illustrate mutual interest in expanding trade turnover and growing business confidence in bilateral cooperation prospects.

Significant progress has also been achieved in investment co-

operation. In 2024, \$33 million in Pakistani investments were utilized within joint projects, and from January to July 2025 this figure more than doubled, reaching nearly \$70 million. This steady growth reflects increasing interest in long-term projects, confirms the stability of the business environment, and opens new opportunities for expanding strategic partnership. Active work continues on joint projects in the textile, pharmaceutical, perfumery, and agricultural sectors, allowing both sides to strengthen traditional industries while developing new high value-added niches. Notably, Uzbek companies are conducting feasibility studies in Pakistan for the production of household appliances, tractors, smart meters, and modern gas blocks, opening avenues for technological exchange and the adoption of advanced manufacturing solutions.

Particular attention is paid to the digital sphere, where a broad range of promising initiatives is emerging: software development, IT solutions for business and public services, and joint startups and innovation projects. This direction accelerates technological modernization, enhances competitiveness, and facilitates the integration of digital products into key sectors of the economy. Trade infrastructure development is also a key priority. In 2025, Uzbek trade houses were opened in Lahore and Karachi, with plans to establish Pakistani trade missions in Tashkent and Samarkand. These initiatives simplify market access, stimulate business cooperation, and strengthen trust within the business community.

Thus, the combination of industrial, digital, and infrastructure cooperation creates a multi-level platform for accelerated bilateral development, transforming Uzbek-Pakistani cooperation into a strategically significant and mutually beneficial endeavor. Transport infrastructure remains a priority area of dialogue. Central and South Asia have historically been interconnected through trade and cultural routes, and today targeted efforts are underway to restore this natural connectivity. Improved logistics, new transport corridors, and simplified transit procedures create real opportunities to boost trade and deepen cooperation. For landlocked Central Asian countries, reliable transport links are a key factor in sustainable growth and regional integration.

One of the flagship projects is the Trans-Afghan Railway, a strategic corridor capable of transforming regional transport networks, strengthening the countries' positions within the Eurasian economic space, and establishing a solid foundation for trade, investment, and logistics flows between Central and South Asia. By reducing delivery times from several weeks to 3-5 days and cutting transport costs by 40% or more, the route will significantly enhance the competitiveness of regional goods on global markets and stimulate export-import activity.

In 2025, tangible progress was achieved: key components of the feasibility study were prepared, and intergovernmental consultations on the route design and financing terms continue, reinforcing the project's practical implementation. Energy cooperation is another vital area with significant joint potential. Projects in geological exploration, oil and gas development, and modernization of processing facilities can ensure strategic energy security, diversify energy sources, and stimulate industrial growth in both countries. Along with economic cooperation, cultural and humanitarian interaction is actively developing, as the peoples of Uzbekistan and Pakistan share a rich historical heritage rooted in the Silk Road era. This commonality manifests in joint scientific projects, educational initiatives, and cultural exchanges that strengthen human ties and build long-term trust.

In Pakistan, special attention is given to the President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's concept of the Third Renaissance, viewed as a con-



tinuity of Uzbekistan's rich historical and scientific legacy. The intellectual and spiritual traditions shaped by scholars such as Al-Horezmi, Mirzo Ulugbek, and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur inspire modern educational and innovation initiatives, reinforcing cultural and intellectual bonds between the two nations.

Tourism deserves special mention as an important component of bilateral cooperation. Uzbekistan, with its unique spiritual and architectural heritage, is increasingly attracting Pakistani tourists and pilgrims. Ancient cities and the mausoleums of prominent scholars – Imam Bukhari, Imam Termezi, and Bahauddin Naqshband – reveal the country's rich cultural and scientific traditions while strengthening people-to-people ties as enduring as official interstate agreements.

Improved transport connectivity has become a key catalyst. Direct flights between Islamabad and Tashkent, as well as between Tashkent and Lahore, enabled over 10,000 Pakistani tourists to visit Uzbekistan in 2025 – nearly 2.5 times more than in 2023. This data highlights both growing demand for tourism routes and the effectiveness of integration measures in transport and logistics. Taken together, tourism, cultural, and economic initiatives form a solid platform for deepening connectivity between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. This comprehensive cooperation model not only enhances economic potential but also strengthens long-term trust, making bilateral relations a key component of regional integration between Central and South Asia. The upcoming visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Islamabad early February 2026 will mark an important milestone in enhancing strategic partnership. It will open new opportunities for joint initiatives, activate projects in the economy, transport, energy, and digital technologies, and provide additional momentum to cooperation, enhancing its practical impact and strategic significance.

Today, it is especially important to maintain the high momentum of interaction, expand practical cooperation mechanisms, cascade dialogue to lower governance levels, and more actively engage regions, small and medium-sized enterprises, the academic community, youth, and civil society institutions. Such a comprehensive approach will not only consolidate achievements but also ensure sustainable growth of mutual cooperation, creating a platform for new joint projects and initiatives at all levels. Thus, the "bridges of friendship" built between Uzbekistan and Pakistan – rooted in shared history, traditions, and spiritual affinity – connect the past and present while opening the way for deeper comprehensive cooperation. They transform traditional mutual trust into sustainable and long-term partnership forms that will serve as a foundation for expanding interaction at all levels, from local initiatives to strategic projects of regional significance.

– Nigora Sultanova, Chief Research Fellow at the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Uzbek cuisines



Cold Dishe

Rolled Belly
(for 5-6 person)

1 belly (beef or mutton), 2 kg beef (fillet), 4 carrots, 2 garlic cloves, greens, black pepper, salt and spices to taste.

Clean and wash belly from both sides then keep it in salt water with black paper for 30 minutes. Peel the outer layer with the knife. Strew meat with spices. Cut carrots, garlic, greens, add salt and roll the belly. String round rolled belly with the thread and put into a boiler filled with cold water. Boil for 4-5 hours. After boiling, take it out and cool. Cut, put on dishes, decorate with green onion and serve it.

Cold Dishe

Cold pumpkin
(for 5-6 person)

600 g pumpkin, 100 g sugar, 100 g sour cream, salt to taste.

Clean the pumpkin, cut to pieces and boil them. Boiled pumpkins strew with sugar and pour sour cream over.

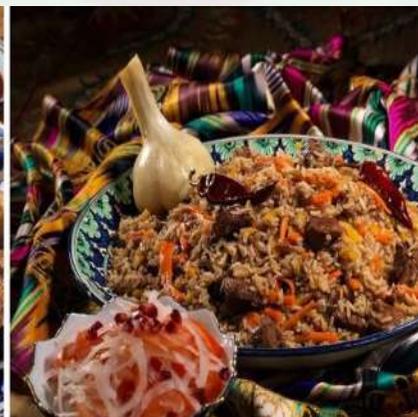


Salad

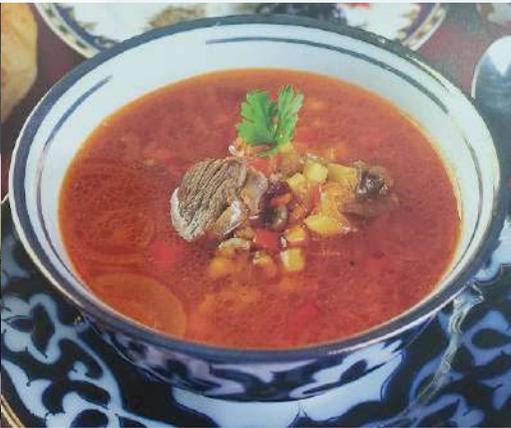
Salad "Tashkent"
(for 5-6 person)

250 g cold boiled beef or mutton, 400 g green radish or red radish, 80g onion, 30 g vegetable oil, 250 g cream or mayonnaise, 3 eggs, 30 g greens (dill, coriander)

Put washed, peeled and sliced radish in cold salt water for 0.5-1 minutes. Fry onion in oil till becomes golden. Cool it and mix with sliced meat, radish, cream or mayonnaise, salt, pepper. Put it on a dish in the form of pile. Decorate sides of the salad with boiled and cut to four pieces egg and two thin layers of meat. Decorate surface of the salad with little flowers or radish cut in the form of fir.



“ Cut fat fillet and ribs to pieces, add salt, cumin - to taste and marinate. Put meat into the slightly preheated boiler with fat side down ”



First Course Meal

Samarkand moshova (for 5-6 person)

600 g mutton or beef, 200 g onion, 100 g carrot, 100 g mutton fat, 300 g moong dal, 100 g fat tail, 100 g haricot bean, 100 g wheat flour, 2 l water, 100 ml sour milk, salt and spices - to taste.

Cut meat to 10-15 gr. pieces and try. Fry sliced onion with fat-tail cracklings before getting yellow. Add cut to blocks carrot and fry 10-15 minutes more. Pour water and bring to a boil. Then add sorted and washed moong dal, haricot beans and boil until it is half done. Add mixture of flour sauteing diluted with water, add salt and boil until it is done. Serve moshova in dishes with sour milk and greens.



Salad

Salad "Uzbekistan" (for 5-6 person)

150 g boiled beef, 150 g boiled turkey, 150 g tomato, 150 g cucumber, 150 g red radish, 150 g boiled corns, 240 ml cream, 60 g greens, salt and black pepper - to taste.

Cut the beef, turkey, tomato, cucumber and radish into sticks. Add salt, black pepper, greens, cream to the boiled corns and mix. Put it on a plate. Decorate the salad with greens and flowers made of radish.



Farinaceous Meal

Patyr

1 kg wheat flour, 100 g lamb fat, 12 g east, salt to taste.

Add some yeast in flour, pour melted lamb fat in and water and make dough. Leave the dough for one hour. Then divide it in parts and form balls. Roll out the dough thinner than for cooking of Oby non. Cut sides of bread with sharp knife and make ornament by "chakich" (special equipment). Then spread the bread with melted lamb fat and bake in tandyr.





Farinaceous Meal

Samsa with fat-tail (for 5-6 person)

250 g wheat flour, 100 ml water, 450 g flesh of lamb or beef, 100 g fat-tail, 100 g margarine, 250 g onion, cumin, salt and black pepper to taste. Make stiff dough and leave for 20-30 minutes. Roll out a thin layer, spread with melted fat, roll up and leave for 30-40 minutes. Cut dough to 10-15 pieces and roll out circles from each piece. Edges of it must be rolled out thinner than the middle. Put minced meat in the middle and form triangle samsa, spread with whipped egg. Bake in oven or tandyr at high temperature. For stuffing: mince meat and cut onion mixed with cut to small pieces fat-tail, salt and spices.

Confectionery

Dried apricot with walnuts (for 5-6 person)

500 g dried apricot, 500 g walnuts, 100 g white chocolate. Rinse dried apricots with boiled water and dry. Put half of the walnut on soft dried apricot and decorate with white chocolate.



First Course Meal

Manpar (for 5-6 person)

80 g beef or mutton (flesh), 40 g onion, 120 g wheat flour, 60 g water, 20 ml vegetable oil, 85 g tomato or 20 g tomato-paste, 20 g sweet bell pepper, 10 g garlic, 1 egg, salt and black pepper to taste. Make dough of flour, water and salt, place it for proving. Roll dough into thin logs, flatten and tear off small pieces of dough. Boil it in salted water. Rinse boiled dough with cold water. **For sauce:** Cut meat to blocks and fry it in heated oil. Slice onion to semi-rings, add tomato or tomato-paste and fry it. Then put small cut garlic, bell pepper and fry them for 30 minutes. Add salt and spices to taste. Fry egg in oil. Put boiled dough in kasas, add sauce, garnished with fried egg and strew greens.

Second Course Meal

Meat Skewer – Shashlyk

Shashlyk is a very popular meal in a region stretching from Central Asia to Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. It is usually made from mutton or beef; alternating pieces of meat and fat are well spiced and marinated. It is served with pickled onions. It can be ordered as an add on to the main national dishes or separately as a side dish. In many cafes, you can also get chicken, chicken wings or assorted shashlyks, prepared just like at barbecues over hot coals. Shashlyk or meat skewers





Second Course Meal

Fried sheep ribs

(for 5-6 person)

500 g sheep ribs, 200 ml vegetable oil, 20 g onion, salt and black pepper to taste. Divide sheep ribs into small pieces. Add salt, black pepper to taste and marinate it for 3 hours. Stir-fry sheep ribs in oil. Slice onion to rings. Put sheep ribs with fried potatoes on a plate, decorate it with cut onion and serve up.



Confectionery

Kokand khalva

(for 1 kg)

300 g sugar, 500 g dry milk, 150 g butter, 100 g peanuts, 2 g vanillin.

Boil and cool sugar syrup. Add butter, dry milk, vanillin and mix up. Boil mass on a slow fire until thick consistency and cream color. Low the fire. Put peeled peanuts or other kind of nuts and mix up. Place the mass into special dish greased with oil. Thickness of mass layer in a dish must be about 2-2.5 cm. Put it in cool place for hardening. Cut khalva to rhombus.

Second Course Meals

Minced kebab of beef

(for 5-6 person)

600 g beef, 150 g fat-tail, 80 g onion, black pepper, cumin, salt to taste.

Mince beef for two times in meat grinder, cut fat-tail to pieces. Add cut fat tail, black pepper, sliced onion, salt and mix up. Prepared stuffing put in a cool place for 2-3 hours. Then form sausages from it and thread on four skewers and cook on live coals. Serve kebab in lyagans with sliced onion sprinkled with vinegar.



Second Course Meal

Qozon kabob - kebab, preparing in kazan

(for 5-6 person)

700 g mutton, 500 g potato, salt and cumin to taste. Cut fat fillet and ribs to pieces, add salt, cumin - to taste and marinate. Put meat into the slightly preheated boiler with fat side down. After fat melting turn the meat over. Cut potato to several pieces and put on the meat. Strew salt and cumin. Fry it for 10-15 minutes. Then stew on slow fire for 40-45 minutes. Serve the ready meal in a lyagan (large flat round dish).

