

Monthly **PEACE** Islamabad  
INTERNATIONAL



**Shavkat Mirziyoyev**  
**Architect of New Uzbekistan**

## Editor' Profile



**TAHIR FAROOQ**  
Editor/Publisher

Tahir Farooq, a senior Pakistani journalist and a political and foreign policy commentator serves as the Editor of ITTEHAD GROUP OF NEWSPAPERS, one of Pakistan's few Urdu dailies, published simultaneously from Peshawar, Islamabad, Karachi and Abbottabad.

Maintaining this strenuous and time-consuming position, He is Editor of Monthly 'Peace International' published from the capital of Pakistan. Mr. Farooq knows the art of striking the balance as he also serves his country in the strategic capacity of the Vice-President of KPK chapter of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE).

Mr. Farooq is associated with journalism since his youthful years. Being the son of a senior journalist and a worker of Pakistan Movement, Late Sharif Farooq (Tamgha-e Imtiaz), he has upheld the journalistic ethics and values as transferred by his father. Carrying this vision further by embracing and advocating nationalistic sentiment at International forums.

Mr. Farooq has published several articles defending Pakistan's geo-strategic position in South Asia and Central Asia. His views are widely read and appreciated in intellectual circles.

Mr. Farooq's journalist career spans over two decades, during which he has represented Pakistan at several international events worldwide.

Rs: 750/-  
Monthly Islamabad  
**PEACE**  
INTERNATIONAL

Volume: 29 | Issue: 2 | February 2026

## Editorial

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## Pakistan and Uzbekistan Partnership Shaping Regional Futures

Pakistan and Uzbekistan relations have entered a dynamic phase, evolving rapidly from traditional diplomacy into a forward looking strategic partnership. Driven by strong political will, particularly Uzbekistan's outward looking reforms under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, both countries are expanding cooperation in trade, connectivity, and regional integration.

Economic engagement is steadily growing, with a focus on pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture, and logistics. Pakistan's ports provide Uzbekistan vital access to global markets, while Uzbekistan connects Pakistan to Central Asia's vast commercial landscape. At the heart of this partnership lies connectivity, with emerging transport corridors through Afghanistan promising to reshape regional trade and enhance economic interdependence.

President Mirziyoyev's upcoming visit to Pakistan is expected to accelerate this momentum through new agreements, investment opportunities, and enhanced institutional coordination, strengthening the foundation for long term bilateral growth.

Beyond economics, people to people exchanges, educational cooperation, and cultural linkages are deepening mutual understanding, reflecting the historical bonds that have connected South and Central Asia for centuries.

Uzbekistan's historical role as the cradle of the First and Second Renaissance, and its current transformation toward a Third Renaissance centered on reform and innovation, offers inspiration for the wider region. Together, Pakistan and Uzbekistan are building a future defined by cooperation, connectivity, and shared prosperity.

# New Uzbekistan in full alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 80<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly



**Distinguished Madam President!**  
**Distinguished Secretary-General!**  
**Heads of delegations!**  
**Ladies and gentlemen!**

I'm truly delighted to extend my congratulations to you with the 80th anniversary Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Our meeting today is taking place in a complex, rapidly changing global situation that calls for new approaches to the work of our Organization and its future.

Today, across the world, the role and place

of international institutions are weakening, confrontations, conflicts, and wars are intensifying, technological and social inequality is increasing, and economic and humanitarian crises are deepening.

All of this is creating an entirely new and unsettling geopolitical reality.

We highly commend the efforts of His Excellency Secretary-General António Guterres aimed at maintaining our Organization as the main platform for the peaceful resolution of the most difficult and pressing global issues.

In this regard, we fully support the UN80 Initiative and reaffirm our strong commitment to the Pact for the Future.

We support the transformation of the United Nations Security Council and the expansion of its membership in order to effectively address current threats and challenges, and protect the interests of the developing countries.

**Distinguished participants of the session!**

We are pursuing a policy to build a democratic, law-governed, social, and secular New Uzbekistan in full alignment

with the Sustainable Development Goals.

To this end, we are consistently continuing our irreversible reforms.

Our top-priority goal is to fundamentally transform the lives of each and every family and citizen in our country, to enhance human dignity and well-being.

In recent years, we have managed to reduce the poverty rate in Uzbekistan from 35 percent to 6.6 percent.

We have achieved this result primarily through the transformation of the education and science sector;

establishment of innovative industries and high-tech manufacturing enterprises;

modernization of green energy and transport infrastructure;

comprehensive development of small businesses, and, as a result, the creation of millions of jobs.

In our country, preschool education coverage has increased from 27 to 78 percent, while the higher education uptake among our youth has risen from 9 to 42 percent.

Most importantly, we consider enhancing the prestige of the teaching profession as a key issue.

In order to create a single international platform for the exchange of teachers' experience and knowledge, we propose to hold a World Summit on Professional Education in Uzbekistan.

We are also creating an advanced healthcare system in our country.

We invite all our foreign partners to participate in a high-level event dedicated to the fight against childhood cancer and other serious diseases, which will be held tomorrow at our initiative at the United Nations headquarters.

Another important area is gender policy.

We aim to further strengthen the role of women in the social, political, and business life of our country.

We advocate for holding the Asian Women's Forum regularly in our region, turning it into a permanent platform.

I would like to emphasize once again: we remain committed to our obligations in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

By the year 2030, we intend to join the ranks of "upper-middle-income" countries. To this end, we will consistently continue our open and pragmatic policy.

### **Ladies and gentlemen!**

Eight years ago, from this esteemed podium, we declared our firm determination to transform Central Asia into a region of peace, good neighborliness, and partnership.

Today, we can confidently declare that we have achieved this strategic goal. The era of closed borders, unresolved disputes, and conflicts is in the past.

In recent years, the volume of mutual trade, investments, and transportation of goods in our region has increased fivefold. We are implementing joint investment funds, cross-border trade and industrial cooperation zones, and major infrastructure projects.

We also recognize as a common achievement that the Consultative Meetings of the Heads of State of Central Asia have become an effective mechanism for deepening regional integration.

I can confidently affirm that as of now, we are at the beginning stage of forming a New Central Asia.

Our region, thanks to its unity, stability, and distinct identity, is steadily securing a stronger position in the system of international relations as an independent actor.

In order to achieve our goals, we intend to give top priority to expanding mutually beneficial ties with all our foreign partners.

In this regard, together with the UN structures, we propose to implement a number of new projects and programs in our region.

In particular, we propose:

- holding an international forum under the auspices of ECOSOC and UNCTAD dedicated to the economic development of the Central Asian states;

- establishing a regional hub for green technologies in industry jointly with UNIDO;

- adopting programs on the rational use of water resources, the creation of "green" spaces, and the achievement of demographic resilience in our region;

In addition, we propose the adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution supporting the efforts of the Central Asian countries aimed at deepening regional partnership and economic integration.

### **Distinguished heads of delegations!**

Speaking about global and regional security and sustainable development, it is impossible to overlook the issue of Afghanistan.

Supporting the aspirations of the Afghan

people for a peaceful and stable life requires the united efforts of the international community.

I would like to emphasize that it is of utmost importance to prevent this country's isolation.

We intend to implement large-scale economic and infrastructure projects in that country. We propose to adopt a dedicated UN resolution on the development of transport and energy corridors of international significance through the territory of Afghanistan.

At the same time, we cannot turn a blind eye to the deeply worsening humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the continuation of political negotiations.

In line with the UN resolutions, we remain steadfast supporters of the "two state solution" principle.

We are also deeply concerned by the situation around Ukraine. We welcome the start of high-level dialogue aimed at resolving this crisis through diplomatic means.

### **Distinguished participants of the event!**

Effective measures are being undertaken to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

In cooperation with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, a Regional Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration was established. We propose to transform this Council into an International Competence Center.

This body will serve as an important platform for exchanging experiences on adapting to peaceful life for those repatriated from conflict zones.

Furthermore, we stand ready to provide all the necessary conditions for the establishment of a regional Office of Counter-Terrorism in Uzbekistan.

### **Dear ladies and gentlemen!**

In today's world, full of threats, we are witnessing how vulnerable the global transport system is. These challenges primarily have a negative impact on the stability of landlocked developing countries.

It is of utmost importance to ensure the security of international transit corridors and to establish efficient logistics networks.

In this regard, we believe the time has come to introduce a global mechanism on "Strengthening transport connectivity to achieve Sustainable Development Goals".

I would also like to draw special attention to the

increasingly acute challenges of climate change. For instance, the consequences of the Aral Sea desiccation must remain at the constant focus of the international community.

We are consistently continuing our work to restore the Aral Sea ecosystem.

In recent years, salt-tolerant desert plants have been planted on 2 million hectares of the dried seabed of the Sea.

By the year 2030, green cover will be created on 80 percent of this area.

Another serious issue is the water scarcity. As of now, more than two billion people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water.

We are planning to hold a World Forum on Water Saving in our country.

The outcomes of this conference are expected to recognize the water crisis as a serious threat to sustainable development. We intend to adopt a special Road Map for the wide introduction of innovation technologies globally.

Another adverse consequence of climate change is the intensifying trend of climate migration.

Unfortunately, clear international mechanisms and a legal framework in this direction have not yet been created.

We advocate for the adoption of a Global Pact for a broad international partnership and coordinated policy on this serious issue.

#### **Dear participants of the meeting!**

It is of great importance to prevent inequalities in digital development and the use of artificial intelligence between countries.

We propose to create an International Cooperation Mechanism aimed at the gratis exchange of practical solutions and models of artificial intelligence in healthcare, education, and culture.

I would like to emphasize another priority issue. Our future, the destiny, and the prosperity of the world are in the hands of the younger generation.

It is our urgent task to instill in the hearts and minds of our sons and daughters the most noble ideas, such as peace, humanism and friendship, mutual trust, and respect.

In this regard, we put forward the proposal to establish the “World Youth Movement for Peace” and to locate its headquarters in

Uzbekistan.

We are consistently implementing a policy of tolerance in our society. At the same time, we will actively continue our efforts to deeply study the ideas of Islamic enlightenment and promote them to the world.

In the coming months, we will open the Center of Islamic Civilization, which is unique for our wider region.

We intend to hold a special presentation at the United Nations of the rich spiritual and scientific heritage of our great ancestors – thinkers and scholars such as Imam Bukhari, Imam Termizi, and Imam Maturidi.

#### **Dear ladies and gentlemen!**

The New Uzbekistan is a supporter of mutual solidarity, open dialogue, and close partnership with all countries.

We are always ready to contribute to strengthening dialogue among peoples, cultures, and civilizations, and to achieving universal human goals.

*Thank you for your attention.*





Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the forum

## “Powering the Future – Sustainable Energy for New Uzbekistan”

**Dear friends!**

**Ladies and gentlemen!**

I am truly pleased to meet you today at the ceremony marking the launch of major new generation capacities and the commissioning of additional facilities.

I am confident that our forum, titled “Powering the Future – Sustainable Energy for New Uzbekistan”, will serve not only as a milestone in the development of the energy sector, but also as another significant practical step toward the sustainable advancement of our country.

Today, in response to the rapidly growing demands of our economy and population,

we are carrying out major reforms in the energy system. We have set two major objectives as our main priorities in this direction.

*The first* is to ensure a reliable and uninterrupted energy supply for all sectors and regions.

*The second* is to achieve this goal through modern, environmentally friendly, and renewable alternative energy sources.

It is worth noting that in recent years, 35 billion USD in foreign investment has been attracted to the energy sector, and 9,000 MW of new capacity has been commissioned. As a result, electricity generation has increased from 60 billion kWh in 2017 to 85 billion

kWh this year.

What is particularly noteworthy is that nearly 5,000 MW of solar and wind capacity, as well as 400 MW of hydropower, have been launched. This year, the share of green energy in total generation capacity will reach 30 percent.

In addition, 2,000 MW of small solar panels have been installed in the private sector, residential households, and social facilities. These systems alone have generated nearly 2 billion kWh of additional renewable energy this year. Furthermore, 69,000 kilometers of power lines, 14,000 transformers, and numerous high-voltage substations have been renewed throughout the regions.

These developments are also giving a strong boost to the growth of domestic enterprises. Since the beginning of the year, these companies have supplied 700 million USD worth of construction materials, metal structures, cable products, electrical equipment for newly built power plants and networks, and have provided design, engineering, and construction services.

For example, the first 38-MW hydropower plant of the Naryn cascade was commissioned using entirely locally produced components.

I am confident that our construction, electrotechnical, and service companies that support the energy sector's development will grow in the future into large national enterprises meeting international standards.

In this regard, the two facilities launched today – “Angren Energy”, which will produce 15,000 transformers annually, and “Uzhydro-Power”, which will manufacture 155 hydro-turbine units – undoubtedly hold great promise.

#### **Distinguished guests!**

The major achievements and milestones we are reaching in the energy sector are possible thanks to the invaluable contribution of solid investors and reliable partners like you.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who are bringing substantial investment to our country and introducing the most advanced technologies. In particular: His Excellency Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure of the United Arab Emirates; His Excellency Alparslan Bayraktar, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Türkiye; His Excellency Parviz Ogtay Oglu, Minister of Energy of Azerbaijan; His Excellency Taalaibek Ibraev, Minister of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic.

I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to the companies contributing to our progress: Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power; Türkiye's Aksa and Cengiz Energy; the UAE's Masdar; China's China Energy, Datang, Sinoma, Poly, CNTIC, and Eagle Rise; France's EDF, Voltalia, and TotalEnergies; Germany's Siemens Energy; and Qatar's Nebras.

In addition, I express my profound thanks to the representatives of the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment

Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and other financial institutions.

#### **Dear friends!**

Today, together with you, we are launching 42 new generation and infrastructure facilities worth nearly 11 billion USD, which will make a significant contribution to the development of the sector. We are also giving the official start to the construction of 21 new projects. In particular, we are commissioning 16 solar, wind, thermal, and hydropower plants across our regions, with a total capacity of 3,500 megawatts.

Once these facilities reach full capacity, they will generate 15 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. As a result, next year we will increase the volume of “green” energy production to 23 billion kilowatt-hours. Please note that this means the annual electricity consumption of Uzbekistan's entire population will be fully covered.

Most importantly, thanks to clean energy, natural gas consumption will be reduced by nearly 7 billion cubic meters, and 11 million tons of harmful emissions will be prevented from being released into the atmosphere.

Today, we are also commissioning ten energy-storage systems with a total capacity of 1245 megawatts. These systems will make it possible to supply an additional 1.5 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to the grid during peak demand hours.

The eleven major substations and 420 kilometers of high-voltage transmission lines being launched today will ensure the stable and reliable operation of the system.

Distinguished participants of the event!

We will certainly not rest on the results we have achieved. In the next 5 years, we will launch thousands of industrial and infrastructure facilities, creating high-income jobs by attracting more than \$150 billion in foreign investment.

To create favorable conditions for the population, energy-efficient residential buildings with more than 800 thousand apartments will be built in the “New Uzbekistan” complexes and other regions.

We will also expand the number of modern supercomputer clusters and data centers to create an attractive environment for companies operating in new fields such as IT, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet of Things.

I would like to note that the Saudi's DataVolt company has begun construction of a 500-megawatt data center, with an

investment of \$3 billion.

Such large-scale work will increase the demand for electricity by at least 1,5 times. Therefore, I will briefly outline our plans for the near future.

**First**, to meet the growing demand for electricity, more than 17 thousand megawatts of additional renewable energy capacity will be commissioned by 2030. As a result, we will increase the share of green energy in total generation to 54 percent.

Today, the launch of “green” capacities totaling 3.5 thousand megawatts worth \$3,3 billion in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Bukhara, Kashkadarya, and Tashkent regions will mark a major step in this direction.

In order to integrate the new capacities into a unified energy system, 6 thousand kilometers of high-voltage networks will be built. In particular, next year, one thousand kilometers of networks will be installed, and additional capacities of 6 thousand megawatts will be created at substations.

**Second**, as a result of our reforms in the field of electricity generation, we have gained extensive experience in attracting foreign direct investment in the sector based on public-private partnerships.

Starting this year, we have begun to apply the principles of private partnership not only in the production of electricity, but also in its delivery to consumers. In particular, we have reached an agreement with the Turkish company Aksa Elektrik on transferring the Samarkand regional power grids to private management. Within the framework of the project, this company will take over the operational management of the network, invest in it, modernize the grids, and gradually reduce losses by twofold. As a result, an average of \$20 million will be saved annually.

Based on this experience, next year we will offer the management of the Jizzakh and Syrdarya power grids to investors, and in 2027, the power grids of Namangan and Tashkent regions as well.

**Third**, we will continue to actively promote the use of alternative energy sources among the population.

In the new year, based on the Chinese experience, 107 megawatts of solar power plants will be installed in 300 mahallas through cooperation with the population. This social project will be widely implemented, providing green energy to

30,000 low-income families. They will be able to generate income by supplying excess electricity to the grid.

Our entrepreneurs have also made efficient use of water resources and, this year, built 40 small and micro hydropower plants with a capacity of 40 megawatts. As a result, 120 million kilowatt-hours of electricity were generated, providing an additional source of income.

Next year, small and micro hydropower plants with a capacity of 65 megawatts will be built. Thanks to these projects, the electricity supply will be radically improved in 80 thousand households.

*Fourth*, at the recent COP-30 climate conference held in Brazil, we, at our own initiative, assumed an important obligation within the framework of the Paris Agreement. Specifically, we have set a goal to reduce harmful gas emissions by 50 percent by 2035.

In this regard, together with the World

Bank, we have launched the world's first innovative iCRAFT project. Within its framework, Uzbekistan has accounted for a reduction of 23 million tons of greenhouse gases. We have established a carbon credit system and started trading carbon units at the international level.

It should be noted that this year alone, 17 of our large industrial enterprises have switched to the international green energy certification system. By shifting 30 percent of their production to "clean" energy, they have significantly increased the attractiveness of their products in international markets. In the next two years, we will increase the number of such enterprises to 100.

*Fifth*, thanks to the significant expansion of our generation capacities in recent years, we have strengthened our partnership with neighboring countries to establish an integrated energy market.

In order to effectively use and jointly manage the hydropower potential of our

region, next year we will begin financing the Kambarata-1 HPP project with Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

In this regard, I would like to especially note the determined efforts of the leaders of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, who are closely cooperating within the framework of the "Green Corridor" project for the export of electricity to Europe.

*Dear participants of the event!*

All the projects we are launching today will foster economic growth and open new opportunities for future generations. Through such dynamic actions and initiatives, we will certainly establish a fully modern energy system of a new model.

In conclusion, I would like to once again express my sincere gratitude to the representatives of the energy sector, all workers, engineers, and our foreign partners who are actively involved in these projects.

I wish all of you good health, endless energy, and every success.

## The President of Uzbekistan calls for further expansion of partnership within the "C5+1" framework



On November 6, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, participated in the summit of Central Asia and the United States leaders in the "C5+1" format, held at the White House – the official residence of the President of the United States in Washington, D.C.

The event, chaired by the President of

the United States Donald Trump, was also attended by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, and President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

The President of Uzbekistan expressed appreciation to the President of the United

States for organizing the "C5+1" summit, which over the past 10 years since its establishment has become an effective mechanism for developing regional trade, transport and energy connections. It was emphasized that the current summit marks a new stage in the development of strategic dialogue between Central Asia and the



United States.

To further expand cooperation within the “C5+1” framework, the Head of our state proposed a number of initiatives.

Primarily, it was suggested to establish a permanently functioning Secretariat, which would be hosted on a rotational basis among the participating countries.

The importance of creating a ministerial-level Coordinating council on investment and trade was highlighted to ensure a systematic dialogue between government institutions, companies and financial institutions. The launch of the “Central Asian Investment Partnership” Fund was

also noted to be relevant.

The President of Uzbekistan also expressed readiness for active collaboration with the United States in implementing major transport, communication and energy projects connecting Central Asia with the South Caucasus and Europe.

It was proposed to establish a Special Committee to effectively coordinate efforts in the field of exploration, extraction, and deep processing of critical minerals, as well as the promotion of finished products in global supply chains.

In order to modernize agriculture in the region with the introduction of American

technologies, the creation of a Regional partnership for agricultural technology innovation was initiated.

To strengthen humanitarian ties, the President of Uzbekistan advocated for the organization of a joint exhibition of the cultural heritage of Central Asian countries in leading American museums.

The Head of our state proposed to hold the next summit in the city of Samarkand.

Other leaders also spoke at the event.

Following the summit, a number of multilateral documents were adopted.



# 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 implemented 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

– 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

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,



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;

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 raising

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 creating 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

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.

For such strategic investors, land for projects is provided at market value directly. If the land category is changed, compensation for agricultural losses can be paid gradually, in installments over up to 10 years. To register land, change its category, obtain construction permits, and connect to infrastructure, investors will no longer need to visit multiple agencies.

An electronic platform, "Invest.gov.uz," will be launched, providing comprehensive "one-stop-shop" services, with all ministries integrated into the system.

Additionally, we will attract globally



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

recognized brands to the free economic zones. Enterprises in these zones will be able to apply international technical regulations, environmental standards, and labor norms. They will also benefit from special investment, tax, customs, and legal regimes, as well as the opportunity to resolve arbitration disputes under international law.

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.

In 2026, we also expect to achieve a breakthrough in reducing the shadow economy. As a result of the measures taken, we have managed to reduce the share of the uncontrolled economy from 45–50 percent to 28 percent. However, these are only the first steps.

To strengthen work in this area, we have adopted a separate program. In 2026 all government services and utility payments, as well as payments for fuel, alcohol and tobacco products, automobile and real estate trade, will be transitioned to cashless payment methods. The use of body

cameras will be mandatory for 17 types of inspections, including tax, customs, sanitary-epidemiological, standards, quarantine, construction control, fire safety. Entrepreneurs who voluntarily transition from the “shadow” economy to transparency will receive free training in accounting, statistics, and tax reporting.

Overall, under this program, over the next five years the share of the shadow economy will be reduced by half, the share of cashless transactions in trade and services will exceed 75 percent, the number of people employed in the formal sector will increase from the current 8.5 million to 14 million.

In other words, under the slogan “Honest work is the key to a peaceful life and a prosperous society,” this initiative will evolve into a nationwide movement.

Some of our fellow citizens have concerns regarding the channeling of income into the economy, depositing it in banks, and registering assets in their own name. Therefore, I believe it would be appropriate for our deputies and the Central Bank, in consultation with international organizations, to prepare proposals for creating conditions that allow the free use of income and assets earned by our citizens, whether in our country or abroad.

#### **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, Shakhi-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.

To develop vocational education in the medical system, training of nurses according to international standards of the British company Pearson has begun in one technical college in each region. Now, these technical colleges will implement educational programs from Germany, Switzerland, the USA, and Japan. On this basis, we will form a nursing workforce that meets international standards and is proficient in foreign languages.

We are also actively continuing large-scale reforms in the digitalization of the healthcare system. A master plan will be developed to organize medical institutions on a unified basis.

In addition, 3.5 trillion soums will be allocated for non-communicable diseases, such as heart attacks, strokes, oncology, nephrology, as well as for transplantation, vaccination, and maternal and child health – 1.5 times more than in previous years.

#### **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.

Such important tasks require us to further strengthen peace and stability in the country, maintain interethnic and interfaith harmony, and enhance the capabilities of our Armed Forces. For this, we will take all necessary measures.

#### **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 proposes new initiatives for developing cooperation between Central Asia and Japan



President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in the first summit of the “Central Asia + Japan” Dialogue in Tokyo.

The event, chaired by Prime Minister of Japan Sanae Takaichi, was also attended by President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, and President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov.

In line with the agenda, prospects for expanding mutually beneficial cooperation between the Central Asian states and Japan in key priority areas were reviewed, including the green economy and sustainable development, strengthening connectivity and regional interaction, and human resource development.



In his speech, the Head of our state noted that more than 20 years ago it was Japan that initiated the first dialogue in the “Central Asia Plus” format. A solid foundation for the development of multifaceted cooperation between Central Asia and Japan is formed by deep historical ties dating back to the times of the Great Silk Road, as well as the similarity of traditions and customs, spiritual, cultural, and family values.

– We highly appreciate that throughout the entire period since the countries of Central Asia gained independence, Japan has acted as our reliable partner and has made a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of the region, the modernization of infrastructure, the industrial and energy base, and the strengthening of scientific, educational, and human resource potential. Therefore, the Central Asian states are interested in expanding and more active presence of Japan in the region, – stated Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The region’s rich natural resources, its location at the crossroads of global transport, trade, and energy routes, the dynamic economic growth of the Central Asian countries, and the active processes of rapprochement and integration taking place here create favorable conditions for cooperation with Japan.

– I am confident that through joint efforts we will reach new heights.

As a Japanese proverb says, “if the forces are united, the mountains can be moved,” - noted the leader of Uzbekistan.

Turning to the items on the summit agenda, the President of our country presented his vision for the development of cooperation in the “Central Asia + Japan” format.

First of all, it was proposed to hold summits at the level of heads of state once every two years, which would give an additional strong impetus to cooperation. Readiness was expressed to host one of these future meetings in Uzbekistan.

Japan’s initiative to establish a new permanent mechanism in the field of justice and law, as well as to organize the first meeting of ministers of justice in Tokyo next year, was supported.

The Head of State advocated the development of a “Central Asia – Japan 2040” Cooperation Strategy, including specific programs and projects to promote the sustainable development of the countries of the region and their deeper integration into global economic processes.

The relevance of establishing an Expert Forum with the participation



of leading analytical institutions to develop new ideas and proposals and to form a comprehensive cooperation agenda was noted. It was proposed to hold the first meeting of the Forum next year in Tashkent.

The Leader of Uzbekistan welcomed the expansion of support by Japanese financial institutions for trade, economic, and investment projects in Central Asia.

- I am confident that by combining the rich natural and human resources of Central Asia with Japan’s industrial and technological potential, we will be able to achieve an effect of synergy, - stated Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

In this regard, it was proposed to establish an Investment Fund for the Development of Infrastructure and Industry of Central Asia, launching on its basis a “Quality Infrastructure” Program, as well as to create a Central Asian network of Japanese technoparks – a regional platform for industrial cooperation, localization, and technology transfer.

Taking into account the growing importance of digital transformation in ensuring economic growth and sustainability, the President of Uzbekistan advocated the establishment of a “Central Asia – Japan” Digital Hub – a multilateral cooperation platform in the fields of digital solutions, artificial intelligence, the Internet of

Things, cybersecurity, and innovation economy.

Interest was expressed in attracting Japanese investment, technologies, and expert support for projects to develop high-speed railways and highways, digitalize transport corridors, and construct airports and logistics centers.

Within the framework of cooperation in the field of green energy, the importance of implementing joint projects to introduce cogeneration technologies, reduce losses, and capture and utilize carbon dioxide was emphasized. It was proposed to establish a Regional Training Center for Renewable Energy Specialists in Tashkent.

In the ecological sphere, the Head of State advocated the launch of a joint Program to improve air quality in Central Asia, the adoption of a joint Action Plan on combating climate change, as well as the establishment, within the framework of the Dialogue, of a new format of meetings of heads of environmental authorities.

Taking into account Japan’s extensive experience in the field of seismic safety, it was proposed to implement a joint Program for assessing and enhancing seismic resilience in the region and to open a Regional Advanced Training Center in Tashkent to train engineers, architects, and emergency response services in accordance with Japanese standards and protocols.

In order to further expand cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian sphere, it was proposed to hold next year in Uzbekistan the first Meeting of Ministers of Education in the “Central Asia + Japan” format and a Forum of Rectors of leading universities, as well as to adopt a Regional Network Youth Development Program aimed at building long-term ties among youth communities.

Touching upon issues of international politics and ensuring regional security, the leader of our country noted that the countries of the region and Japan are united in their aspiration to see Afghanistan peaceful, stable, and oriented toward constructive development.

High appreciation was given to Japan’s consistent position, which for many years has remained among the leading donors and partners in supporting the Afghan people.

Concluding his speech, the President of Uzbekistan expressed support for the decisions on all items of the agenda.

Other leaders also addressed the summit. Following the event, the Tokyo Declaration was adopted.





Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

## Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the first summit of the “ Central Asia Plus Japan” dialogue

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## Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Second World Summit on Social Development

**Your excellency, madam chair!**  
**Your excellency, mr secretary-general!**  
**Honourable heads of state and governments!**

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my dear brother, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar, for the warm hospitality and excellent organization of the World Summit.

I would also like to extend my special thanks to His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, for his enormous personal contribution to hosting this event.

It is of great symbolic significance that this important summit on global social development is being held in Doha.

In recent years, the State of Qatar has become a global centre for social inclusivity

and rapid development. I would like to sincerely congratulate the people of Qatar on these remarkable achievements.

It is noteworthy that the world community and national governments are currently collaborating to promote social well-being and enhance living standards.

Uzbekistan always supports all formats and initiatives of international cooperation towards sustainable development.

**Ladies and gentlemen!**

In recent years, we have been building a society in New Uzbekistan where the principle of “human dignity” is paramount, social justice is ensured, and the most vulnerable in our society are effectively protected.

Our firm stance on this path has been enshrined in our New Constitution, which has proclaimed our country a “social state”.

Previously scattered social protection programmes have been brought together under a single structure — the National Agency for Social Protection.

Our new social protection model covers every household and family, starting from the mahalla, the grassroots level of society.

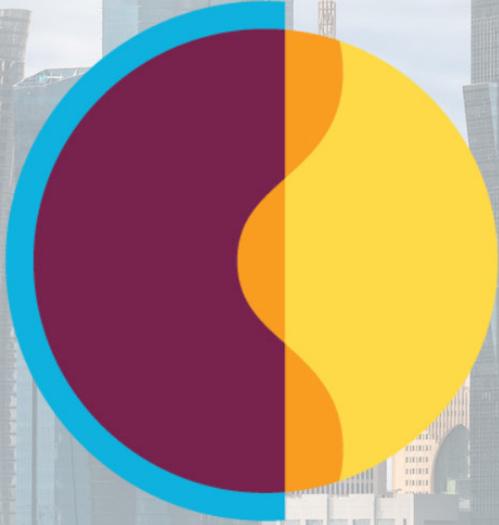
In recent years, we have reduced the poverty rate from 35 per cent to 6.6 per cent. These reforms will continue.

**Esteemed participants!**

In the current context of complex socio-economic processes worldwide, I would like to put forward the following proposals:

***First. It is crucial to elevate international cooperation to a new level in the fight against poverty.***

According to the United Nations, 1.1 billion people worldwide currently live in poverty.



# SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DOHA 2025

We believe that the time has come to create a new financial architecture to combat poverty, which will attract resources to social programmes in developing countries. To this end, we propose establishing a “global social justice fund” to provide practical assistance in reducing social inequality and alleviating poverty.

***Second. It is crucial to implement new, modern mechanisms to effectively address employment issues.***

According to a report by the International Labour Organization, the global unemployment rate was 5 percent in 2024.

The rapid integration of advanced technologies and artificial intelligence is causing the loss of millions of jobs worldwide.

In such circumstances, governments and businesses must prioritise supporting their employees as social partners.

In this regard, we hope you will support our proposal to develop a “global initiative for social responsibility and decent work”.

***Third. Expanding educational opportunities for all is an effective solution to social problems.***

Currently, the annual economic loss due to illiteracy is estimated at 1.4 trillion US dollars.

This creates obstacles for the younger

generation to find their place in social life and the labour market, leading to a sharp increase in inequality.

We fully endorse the decisions made at yesterday’s inaugural meeting of the Global Alliance to Combat Hunger and Poverty.

We propose holding one of its future summits in Uzbekistan, making education the main agenda item.

***Fourth. There is an increasing need for systemic protection of labour migrants and their family members.***

Currently, there are over 300 million migrants working in foreign countries worldwide.

Unfortunately, there are numerous instances of their rights being violated.

I propose holding an international forum on the social and legal protection of migrants and their families in Uzbekistan next year, in cooperation with international labour and migration organizations, and adopting a global programme.

Fifth. We all clearly feel the impact of climate change on social life.

Extreme weather, desertification and loss of biodiversity are having a negative impact on the lives of vulnerable groups, such as farmers, seasonal workers and residents of ecologically challenging regions.

It is crucial to implement comprehensive measures that align the fight against climate change with employment programmes.

In this regard, we intend to launch a new model of socio-economic development in the aral sea region, which has been declared a zone of environmental innovations and technologies by a United Nations resolution. We stand ready to share this experience with the international community.

***Esteemed heads of delegations!***

The decisions we make today will undoubtedly inspire confidence and hope in millions of people worldwide, contributing significantly to stability and prosperity.

Our primary duty is to renew social consensus for international development and to create a decent standard of living for everyone.

In this sense, we fully support the Doha Political Declaration being adopted today.

We stand ready to fully implement the enshrined principles.

This historic Declaration will undoubtedly strengthen our joint efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the end of my speech, I wish you all good luck and success, and the productive work of the World Summit.

*Thank you for your attention.*

# 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.





By Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad

Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations are centuries old. Both countries share history, culture, religion, and traditions. Samarkand and Bukhara, located in Uzbekistan, were once major centers of Islamic learning, influencing scholars in the Indian subcontinent. The Silk Road played a dynamic role in trade and cultural interactions between the two regions, with merchants, scholars, and Sufi saints traveling between them. Another significant historical link between both states is that the first Mughal emperor, Zaheer ud Din Babar, was from Uzbekistan. Although during the Cold War, Pakistan was aligned with Western hemisphere but diplomatic interactions still existed. After the disintegration of Soviet Union in 1991, when Uzbekistan gained independence, Pakistan was among the first nations to recognize Uzbekistan and establish formal diplomatic ties with it. Since then, both nations have maintained cordial and fraternal relations and they have always stood by each other. They have consistently supported each other at international forums and have worked together on regional and global issues. The people of both countries deeply respect each other. The Pakistan-Uzbekistan bilateral relations are based on trust, respect for each other, understanding, and commonalities, whether it be religion, history or culture. Over the years, high-level exchanges and official visits have helped strengthen diplomatic and political cooperation between the two governments.

Both countries have always shown steadfast commitment to further deepen the bilateral relations by enhancing trade, connectivity and people to people contact. One such

## President Shavkat Mirziyoyev: A Great Friend of Pakistan

example is the upcoming visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to Pakistan. Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Bakhtiyor Saidov, has confirmed the visit of President of Uzbekistan in February 2026. The visit of His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev comes at a very crucial time because both countries are eager to expand their cooperation in new and meaningful ways. Both Pakistan and Uzbekistan are well aware of their potential in trade, transportation, energy, tourism, regional connectivity, and several other areas. This visit is expected to give fresh momentum to ongoing efforts and help translate goodwill into practical results.

Trade and economic partnership lie at the heart of Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations. The bilateral trade is very positive and it has been rising continuously up to nearly \$450 million by 2025 and to further enhance the trade, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have accelerated efforts to expand their Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) and push bilateral trade to \$2 billion within two years. Both countries have shown strong determination to increase bilateral trade and investment. Since Uzbekistan is a landlocked country, so, Pakistan offers Uzbekistan an easy access to warm-water ports while Uzbekistan is resource rich country with growing economy. So, both countries complement each other so well. Improved trade routes and better connectivity will benefit not only these two countries but the entire region will also be benefited from this partnership. The upcoming visit of H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev will surely result in new agreements and MoUs that will help boost trade volumes and encourage private sector cooperation.

Since both Pakistan and Uzbekistan advocate for connectivity and regional integration, so these are also expected to be key topics during the visit. Pakistan sits at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East while Uzbekistan is situated at the heart of Central Asia. Strengthening roads, rails, and transit links can greatly enhance regional trade and economic activity. Although Pakistan and Uzbekistan are already working on various connectivity agreements and

projects, for instance Pakistan-Uzbekistan Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA) and Uzbekistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (UAP) Railway project, but further working on the projects aimed at improving transportation and logistics will help bring the people and markets of both countries closer together.

Another key area which is very likely to be discussed during the upcoming visit of Uzbek President to Pakistan will be energy cooperation. Energy is a promising area where both countries can work together. Uzbekistan is highly skilled and experienced in energy production, while Pakistan on the other hand, is looking to diversify its energy sources to support economic growth. So, collaboration in energy projects will help Pakistan meet its needs and at the same time, new opportunities will be offered to Uzbek companies and experts.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan, both, are culturally rich countries. Cultural and traditional values are something that bring both nations closer to each other. Similarly, when we take a look at history, we come to know about how some cities of present-day Uzbekistan used to be the centers of learning. Against this backdrop, cultural and educational exchanges have always played a special role in Pakistan-Uzbekistan relations. Education, research, and cultural heritage carry great significance in both countries. That's why, the visit of His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev is likely to encourage greater cooperation between universities, think tanks, and cultural organizations. Whether it be student exchange programs, joint research initiatives, or cultural events, they all help strengthen people-to-people ties and promote better understanding between the younger generations.

A very important area of discussion will be tourism. Tourism is a key sector because it creates employment opportunities, results in economic growth, people-to-people connectivity, and better understanding of diverse cultures. Uzbekistan is home to historic cities renowned for their architecture and cultural significance, while Pakistan offers stunning landscapes, historical sites, and rich traditions. Thus, collaboration in tourism industry will

help enhance visitor exchanges between two countries and also enable people to experience and learn about each other's culture directly. It will strengthen boost economic growth also.

The visit is also important from a regional peace and stability perspective. Pakistan and Uzbekistan always support peace, development, and prosperity in the wider region. Both countries firmly believe that one should address regional challenges through negotiations and cooperation. With this vision, when Pakistan and Uzbekistan

will work together, they will contribute to greater stability and economic progress in neighboring regions also.

In conclusion, the upcoming visit of the Uzbek President His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Pakistan will be a huge development in Pakistan-Uzbekistan bilateral relations. It is the reflection of both countries' determination to deepen their friendship and explore new possible areas of collaboration. The visit will strengthen political ties, it will expand economic partnerships, and also bring the people of

Pakistan and Uzbekistan even closer.

Pakistan is looking forward to welcome President His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev warmly and with open arms. This visit gives a strong sense of optimism and hope. It is not only a symbol of long-standing friendship but it also promises better, brighter and more cooperative future. Pakistan and Uzbekistan are actually in position to turn this historic visit into lasting benefits for both nations and the wider region.

## Uzbekistan – Pakistan: 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.

## Leaders of Uzbekistan and the United States welcome elevation of bilateral strategic partnership to a new level



On November 6, as part of his working visit to Washington, D.C., President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held talks at the White House with President of the United States of America Donald Trump. Issues of further strengthening Uzbek-American strategic partnership, enhancing political dialogue, and expanding trade, economic, investment and cultural-humanitarian cooperation were reviewed. Special attention was given to the practical implementation of agreements reached at the highest level in New York in September this year. The President of our country left an entry in the White House Guest Book. Then, in the Oval Office, the leaders held talks during which they discussed issues related to further strengthening Uzbek-American strategic partnership relations, enhancing political dialogue, and expanding trade, economic, investment, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation. Special attention was paid to the practical implementation of high-





level agreements reached in New York in September this year.

A thorough exchange of views took place on current global and regional issues, including deepening cooperation between Central Asia and the United States within the “C5+1” format.

The President of Uzbekistan sincerely congratulated Donald Trump on his significant achievements in domestic and foreign policy. His personal contribution and efforts toward the peaceful resolution of pressing international and regional conflicts was especially emphasized.

Donald Trump welcomed the productive outcomes of the meetings and negotiations held earlier between the leader of Uzbekistan, U.S. government officials, and heads of major American companies and financial institutions.

The leaders emphasized the importance of establishing and improving institutional mechanisms to advance joint projects.

At the conclusion of the negotiations, the Head of our state invited the President of the United States to pay an official visit to Uzbekistan at a convenient time.



# The Formation of the Baburid Empire on the Territory of Modern Pakistan

The victory of Zahir-ud-Din Muhammad Babur at the Battle of Panipat on 21 April 1526 (500 years ago) marked not merely a decisive military episode in the history of the Indian subcontinent, but also the starting point for the emergence of one of the greatest empires of the Early Modern era - the Baburid Empire.

The crushing defeat of the forces of the Delhi Sultan, Ibrahim Lodi, brought to an end nearly a century of domination by the Afghan Lodi dynasty in Northern India and ushered in a new era of statehood. This new political order was founded upon a unique synthesis of Central Asian political traditions, Islamic legitimacy, and Indian administrative practices.

Despite the overwhelming numerical superiority of Ibrahim Lodi's army - up to 100,000 troops against Babur's force of approximately 25,000 - the outcome of the battle was determined by qualitative factors. For the first time on Indian soil, Babur employed artillery and firearms, as well as the tulughma maneuver and field fortifications using wagon barriers (araba), behind which cannons were positioned. The Indian sultan neither possessed experience in countering artillery warfare nor maintained an effective system of command and control.

Thus, Babur's victory was the result not only of military ingenuity, but also of a broader civilizational advantage - the transmission of Central Asian and Ottoman-Iranian military technologies into South Asia. Babur's own words - "My stirrups were resolve, and my reins were faith in God" - vividly reflect the fusion of pragmatism and religious legitimation that underpinned his authority.

A pivotal role in the formation of the Baburid Empire was played by territories that today constitute the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. These lands became the first stable geopolitical and administrative base of the new state.

Even before his campaign against



*Takhti-Bobur, Kallar-Kahar, September 26, 2025.*

Delhi, Babur had consolidated his rule in Kabul and subsequently in Punjab, which, following the conquest of Lahore in 1524, was transformed into a strategic bridgehead for further expansion into the Indian heartland. Punjab, the Indus Valley, and adjacent areas of present-day Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provided vital manpower, agricultural resources, and control over key trade and military routes linking Central Asia with India. In the decades that followed, Lahore emerged as one of the principal capitals of the empire, and under Akbar, Jahangir, and Shah Jahan it became a major administrative, cultural, and military center. Thus, the territory of modern Pakistan functioned not as a peripheral zone, but as a core region of early Baburid statehood.

The formation of the Baburid Empire had profound and long-lasting consequences for what is now Pakistan:

1. The consolidation of Islam as the dominant civilizational factor in North-Western India;
2. The development of durable urban centers such as Lahore, Multan, and Thatta;
3. The integration of the region into

imperial trade and cultural networks;

4. The establishment of a historical and political foundation to which Pakistani historiography and national identity continue to refer.

In this sense, Babur's victory at Panipat in 1526 was not merely a military triumph, but an act of founding a new geopolitical reality — one in which the lands of modern Pakistan played a decisive role as the starting platform, strategic backbone, and one of the centers of power of the Baburid Empire. Without control over Punjab and the Indus Valley, the rise of the Baburid state would have been inconceivable, allowing Pakistan to be viewed as a historical core rather than a periphery of the Mughal world.

Accordingly, 21 April 2026 marks the 500th anniversary of the establishment of the Great Baburid Empire on the territory of modern Pakistan - a landmark event of profound significance both for New Uzbekistan and for our Pakistani brothers.

*Rovshan Alimov,  
Doctor of Political Sciences, Professor*



*April 2026 marks the 500th anniversary of the establishment of the Great Baburid Empire on the territory of modern Pakistan*

# Major capacities commissioned and a range of new energy facilities launched in Uzbekistan



On December 5, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, took part in a solemn event marking the launch and start of construction of new energy capacities

Taalaybek Ibraev, as well as representatives of the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Islamic

infrastructure worth \$11 billion, are a part of the major strategy being implemented in our country, aimed at strengthening the potential of national energy.

They include 16 solar, wind, thermal and hydro power plans worth \$3,3 billion with the capacity of 3,5 thousand megawatts in Karakalpakstan, and Bukhara, Kashkadarya and Tashkent regions.

Once they reach full capacity, these facilities will generate 15 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity per year.

As a result, next year the volume of “green” energy produced in the country will reach 23 billion kilowatt-hours, which will fully meet Uzbekistan’s annual electricity needs.

Most importantly, clean energy will help reduce natural gas consumption by almost 7 billion cubic meters and prevent 11 million tons of harmful emissions from being released into the atmosphere. Among the projects being launched are 10 energy storage systems with a total capacity of 1,245 megawatts. This will allow to supply an additional 1,5 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to the grid during peak loads.

Additionally, 11 large substations and 420 kilometers of high-voltage networks are being commissioned, ensuring the stable operation of the energy system. Important contributions to the economy



and infrastructure facilities.

The event was attended by Minister of Energy and Infrastructure of the United Arab Emirates Suhail Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Türkiye Alparslan Bayraktar, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of the Kyrgyz Republic

Development Bank, and leading companies including ACWA Power (Saudi Arabia), Aksa Enerji, Cengiz Enerji (Türkiye), Masdar (UAE), China Energy, Datang, Sinoma, Poly (China), EDF, Voltalia, TotalEnergies (France), Siemens Energy (Germany), and Nebras Power (Qatar). New facilities – 42 new generation, storage and production capacities and other energy



will be made by the new enterprises Angren Energo, which will produce 15 thousand transformers, and Uzhydropower, which will manufacture 155 hydro units per year. Speaking at the ceremony, the President expressed confidence that this important event will become another practical step on Uzbekistan's path toward sustainable development.

- Given the rapid growth of the economy and the increasing needs of the population, we are implementing large-scale reforms in the energy sector. In this area, we have defined two key goals. The first is to ensure reliable and

uninterrupted energy supply to all industries and regions. The second is to achieve this primarily through modern, environmentally friendly, and renewable energy sources, - stated the President.

It was noted that in recent years, \$35 billion in foreign investment has been attracted to the energy sector, and 9 thousand megawatts of new capacity have been commissioned.

As a result, electricity production has increased from 60 billion kilowatt-hours in 2017 to 85 billion this year.

Of particular importance is the launch of solar and wind power plants with a total

capacity of about 5 thousand megawatts, as well as hydroelectric power plants with a capacity of 400 megawatts. This year, the share of "green" energy in total generation will reach 30 percent.

In addition, 2 thousand megawatts of small solar panels have been installed in the private sector, households, and social facilities. This year alone, they generated nearly 2 billion kilowatt-hours of additional renewable energy. Across the country, 69 thousand kilometers of power grids and 14 thousand transformer points and high-voltage substations have been upgraded.



These transformations provide a powerful boost to the development of domestic enterprises. Since the beginning of the year, local manufacturers have supplied construction materials, metal structures, cable products, and electrical equipment for the power plants and networks under construction, as well as provided design, engineering, and construction services totaling \$700 million.

For instance, the first hydroelectric power plant of the Naryn Cascade, with a capacity of 38 megawatts, was commissioned entirely using domestic equipment and materials.

The leader of Uzbekistan emphasized that foreign investors and international partners have played a significant role in these achievements and successes.

The Head of State announced that in the

energy development plans.

First, to meet the growing demand for electricity, more than 17 thousand megawatts of renewable energy capacity will be commissioned by 2030. As a result, the share of “green” energy in total generation will reach 54 percent.

To integrate the new capacities into a unified energy system, 6 thousand kilometers of high-voltage power lines will be constructed. Next year alone, 1 thousand kilometers of such lines are scheduled to be laid, along with substations with a total capacity of 6 thousand megawatts.

Second, the expansion of foreign investment through public-private partnerships. Starting this year, the principles of private partnership are applied not only in electricity generation

on cooperative initiatives. This social initiative will provide “green” energy to 30 thousand low-income families, who will be able to feed surplus electricity into the grid and earn additional income.

This year, entrepreneurs built 40 megawatts of small and micro hydropower plants. As a result 120 million kilowatt-hours of electricity was produced, providing the entrepreneurs with a new source of income. Next year, an additional 65 megawatts of small and micro hydropower plants will be developed, significantly improving electricity supply for 80 thousand households.

Fourth, at the recent COP-30 climate conference in Brazil, Uzbekistan made an important commitment under the Paris Agreement – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2035.

Together with the World Bank, Uzbekistan has begun implementing the innovative iCRAFT project for the first time, which accounts for 23 million tons of greenhouse gas reductions achieved by the country. A system for selling carbon units on the international market has also been launched.

It is important to note that this year only, 17 large industrial enterprises have transitioned to the international certification system for “green” energy. Within the next two years, the number of such enterprises is expected to reach 100. Fifth, the development of partnerships with neighboring countries in creating a unified energy market.

Next year, funding will begin for the Kambarata-1 hydropower plant project in cooperation with Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, aimed at the efficient and joint use of the region’s hydroelectric potential.

The Head of State also highlighted the decisive efforts of the leadership of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan in the framework of the project to create a “green” corridor for electricity exports to Europe.

- All the projects we are launching today will become a source of sustainable economic growth and open new opportunities for future generations. Thanks to such purposeful steps, we will undoubtedly build a modern energy system of a new type,- stated the Leader of our country.

In conclusion, by pressing a symbolic switch, the President of Uzbekistan launched the operation of 42 energy facilities and the construction of 21 new projects.



next five years, with over \$150 billion in foreign investment, it is planned to commission a thousand industrial and infrastructure facilities and create numerous high-paying jobs.

To create attractive conditions for companies operating in emerging sectors such as IT, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things, it is planned to establish supercomputer clusters and data centers.

In this context, the Saudi company Data Volt has already begun implementing a project to build a 500-megawatt data center with an investment of \$3 billion.

The implementation of such large-scale projects will significantly increase electricity demand—by at least 1.5 times. In this context, the President outlined the country’s further

but also in its distribution.

In particular, an agreement has been reached with the Turkish company Aksa Elektrik to transfer the regional power grids of Samarkand to private management.

The company will take operational control of the network, invest in modernization, and reduce losses by half, which will save an average of \$20 million annually.

Similarly, next year investors will be offered management of the electricity networks in Jizzakh and Syrdarya regions, and in 2027 – in Namangan and Tashkent.

Third, there will be active support for the transition to alternative energy sources.

In the new year, solar stations with a total capacity of 107 megawatts will be installed in 300 mahallas based

# Uzbekistan's President in Islamabad: A Moment of Opportunity for Regional Reconnection

**Professor Adam Saud**

The upcoming visit of Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the president of Republic of Uzbekistan to Islamabad during February marks significant developments in the wake of regional and global changes. This visit will be the third visit of Mr. Mirziyoyev to Pakistan, and it is expected that it will go beyond symbolism and protocols only. Although, Uzbekistan and Pakistan share history, culture, and religion yet their trade and economic relations are far below than the potential. However, in the post Covid period there has been a rapid increase the bilateral trade volume.

In 2024, total trade volume between Pakistan and Central Asia remained at \$726 million, which accounts only one percent of Pakistan's total international trade. The largest volumes of Pakistan's trade in Central Asia were recorded with Uzbekistan (\$404 million) and Kazakhstan (\$239 million). Trade turnover with Tajikistan (\$58 million), Turkmenistan (\$41.2 million), and Kyrgyzstan (\$12 million) remained at a low level and did not demonstrate stable positive dynamics.

Last year, Kyrgyz president Mr. Sadyr Japarov visited Pakistan after 20 years. The upcoming visits of Uzbek and Kazakh presidents (possibly in February 2026) manifests that Pakistan and Central Asian states reciprocate to each other's geographical and trade significance. These visits also provide Islamabad an opportunity to place itself as a hub of connectivity between Central Asia and the broader Indian Ocean region.

For Uzbekistan, a rapidly reforming and outward-looking Central Asian economy, engagement with Pakistan offers access to warm-water ports, diversified trade routes, and deeper integration with huge South Asian markets. Uzbekistan and Pakistan are not only interested to strengthen their bilateral trade but broader regional economic integration in the rapidly changing global supply chains.

## **A Relationship Rediscovered**

Uzbekistan has been at the helm of Muslim civilization for many centuries. Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva had remained the centers of learning and Islamic civilization



throughout the medieval centuries. These cities had also been regional trade centers. Central Asian cultural and ideological imprints are very deep on today's Pakistan. Nevertheless, colonialism cut off contacts between the two regions. Despite high hopes and desire, relations between Islamabad and Tashkent could not materialize beyond official diplomatic relations. Trade links and people to people connectivity remained at its lowest, particularly due to Afghan instability.

However, since President Mirziyoyev came to power in 2016, he initiated 'Open neighborhood' policy which prioritized Central Asian as well as neighboring regions in his foreign policy. It is based on an approach which "prioritises economic diplomacy, regional connectivity, and pragmatic engagement." Islamabad has also realigned its economic policy towards the Central Asian states particularly after the launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2015. High level visits at heads of the states and governments alongwith sideline meetings at multilateral forums like Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, Economic Cooperation

Organisation, the UN, and Organisation for Islamic Cooperation depicts a radical shift in bilateral relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Recent increase in the bilateral trade volume manifests practical cooperation beyond rhetoric.

## **Trade: From Aspirations to Scale**

Increase in bilateral trade volume will be one of the top agendas during the meetings in Islamabad. During Prime Minister Shahbaz Shreef's visit to Tashkent in February 2025, both countries agreed to increase their bilateral trade volume to \$2 billions by 2030. Priority areas were identified as industrial cooperation, pharmaceuticals and textiles, agriculture, transport, and logistics. Achieving these goals requires systematic and consistent measures, including the development of sustainable logistics corridors, simplification of transit and customs procedures, as well as the activation of business contacts and institutional support for joint projects.

Uzbekistan-Pakistan trade relations have expanded significantly, reaching \$434.3 million as of December 1, 2025.

Intergovernmental political consultations were held, along with more than 40 business forums and over 15 industrial, tourism, and food exhibitions organized in various cities of Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Currently, nearly 80 bilateral agreements between the two countries are in force, covering politics, the economy, transport, security, education, and culture. There is a dire need to strengthen the logistic routes, banking channels, and easy availability of visa to investors, tourists, and students. There must be a one window operation facility to the business community in both the countries.

### **Connectivity: The Geopolitics of Geography**

Pakistan has always projected itself as the best possible transit route for CARs. Uzbekistan not only understands but acknowledges this importance of Pakistan. Tashkent has joined the Central and South Asia Energy Consortium. President Mirziyoyev has also initiated the Trans-Afghan railways project, which should have been completed by the end of 2025 as per the actual plans. Once operationalized, this railway corridor will bring a revolution in Pakistan and Central Asia connectivity. There are strong prospects that it will also compliment the under construction China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project. Kazakhstan, and even Russia have also shown interest to join the Trans-Afghan railways project. They, alongwith Turkmenistan have proposed a western corridor of the railway project. This project will help Uzbekistan and other CARs to easy access international markets through Karachi and Gwadar ports. In an era where supply chain resilience has become a global priority, shorter and diversified trade routes are no longer optional. The railway could significantly reduce transit times and costs, making South-Central Asia trade commercially viable rather than merely aspirational.

On July 17, 2025, a trilateral framework agreement on the development of the feasibility study for the Trans-Afghan railway was signed in Kabul. This major transport infrastructure project is of strategic importance not only for Afghanistan's economic recovery and enhanced internal connectivity, but also for Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

The presidential visit should also discuss the possibility of road connectivity as well as expansion of air connectivity. Uzbek Airlines is planning to launch direct flights from Tashkent to Karachi as well. It should be materialized on fast track. Besides air travel expansion, Uzbekistan must take steps to simplify tourists and business visas for Pakistanis. Both states must also harmonise

the trade regulations for improved bilateral trade volume. Connectivity, after all, is not just about infrastructure. It is about trust, predictability, and political commitment.

### **Energy and Sustainable Development**

Energy cooperation offers another avenue for deepening ties. Uzbekistan's growing industrial base requires stable energy markets, while Pakistan continues to seek diversified energy partnerships to address its chronic power shortages and transition toward renewables.

Collaboration in solar and wind energy, technical cooperation in power transmission, and knowledge sharing in energy efficiency could form part of a forward-looking agenda. Rather than replicating traditional extractive models, both countries have an opportunity to frame energy cooperation within the broader context of climate resilience and sustainable development—an increasingly important consideration for international investors and development partners.

### **Institutions Matter**

Although, a Strategic Partnership Council has been established in the wake of Preferential Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, yet its effectiveness is far away from reality. This is the right time to activate this Council. President Mirziyoyev's visit must be ensuring the implementation of signed agreements with a timeline for the deadlines. A more disciplined, results-oriented approach could set Pakistan-Uzbekistan cooperation apart as a regional success story.

### **People-to-People Ties: The Human Foundation**

Despite having strong historical, cultural, and ideological bonding, people to people connectivity remains one of the weakest areas. Around 1500 Pakistani students are currently enrolled in Uzbek universities in multiple fields. To elevate cooperation in education to a new level, it is necessary to further expand student and faculty exchange programs, establish joint scientific laboratories and research centers, and increase the number of educational grants and scholarship programs. Such intellectual and cultural engagement among the younger generation will create a strong human foundation for the future of the Uzbekistan-Pakistan strategic partnership.

There is a huge potential in tourism sector, particularly religious and cultural tourism. The number of tourists, however, is very

low. In 2025, only 18000 Pakistanis went to Uzbekistan for tourism purposes. Uzbek tourists to Pakistan remained are a negligible number. Although, several cultural exhibitions and road shows were conducted by both the brotherly countries in 2025, there is a need to do more such activities. Youth exchanges and sports diplomacy, often overlooked in strategic discussions, can also play a subtle yet powerful role in shaping perceptions and building trust between societies.

### **A Shared Regional Responsibility**

Both the countries understand that stable Afghanistan is the key to sustainable connectivity. Islamabad and Tashkent will definitely discuss this matter in the upcoming visit of president Mirziyoyev to Islamabad. Stable Afghanistan is strategic necessity not only for Pakistan and Uzbekistan but for other regional countries as well. Most of the connectivity projects and trade corridors depend on the stability in broader region. Recently, both countries have been engaged in integrating Afghanistan with the regional economies. This convergence, if sustained, could contribute to a more cooperative regional environment.

There is a dire need to examine, systematize, and conduct an in-depth analysis of materials related to trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, which has the highest trade turn over with Pakistan. Cooperation can further be enhanced in the fields of banking, local currency settlement mechanisms, and digitalisation of customs. Instead of solo flights, Joint ventures will bring the desired results. In this regard, Pakistan's Special Economic Zones and Uzbekistan's industrial clusters offer promising entry points for cross-investment.

### **Conclusion**

President Mirziyoyev's visit to Pakistan comes at a very critical moment. The whole region is facing security challenges emanating from regional and global changes. Nevertheless, both Pakistan and Uzbekistan are committed to increase their trade, social, cultural, and diplomatic ties. If the upcoming visit focuses on practical mechanisms, human connections, and long-term institutional frameworks, it could mark a turning point—not just in bilateral relations, but in the broader project of reconnecting South and Central Asia. History has placed these two countries at the crossroads of civilizations. The task before their leaders now is to ensure that geography once again becomes an asset rather than an obstacle.

## The Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan Will Become a Majestic Landmark Where History, the Present, and the Future Converge

The final days of the momentous year 2025 will remain etched in history not only for the Address delivered by our esteemed President to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan, but also for the pressing and relevant issues raised therein.

The Address placed special emphasis on the path traversed over the past year, the achievements attained, the tasks accomplished, as well as the plans set forth for the current year.

### Profound heritage, grand ambitions...

Indeed, the year 2025 proved to be exceptionally fruitful and productive for all of us. As emphasized by the Head of State, the year concluded amid an increasingly turbulent global environment marked by unexpected changes, growing economic confrontation among states, and escalating threats to security. Despite this, the year was rich in memorable events for our people and our Motherland.

For the first time in our history, the volume of gross domestic product exceeded 145 billion US dollars. Exports grew by 23 percent, reaching 33.4 billion dollars. The volume of foreign investment attracted to the economy amounted to 43.1 billion dollars. In the Global Technological Readiness Index, Uzbekistan rose by 71 positions, securing a place among the world's top ten countries. The unemployment rate declined from 5.5 percent to 4.9 percent, and nearly 1.5 million vulnerable citizens were lifted out of poverty.

These are not merely statistics; they are vivid proof of the comprehensive and steady progress of the New Uzbekistan in recent years. Undoubtedly, material prosperity serves as a solid foundation for the spiritual and cultural development of any society. In this context, the construction in our capital of the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan—a megaproject initiated by our esteemed President and unparalleled in its concept and direction—can rightly be viewed as a direct result of the country's growing economic well-being.

Just nine or ten years ago, it would have been difficult even to imagine

the construction of such a magnificent complex, spanning nearly ten hectares and comprising close to 50,000 square meters of public space. Alongside the rise of this edifice, unprecedented efforts have been undertaken to enrich its intellectual and cultural content and to restore priceless treasures inherited from our great ancestors to the Center. Hundreds of research



projects related to the Center's activities have been fully funded by our scholars and researchers.

Indeed, all key economic indicators of the past year—GDP growth, export expansion, and increased investment—demonstrate not only the quantitative growth of Uzbekistan's economy, but also its qualitative transformation. Such stability and progress testify to the fact that our Motherland has chosen its own unique civilizational path. The opportunities created through material prosperity empower us to preserve and promote such magnificent spiritual treasures as the Center of Islamic Civilization, to introduce them to the world, and to educate the younger generation on the basis of knowledge and enlightenment.

Thus, economic advancement has become a powerful and reliable foundation for spiritual elevation.

### A Center of Intellect and Reflection

As is well known, the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, established nine years ago at the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, has over the years evolved into a major scientific and educational

institution capable of widely demonstrating, on an international scale, the humanistic and enlightenment-oriented essence of our sacred religion.

Last year, construction of the Center's magnificent building in our capital city was completed. Based on the instructions of the President, extensive efforts were undertaken to enrich the Center's content, strengthen its concept, and recover cultural treasures that had been taken abroad, so as to showcase the contribution of our people to world civilization. As the Head of State emphasized, "this institution should not only narrate the past, but also connect history, the present, and the future, and define the key directions of our development as a true center of intellect and reflection."

Today, the Center of Islamic Civilization has become not only a worthy guardian of Islamic and cultural heritage, but also a major scientific and spiritual hub on the international stage.

Over the past year alone, the President visited the Center five times, providing valuable advice, guidance, and recommendations, and taking an active part in shaping the museum's concept. Based on these recommendations, the exhibitions titled "The Hall of the Holy Qur'an," "Civilizations Before Islam," "The First Renaissance," "The Second Renaissance and the Uzbek Khanates," and "New Uzbekistan – New Renaissance" were fully developed.

During visits by high-ranking guests from around the world — including the leaders of Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan, as well as the Presidents of Serbia, Finland, Paraguay, and Bashkortostan — it was acknowledged that the Center has risen to the level of a unique megaproject not only nationally, but also internationally.

In November of last year, the highly significant event of bringing the Uthman Mushaf to the Center of Islamic Civilization became not merely an official ceremony, but a profound symbol of respect for spiritual heritage.

#### **When Numbers Speak...**

Over the course of the year, more than 800 scientific and innovative projects were developed at the Center within the framework of the idea "Civilizations – Personalities – Discoveries," with 325 projects implemented during the first phase. More than 2,000 local and over 100 foreign scholars were involved in these projects.

In the past year alone, a total of 1,530 exhibits were presented in the museum's exhibitions, among which facsimile manuscripts, historical maps, and archaeological findings held a special place. In addition, the exhibitions included 64 models, 215 video clips, 153 electronic panels, 25 avatars, 11 interactive games, and 6 immersive shows. These exhibits reflect both the museum's active research activities and the strong commitment to studying Uzbekistan's rich cultural heritage.

Thanks to the opportunities created at the initiative of the esteemed President to form and enrich the museum's exhibitions, cooperation was established with renowned auction houses such as Sotheby's, Christie's, and Bonhams, as well as with major

collectors and art dealers. Over the year, 154 exhibits were acquired through auctions, and 589 exhibits were received from private collectors.

A total of more than 100 artifacts were donated to the Central Museum by distinguished guests, international partner organizations, and other visitors. In particular, the World Society for the Preservation, Study, and Promotion of Uzbekistan's Cultural Heritage donated 494 artifacts free of charge for the Central Museum's exhibition.

Nearly 5,000 publications were added to the holdings of the Central Library. In addition, subscriptions to 16 periodicals from museums and libraries in foreign countries were established. A total of 762 new specialized publications for persons with disabilities were purchased from local and international publishing houses. From the Library's "East and West Collection," 400 rare publications were digitized, and electronic chips were installed in 30,000 books. More than 2,000 books underwent scientific and technical processing and were entered into the IRBIS system. Thirty specialized pieces of equipment meeting the requirements of modern library practices were installed in the Central Library.

On the ground floor of the Center, a special children's area was established in cooperation with the UK-based company "1001 Discoveries."

Last year, the Center's Expanded Scientific Council held 33 meetings, during which it discussed key issues such as improving

museum activities, developing and approving the museum concept, collecting and cataloguing collections, preserving and restoring exhibits, as well as financing and resource provision.

In addition, more than 70 books produced as a result of the Center's staff research were prepared for publication. Among them are specially designed editions of Ruy González de Clavijó's "Diary of a Journey to the Court of Amir Timur" in Uzbek, Russian, and English, as well as book albums such as "The Golden Road to Samarkand" and "Historical Figures in Eastern Miniature Art."

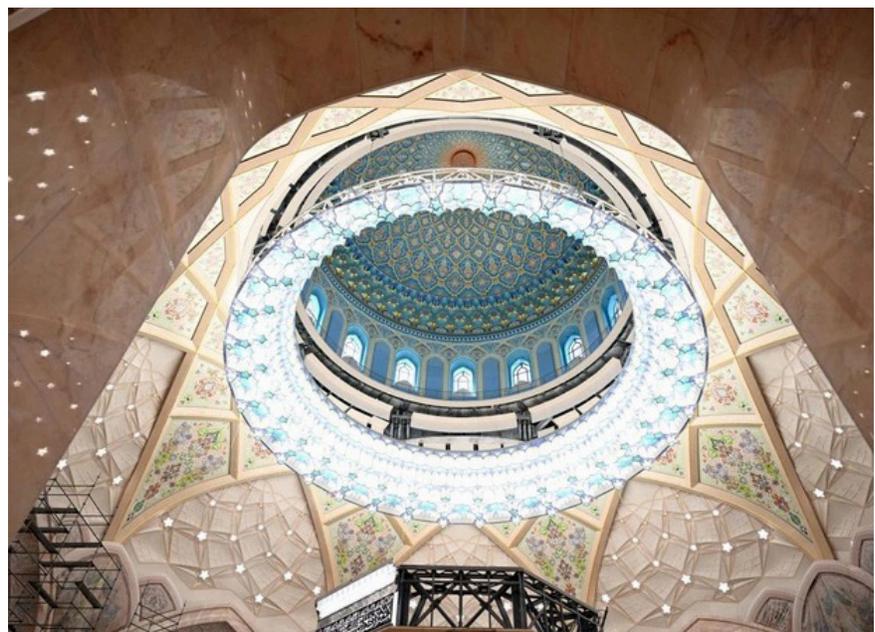
#### **In the Spotlight of the World...**

Throughout 2025, the Center operated as a platform aimed at strengthening international dialogue, cultural cooperation, and scholarly ties.

It is also worth noting separately that last year the Center was awarded France's international "Avicenna" Prize.

During the reporting period, our foreign visits to Europe and the Arab world yielded the expected results. Additionally, more than 40 meetings were held, including a roundtable discussion in Malaysia, two exhibitions in the United Kingdom, five presentations, over 50 online meetings, and the opening of a dedicated Center room at the National Library of Iran.

On August 29, 2025, during his subsequent visit to the Center, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev familiarized himself with the final stage of construction, interior finishing works, halls, and thematic exhibitions, and



provided the necessary instructions.

On September 26–27, an International Experts' Forum titled "The Heritage of a Great Past as the Foundation of an Enlightened Future" was held, with the participation of nearly 100 experts from 25 countries. On November 13–15, an International Congress titled "Central Asia: Shared Spiritual and Educational Heritage – A Shared Future" took place, bringing together 170 foreign experts, including Ministers of Culture, Presidents of Academies of Sciences, representatives of Fine Arts Academies, Chairpersons of Writers' Unions, and directors of libraries and museums.



During the days of this conference, within the framework of the Seventh Consultative Meeting of the Heads of State of Central Asia, the Center was visited by the Presidents of the Central Asian countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan — Ilham Aliyev, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Sadyr Japarov, and Emomali Rahmon — together with our President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The heads of state familiarized themselves with the "Hall of the Holy Qur'an" and the exhibitions dedicated to civilizations, and highly appreciated Uzbekistan's efforts aimed at preserving the shared cultural and historical heritage. In the presence of these leaders, the "Future Heritage" International Award, established on the initiative of our esteemed President, was solemnly presented to representatives of Central Asia and Azerbaijan who have achieved outstanding results in the fields of science, culture, and the arts.

**Sincere Recognition by the UN Secretary-General**

On December 14–16, 2025, at the 11<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the noble efforts being carried out in our country to study and promote cultural heritage were once again recognized at the international level.

The forum, organized to mark the 20th anniversary of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, was held under the theme:

"Dialogue for Human Solidarity in a Multipolar World: A New Era of Mutual Respect and Understanding."

Within the framework of the forum, meetings were held with the leadership of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), the Muslim World League, as well as representatives of leading academic and cultural institutions of Saudi Arabia. During these discussions, issues related to ensuring the participation of representatives of these organizations in the opening ceremony of the Center, implementing joint research, educational, and publishing projects, and establishing institutional participation of international partners within the framework of the Center were addressed.

It is worth noting that in his address at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev placed special emphasis on the significance of the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan as an international humanitarian and scientific-cultural platform. The planned large-scale presentation in 2026, to be held in cooperation with the UN, of this Center as well as the International Research Centers of Imam Bukhari, Imam Termizi,

and Imam Maturidi, became a logical continuation of this consistent policy.

A meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, held on the sidelines of the forum, further enhanced the political and diplomatic significance of the event. The UN chief highly praised the large-scale reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan and emphasized the prominent role of the country's leader on the international stage.

"Your President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, is a great and influential leader who consistently promotes the ideas of dialogue, enlightenment, and mutual respect from the highest rostrum of the United Nations."

In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

This document is a vivid testament to the fact that Uzbekistan's efforts in the field of dialogue among civilizations are being recognized at the international level.

#### Results of Cooperation

In 2025, local and international companies were engaged to enrich the exhibitions of our Center, including Magister Art, Outdoor Factory, Sila Sveta, Planeta 9, and Inter Steller. To align museum exhibitions and their design with international standards, specialists from the French company Avesta Group were invited to draw on the experience of world-renowned museums such as the Louvre Museum in France, the British Museum, and the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha. More than 3,000 materials related to scientific and innovative projects, construction and installation works carried out in museum exhibitions, international cooperation, and visits of foreign guests were prepared and published on the Center's official social media pages and website, as well as in local mass media outlets.

Special experts from the State Hermitage Museum of Russia were invited to establish a laboratory for the conservation and restoration of ancient written sources and to ensure its full-scale operation. Over the past period, more than 1,500 ancient artifacts have been conserved and restored.

Last year, in accordance with the instructions of the President, the Center's staff also actively participated in the formation of the Imam Bukhari Innovative Museum in Samarkand. Under the direct leadership of

the Head of State, and in close cooperation with the Committee on Religious Affairs, the International Research Centers named after Imam Bukhari, Imam Maturidi, and Imam Tirmidhi, the International Academy of Islamic Studies, and other organizations, extensive work was carried out to develop the museum's exhibition.

*Ambitious Intentions, Noble Goals...*

This year as well, the Center plans to implement a number of important initiatives. In particular, it is envisaged to further strengthen the Center's position as one of the leading humanitarian institutions in the region and worldwide.

Preparatory work is currently underway at an accelerated pace for the imminent opening of the Center to all our compatriots. All necessary measures are being mobilized to transform the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan into a cultural, scientific, and educational hub capable of serving compatriots, foreign guests, scholars and researchers, tourists, and experts.

In addition, in 2026 the Center will focus on creating a new-generation museum environment. The largest repository complex equipped with a microclimate system and designed to house 50,000 storage units will be established. In the near future, an ARC digital management system will be introduced to ensure the digitization of 1.5 million documents in the Center's collections, the transition of internal document circulation to electronic format, and the creation of a unified knowledge repository. VR/AR exhibitions and 3D reconstructions will be developed, museum visits will shift to a fully multimedia model, navigation via mobile applications, multilingual audio guides, and a ticketed tour system designed to accommodate up to 10,000 visitors per day will be implemented.

This year as well, efforts will continue to expand the Center's collections through rare manuscripts, historical exhibits, publications and documents, and examples of applied arts. The sources for acquiring artifacts are being broadened. In particular, it is planned to enrich the Center's collections with at least 2,000 rare artifacts during 2026–2027 through international auction houses such as Sotheby's, Christie's, and Bonhams, as well as through private collectors, art dealers, and experts.

The Center is implementing a comprehensive set of unique digital initiatives. These

projects include an archive containing 100,000 digitized pages, a digital platform, artifact reconstruction, interactive maps of civilizations, a virtual museum VR project, and the presentation of digital avatars of historical figures.

In 2026, the Center plans to create a modern multimedia ecosystem: a new press center will be established, the CIC FILM film company will be launched, a media bank consisting of 50,000 materials will be created, and cooperation will continue with international media companies such as CNN, BBC, TRT, Euronews, and Al



Arabiya. In 2026, the total expected media reach is projected to cover up to 1 billion viewers and readers. In addition, a 10-part documentary film titled “The Voice of Enlightenment” is being produced with the participation of renowned Hollywood actor Ben Kingsley.

*“We Create Change Ourselves”*

In the field of international cooperation and foreign relations, the Center's global position will be further strengthened this year. In the new year of 2026, the Center will establish cooperation with museums and universities in more than 30 countries and will participate in presentations held by prestigious international organizations such as the UN, UNESCO, and ICOM. It is planned to host international conferences with up to 2,000 participants at the Center's premises. These include international events such as the Festival of Contemporary Islamic Art and the Second National Forum of Uzbek Scholars, as well as presentations of the Center in cities such as New York, Paris, London, Doha, Riyadh, and Cairo. In cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a “roadmap” encompassing more

than 300 joint projects aimed at expanding the Center's international relations will be developed.

This year, preparations are underway to hold various conferences, presentations, and cultural-educational events dedicated to the blessed anniversaries of our great ancestors, Sahibqiron Amir Timur and Mir Alisher Navoi.

Additionally, in cooperation with international organizations such as IRCICA, ISESCO, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the World Muslim League, the Center is expected to publish 40 scholarly works and 10 unique facsimile editions related to Islamic heritage. A specialized printing house will also be opened at the Center, where modern publishing services will be established.

To promote national, scientific, and cultural heritage, the Center plans to participate in major international book fairs in Frankfurt, London, Doha, and other cities. This will help Uzbekistan secure its place as a new and prestigious participant in the global book market.

With the direct support of our President, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Center is becoming a symbol of global dialogue between civilizations, cultural exchange, and intellectual development. On behalf of hundreds and thousands of our scholars, experts, and specialists, we express our deep gratitude to our President for the establishment of a unique scientific and educational center unparalleled in the world, for the great attention paid to studying and promoting the rich history and culture of our people, for efforts to repatriate our ancestors' cultural heritage from foreign collections, and for creating broad opportunities for scientific research and studies.

As stated in the Address, today we are a great nation of more than 38 million people. Through our arduous and honorable labor, we are earning respect in the world; we are a resilient and proud nation moving forward confidently toward the future. We do not live waiting for change; on the contrary, we create change ourselves — through our intellect, determination, and responsible work.

*Firdavs ABDUKHOLIKOV*

*Director of the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan*

## Uzbekistan Attaches Great Importance to Developing Strategic Partnership Relations with Pakistan: Ambassador Alisher Tukhtayev

On the eve of the state visit of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to Pakistan, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtayev, gave an interview to “Peace” magazine, in which he shared his views on the current state and future prospects of bilateral cooperation.

**Q: What are the historical foundations of bilateral diplomatic and economic relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan?**

**A:** When speaking about relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, first of all, it should be emphasized that Pakistan is one of our country’s reliable partners. Your country was among the first to recognize the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, doing so on December 20, 1991, and diplomatic relations between our two countries were officially established on May 10, 1992.

Today, Uzbekistan attaches great importance to the development of mutually beneficial strategic partnership relations with Pakistan. The comprehensive agreements achieved between our states in recent years have given new momentum to the centuries-old and fraternal relations between our peoples.

At present, the two countries are effectively cooperating within the framework of a number of international and regional organizations. This cooperation is particularly evident in the context of the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and other international platforms, where both countries consistently support each other’s initiatives and proposals.

In recent years, visits at various levels have also become more active. Mutual visits by the President of Uzbekistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan play an important role in further strengthening bilateral cooperation and in identifying promising areas of partnership in the political, trade and economic, investment, cultural, and humanitarian spheres. These high-level exchanges have also increased the mutual interest of both



countries in deepening economic ties, expanding business contacts, and fully utilizing existing economic potential for effective cooperation across all sectors. The scope of agreements reached at the highest level clearly demonstrates the bright prospects of cooperation between the two countries.

**Q: How do you assess the prospects for the revival of the legendary Great Silk Road, which in ancient times connected three major cities of Uzbekistan with Asia and Europe?**

**A:** Located at the heart of the legendary Great Silk Road, Uzbekistan has since ancient times been renowned as a crossroads of caravan routes linking various regions of the world, including Asia, Europe, and Africa. The Silk Road had a profound influence on the formation of the political, economic, and cultural structures of the countries it passed through. In the territory of ancient Transoxiana, where modern Uzbekistan is located, civilizations and cultures that emerged in China, India, Iran, Byzantium,

and Egypt mutually enriched one another. As a result, our country, with more than 3,000 years of statehood history, has historically been one of the world's leading centers of trade and economy, science, culture, and the arts.

Since the early years of independence, Uzbekistan has been paying great attention to the creation of new transport and communication routes as modern alternatives to the ancient Silk Road, aimed at connecting the republic with other countries and regions.

One of such projects is the “China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan” railway construction, which is rightfully recognized as a project aimed at reviving the Great Silk Road. This project will serve as a stimulus for strengthening cultural and civilizational ties between the regions of Eurasia, the East, and the West, developing trade routes, revitalizing the economies of Central Asian countries, and, most importantly, providing the shortest route from China to Europe and the countries of the Middle East.

As a result, the distance will be reduced by 900 kilometers, and the delivery time for goods will be shortened to 7–8 days. Another important transregional cooperation project is the “Uzbekistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan” railway construction project. This project will connect the South Asian railway network with the railways of Central Asia and Eurasia. This route will establish a new paradigm of continental-scale trade and economic cooperation. According to initial calculations, upon completion of the project, the cost of transporting goods from Pakistan to Uzbekistan will decrease threefold, and the delivery time will be reduced to 3–5 days. It should be emphasized that this project should be regarded not only from an economic perspective but also as part of efforts aimed at achieving peace and economic development in Afghanistan.

These projects will fundamentally change the geoeconomic situation in the region, transforming Central Asia into a global transit hub linking North and South, East and West.

Moreover, within the framework of reviving the Silk Road, routes such as Samarkand–Bukhara–Khiva are further developing through tourism, infrastructure, and cultural projects. I would like to reiterate

that Uzbekistan is interested in the modern revival of the Silk Road and is ready to consider the initiatives of foreign partners, including those of Pakistan.

**Q: How do you assess the current volume of bilateral trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, and the goal of increasing this figure to 2 billion US dollars per year?**

**A:** The official visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Pakistan in March 2022 was an important step toward bringing bilateral cooperation to a new level. On the eve of and following the visit, regular Uzbekistan–Pakistan business forums have been held with the participation of representatives from business circles of both countries, as well as heads of key ministries, agencies, sectoral associations, and chambers of commerce and industry. During this period, a number of agreements have been reached on the implementation of joint trade and investment projects.

It should be emphasized that there is enormous potential to expand investment and trade cooperation in agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals and chemical industries, construction materials production, and other sectors. Of course, the current bilateral trade volume of nearly 450 million US dollars does not correspond to the available opportunities and potential. Extensive work is being carried out to implement the task set by the two heads of state to increase bilateral trade to 2 billion US dollars in the near future.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Embassy of Uzbekistan is acting as a bridge between the business communities of both countries. The Uzbek side fully supports the initiatives of Pakistani business representatives to implement joint projects in our country and is ready to create the necessary conditions for this.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite representatives of the Pakistani business community to invest in Uzbekistan and implement joint projects.

**Q: Are you satisfied with the current volume of bilateral trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, and to what extent has the recently signed Preferential Trade Agreement contributed to its growth?**

**A:** I have already addressed this question earlier. The volume of bilateral trade remains low relative to the potential of our countries. The Preferential Trade Agreement signed between our nations simplifies customs procedures and will contribute to the growth of bilateral trade.

**Q: In your opinion, is it necessary to diversify bilateral trade and review the list of goods traded between Pakistan and Uzbekistan in response to the emergence of new sectors such as information technology, electronics, and other industries?**

**A:** That is a very pertinent question. Yes, it is necessary to expand the range of goods and services to cover new sectors such as IT, electronics, pharmaceuticals, logistics, and services.

**Q: Wouldn't dialogue between the two countries be necessary to increase bilateral trade in some unconventional sectors?**

**A:** Absolutely, it is essential. Without dialogue, no meaningful results can be achieved. Special working groups, joint commissions, and the participation of the private sector create new opportunities to increase trade even in unconventional sectors.

**Q: Gwadar Port has significant potential to reconnect Pakistan with Central Asia. How do you see its future in regional economic integration?**

**A:** Due to its geographic location, Uzbekistan is one of the few landlocked countries in the world, surrounded by other countries with no access to the sea (along with Liechtenstein). To address the common challenges and threats faced by landlocked countries, the President of Uzbekistan has consistently proposed a series of concrete suggestions and initiatives at international forums.

First and foremost, it is necessary to implement coordinated actions to rapidly develop international transport routes and infrastructure.

In this context, Uzbekistan proposes to accelerate the construction of the “Uzbekistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan” railway project and connect it with the ongoing “China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan” railway corridor.

Pakistan's Gwadar Port will also expand Uzbekistan's access to the sea. Gwadar Port could become a strategic hub for

cooperation between Central and South Asia, as it is expected to connect with the Trans-Afghan corridors.

– Do you expect the “Uzbekistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan” railway line to be completed in the near future, and what obstacles might it face?

– The project is well-defined, but security, financing, technical infrastructure in Afghanistan, and international coordination remain the main challenges. Nevertheless, for several years, the governments of Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have been working on the construction of a railway line connecting Central Asia to South Asia.

On July 17 of this year, in Kabul, the foreign ministers of Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan signed an intergovernmental agreement to develop the technical and economic basis of the Trans-Afghan railway project.

With a population of 256 million, Pakistan represents a very large market for Uzbekistan. Moreover, the ports of Karachi, Qasim, and Gwadar provide access to markets in the Middle East, Africa, and India. According to forecasts, the construction of the “Mazar-i-Sharif–Kabul–Herat” railway will reduce cargo transportation time from Uzbekistan to Pakistan from 35 days to 3–5 days. In addition, delivery costs could decrease by up to 40% between Central Asia and Pakistan.

In the initial phase, the new railway is expected to handle nearly 3 million tons of cargo annually. By 2035–2040, the volume could reach 15–20 million tons. These are some of the widely recognized economic advantages of the project.

At the same time, there are several geopolitical factors. Implementing the Trans-Afghan railway project has significant strategic importance for Afghanistan’s reconstruction. In May 2023, the Coordination Office for the Uzbekistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan railway project was opened in Tashkent.

In other words, this project did not appear yesterday or today. Based on the initial plans, construction should have been completed by now. However, there are still several serious obstacles hindering the railway’s construction.

**Q: How do you see the role of youth from both sides in developing bilateral relations, especially in the economic sphere, through**

**freelancing and e-commerce?**

**A:** In both Uzbekistan and Pakistan, young people constitute the main driving force. In Uzbekistan, all opportunities have been created for young people to acquire modern knowledge and professional skills. In turn, Uzbek youth are proudly representing Uzbekistan on the international stage by demonstrating their knowledge and experience. In particular, our youth are achieving remarkable results in information technology and the IT sector. Thanks to the initiative of our national leader, the IT Park Uzbekistan, established in Tashkent, plays a significant role in helping our youth bring their startup ideas to life. It is encouraging that IT Parks are being established across all regions of our country, actively engaging young people. There are no obstacles for Pakistani youth to participate in Uzbekistan’s IT Parks with their own startup projects. By collaborating in IT, online services, and e-commerce platforms, the youth of Uzbekistan and Pakistan can become the most active drivers of bilateral economic relations between our countries.

**Q: Could you also touch upon the possibilities of developing Uzbekistan–Pakistan cooperation in tourism and promoting the potential of cities like Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and the Fergana Valley through the concept of twin cities in Pakistan?**

**A:** Uzbekistan and Pakistan are historically connected by ancient cultural and spiritual ties. In this regard, I believe that there is ample potential on both sides to take our tourism cooperation to a new level. Another point is that in recent years, Uzbekistan has become an increasingly popular destination for Pakistani travelers. In this area, we work closely with the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation and Uzbekistan’s tourism representative in Pakistan. Our focus is on strengthening tourism cooperation, increasing the flow of mutual tourists, training personnel for the sector, enhancing their skills, and developing direct communication between representatives of the tourism industry. Opportunities are being explored to increase tourist exchanges through the development and implementation of joint tourism

programs.

Uzbekistan’s leading national airline, Uzbekistan Airways, provides direct flights from Tashkent to Lahore and Islamabad, offering many conveniences for Pakistani tourists. We also invite Pakistani airlines to open direct flights to Uzbekistan, particularly to Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva. The tourism and business potential of these cities is of high interest to Pakistani visitors.

Additionally, proposals are being considered to further simplify visa procedures for citizens of both countries and to harmonize these procedures with modern international standards. In Pakistan, we regularly organize projects promoting the tourism potential of Uzbekistan, including Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and the Fergana Valley, and efforts are underway to expand them. Plans also include online tourism forums with participation from Pakistan’s tourism authorities, tour operator associations, and business circles, as well as developing new pilgrimage tourism routes and producing TV programs highlighting the tourism potential of both countries.

Our ancestors’ lands were once connected by the Great Silk Road, along which merchants, scholars, poets, and travelers moved freely between Central and South Asia. Today, we are reviving these historical ties in a modern way—through tourism, cultural exchange, and direct people-to-people contacts. I invite our Pakistani brothers and sisters to visit these treasures reflecting our shared heritage.

**Q: The annual bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Central Asian countries is less than 1 billion USD. Considering that the population of the Central Asian region is approximately 80 million and the market potential is around 650 billion USD, how do you assess this, and what suggestions do you have to improve the situation?**

**A:** This figure is low for a market of 80 million people. To increase trade, it is necessary to improve transport routes, simplify customs procedures, expand preferential agreements, and create and develop joint logistics centers.

– *Ambassador, thank you for providing detailed answers to our questions.*

– *Thank you.*

Volume: 29 | Issue: 2 | February 2026

Monthly Islamabad

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INTERNATIONAL

