

A woman in traditional Uzbek Lazgi attire is dancing on a rooftop in Khiva at sunset. She is wearing a yellow dress with intricate gold embroidery and a large, ornate gold headpiece with a white feather. Her arms are raised in a graceful pose. In the background, the warm golden light of the setting sun illuminates the historic architecture of Khiva, including domed structures and minarets.

LETTER
UZBEKISTAN

JUNE 2026 / VOL.02

Khiva Comes Alive with the
Rhythm of Lazgi

A Celebration of Uzbekistan's Living Cultural Heritage

Zhiva



The Mesum under the sky



Opening Address of lazgi Festival at Khiva by the President of Uzbekistan H. E. Shavkat Mirzaev

Dear guests,

Ladies and gentlemen, admirers of art,

I sincerely congratulate you on the opening of the 3rd International Dance Festival "Lazgi" – a celebration of music and art taking place on the banks of the Amu Darya, in ancient Khiva, a city that is truly a pearl of the East.

I take this opportunity to express my deep respect to representatives of the esteemed international and regional organizations UNESCO and TURKSOY, ambassadors of foreign states, prominent figures of the arts, scholars, specialists, and all festival participants.

With special warmth and best wishes, I greet the people of the ancient and unique Khorezm, who are hosting this forum.

May the festival, held during these beautiful spring days to the sounds of the timeless "Lazgi," become a source of joy and inspiration for all of us!

Dear forum participants,

It is gratifying that the International Dance Festival "Lazgi" – a unique art form that, through its remarkably graceful movements, reflects the beautiful soul and deep emotions of our people with their more than three-thousand-year glorious history and culture – is



becoming an effective platform for cultural dialogue among different nations.

"Lazgi" is a classical musical heritage that for centuries has celebrated the ideals of goodness, beauty, peace, and friendship, and stands as a symbol of greatness, much like the minarets of Khiva rising toward the sky.

Thanks to these unique qualities, this distinctive cultural phenomenon was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2019 and is gaining increasing popularity around the world.

In recent years, the National Ballet of Uzbekistan has successfully presented the ballet "Lazgi: Dance of Soul and Love" on some of the world's most prestigious stages.

Today, in New Uzbekistan, great attention is being paid to the development of culture and the arts. Large-scale efforts are underway to advance national dance art and to train highly qualified professionals in this field. It should be especially noted that a modern system of education in choreography has been established, the renowned "Bahor" ensemble has been revived, and support is being provided to the "Lazgi" ensemble and other creative groups.



The International Dance Festival "Lazgi" is a strategic platform that plays an important role in our country's cultural diplomacy. It should be noted that this forum has already become an international cultural brand, with its geography and number of participants expanding every year. Hundreds of performers, dance groups, scholars, and experts from dozens of countries are taking part in this year's festival. We will continue to regard the "Lazgi" dance as a school of mastery and experience for further increasing young people's interest in our classical art, educating them in the spirit of national values, and enabling them to realize their creative potential.

I am confident that the status of this international festival, which serves such noble purposes, will continue to grow and that it will take its rightful place in global cultural life.

Once again, I congratulate you on today's celebration of art and culture, and I wish you all good health, happiness, new creative achievements, and success in the forum's work.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev
President of the Republic of
Uzbekistan

Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Fifth Tashkent International Investment Forum



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TASHKENT
INTERNATIONAL
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June 16-18, 2026

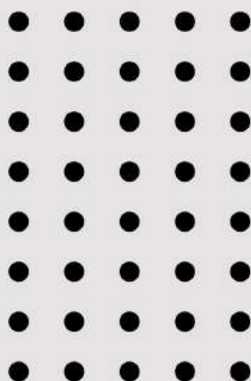
I am very pleased to see the heads of state and government, representatives of esteemed international financial institutions, major companies and investment funds, and distinguished business leaders who have joined us today at the Fifth Tashkent International Investment Forum.

Your participation is yet another powerful testament to the growing confidence of the international community in the reforms and development of New Uzbekistan.

Our joint efforts within the framework of this forum are laying a solid foundation for achieving ambitious and far-reaching goals.

The outcomes speak for themselves. Over the past years Uzbekistan has attracted more than \$150 billion in foreign investment, of which \$123 billion has been secured in the last five years alone.

Dear participants of the forum!
Ladies and gentlemen!
Dear friends!



We are always open to investors interested in cooperation with Uzbekistan and ready to build equal and mutually beneficial partnership.

The participation of nearly 4 000 distinguished foreign guests from more than 100 countries in this year's forum is a clear indication of the growing international recognition and prestige of the Tashkent International Investment Forum.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my special gratitude for participation at our event to His Excellency Bajram Begaj, President of the Republic of Albania, His Excellency Mikhail Mishustin, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, His Excellency Aleksandr Turchin, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus, His Excellency Ali Asadov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, His Excellency Olzhas Bektenov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Adylbek Kasymaliyev, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic – Head of the Presidential Administration, His Excellency Kokhir Rasulzoda, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.

I would also like to thank the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the New Development Bank, as well as the representatives of the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the European Investment Bank, and many other international financial institutions, banks, companies, and organizations, for their close cooperation in advancing our reform agenda.

Welcome to New Uzbekistan, dear friends!

Distinguished forum participants!

At a time when the world economy and the global map of capital are rapidly changing, and trade tensions are escalating, it is quite natural that any investor seeks to invest in countries, where the rights and freedoms of entrepreneurs are reliably protected, where the economy is growing at an accelerated pace, where broad opportunities exist.

Therefore, we are implementing systemic measures to improve fundamentally the investment climate in New Uzbekistan.

Last year, our GDP growth reached 7,7 percent, and \$43 billion foreign investments were attracted into the economy. The stability of our national currency was ensured, and the volume of international reserves exceeded \$70 billion.

Many may remember that at the first forum, four years ago, we set the goal of increasing Uzbekistan's GDP to \$100 billion by the end of 2026. We expect that this year our rapidly growing economy will surpass the \$180 billion.

Uzbekistan's international credit standing continues to strengthen year after year. This year, our country advanced 14 positions in the prestigious Index of Economic Freedom and, for the first time, joined the group of nations recognised as having a "moderately free economy."

These achievements are tangible evidence that Uzbekistan's economy is gaining new momentum and entering a stage of new opportunities.

Distinguished participants of the event!

It is no coincidence that this year's Forum is being held under the theme "Investment Resilience: New Frontiers, New Partnerships". The ambitious goals before us can only be achieved through joint efforts.

With this in mind, I would like to outline several priority areas that, in our view, will serve to expand our multifaceted cooperation.

The first priority is the further strengthening of the system of legal guarantees for investors.

Ensuring investors' rights through strong institutions and recognized international mechanisms is very important.

In this regard, since March we have started the work on establishing the Tashkent International Financial Centre.

The legal foundations of the Centre will be firmly enshrined in a dedicated Constitutional Law. A highly attractive tax system will be introduced for the participants of this Centre. Corporate income tax, value-added tax, property tax, and customs duties will be set at zero percent. The unconditional guarantees for the free movement of capital and the ability to conduct transactions in any currency will be provided.

A modern system for financial technologies, digital assets, and green finance will be created.

An independent financial regulator authorized to adopt normative documents will also be established within the Centre's territory. These benefits will be established for the initial period of 50 years.

The Centre will function under a special legal regime based on the principles and norms of the English common law. In addition, an independent Tashkent International Commercial Court will be established. It will be staffed by highly respected foreign judges and international experts.

We will also develop an investment mediation system. In this regard, we intend to join the United Nations Singapore Convention on Mediation.

As a result of these measures, investors will receive guaranteed international legal protection right here in Uzbekistan.

We encourage all of you to make full use of these favourable conditions and the vast opportunities of the emerging new ecosystem.

The second priority is the development of the capital market and paving the way for alternative financial instruments.

Uzbekistan is rapidly developing next-generation financial technologies and capital markets.

Over the past period, we have placed bonds worth more than 16 billion US dollars in international markets. Furthermore, we have

introduced corporate Eurobonds denominated in the national currency.

For the first time, we have listed 30 percent of the shares of the National Investment Fund, which manages assets in 13 strategic enterprises, on the Tashkent and London Stock Exchanges. Notably, this became the largest IPO on the London Stock Exchange in the last five years. We are also preparing a number of other major companies for IPOs.

To strengthen the legal framework for such reforms, the laws on the Capital Market and Alternative Investment Funds will be adopted.

We will also create broad opportunities for the operation of international clearing companies in Uzbekistan. In addition, to diversify investment flows, we will launch a program to issue sovereign Islamic bonds - sukuk.

This will provide a powerful impetus for attracting at least \$10 billion of additional capital into our enterprises in the future.

Also, as part of the privatization program this year, assets worth 6 billion US dollars will be put up for auction, including real estate properties, state shares in enterprises, land plots.

We encourage local and foreign investors to make extensive use of these new opportunities.

The third priority is attracting investments to expand high value-added chains.

We have launched major programs for transition to a new technological level in all industrial sectors and to create added value.

Over the next five years, we will increase the volume of high-tech production in the industrial sector by 2.5 times.

For example, our cooperation in the development of the advanced chemical industry will allow to utilize \$20 billion investment potential, create 15 000 high-income jobs in the regions and produce 130 types of new products. I am confident, it will bring mutual benefits to both us and you, the investors.

As you are well aware, Uzbekistan is rich in natural resources, including gold, copper, uranium, tungsten, natural gas, and other rare minerals. The total value of our subsoil wealth, strategic raw materials, is estimated at \$3 trillion.

In order to provide opportunities in this sector to foreign investors we will create an open digital database of geological data and increase by four times the number of deposits put up for auction. To implement projects from "mining to finished products," we will extensively attract foreign investment into the "Metals of the Future" technoparks, which are being established in Tashkent and Samarkand regions.

We also propose the joint implementation of investment projects worth \$30 billion in such "driver" industries, such as mechanical

engineering and robotics, light industry and construction materials, electrical engineering and pharmaceuticals.

We are ready to comprehensively support your initiatives in the "new economy" sectors.

The fourth priority is the further deepening of our partnership in the fields of green energy and artificial intelligence.

As you know, we pay tremendous attention to green energy. In the coming years, we plan to increase its share in total electricity generation to 54 percent.

Alongside solar and wind power plants, we are putting forward proposals to investors regarding the development of energy storage systems, the modernization of grids, the creation of data centres powered by green energy.

The development of the artificial intelligence sector is a crucial imperative of our time. Foreign experts forecast that over the next five years, at least \$10 billion in added value will be created in this new field in Uzbekistan.

To widely implement artificial intelligence across all spheres, we have adopted a National Strategy based on the most advanced practices. Within its framework, the "Five Million Leaders" program has been launched.

Our main task is to improve the lives of all layers of the population by using artificial intelligence, utilizing it extensively in education, public services, and business processes.

We have created a special zone for artificial intelligence projects and data centres in Karakalpakstan. In this territory, until 2040 investors will be exempt from all types of taxes and duties; road, electricity, and water infrastructure will be financed by the state; a preferential electricity tariff of 5 cents per kilowatt-hour will be applied.

Additionally, we are establishing the International Digital Technology Centre of Uzbekistan, which features a special legal regime. Taking this opportunity, we invite you to cooperate on highly attractive projects in these areas.

The fifth priority is the development of regional transport and logistics connectivity.

As is well known, access to international trade markets is of great importance for investors. The heads of government from the countries of our vast region are also participating in today's event. In recent years, together with the leaders of these nations we have been working to transform Central Asia into an interconnected region of broad opportunities, open to the world.

Specifically, in cooperation with China and Kyrgyzstan, we are rapidly continuing the construction of a strategic railway. We are also actively working on the Trans-Afghan Corridor project, which will provide direct access to southern seaports. Furthermore, we are developing the Middle Corridor transport route, which runs through the Caspian Sea. By the full

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implementation of these projects, we will join the network of transport arteries connecting Asia and Europe.

We have also begun implementing several mega-projects in our country in the transport and logistics sector.

For instance, together with our Saudi partners, we are building the new Tashkent International Airport, which will serve 20 million passengers a year.

We believe that your active participation in the projects presented to you at this forum, such as the construction of high-speed highways, multifunctional logistics centres and "dry ports" will be equally beneficial for all of us.

The sixth priority is elevating investment cooperation in regional development to a new level.

The population of Uzbekistan is approaching 40 million people. Rapid demographic and economic growth requires us to implement major urbanization and urban development programs.

Within their framework, by 2040, we plan to double the volume of housing construction and increase the urbanization level from the current 51 percent to 65 percent.

We are building new investment centres designed for the distant future. In the territory adjacent to our capital, we are constructing a modern metropolis, New Tashkent, designed for 2 million residents. We have also begun implementing projects to transform Andijan, Namangan, and Samarkand into cities with populations over one million.

In general, housing construction projects in our country will provide at least \$10 billion a guaranteed market volume per year. In addition, we are ready to implement with you public-private partnership projects in infrastructure development worth \$27 billion.



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I also believe that the breathtaking beauty of our country, its unique culture and hospitality of our people will serve as a lasting investment to strengthen our friendship.

In closing, I would like to express once again my sincere gratitude to all investors, representatives of foreign governments and international organizations, and members of the diplomatic corps participating in our forum.

I wish you good health, prosperity, and every success in your endeavors.



ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Shavkat Mirziyoyev

AT THE MEETING OF THE FOREIGN INVESTORS COUNCIL

I am pleased to see you at the regular plenary session of the Foreign Investors Council.

First of all, dear Ms. Renaud-Basso, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of our reforms and for your effective co-chairmanship of the Council.

I also extend my sincere respect and appreciation to the leaders of all international organizations and foreign companies participating in today's session.

Ladies and gentlemen!

In recent years, the Council has evolved from a simple advisory mechanism into a platform for practical reforms, a reliable bridge between New Uzbekistan and the global investment community.

Today, the Council has acquired the status of an independent association and has, in the fullest sense of the word, developed into a strong and influential institution.

Over the past year, the number of Council participants has increased from 54 to 85 companies. They cover 23 sectors of our economy and directly participate in the activities of the working groups.

The EBRD, ADB and International Finance Corporation are actively engaged in the work of the Executive Committee of the Council.

It is noteworthy that the active involvement of all our members in the Council is steadily growing. This is a clear testament to the high level of trust in this investment platform.

Distinguished Council participants!

Last year, we also had opportunity to meet and discuss a wide range of important issues. At the previous meeting, concrete solutions were provided for 21 initiatives put forward.

I would like to particularly emphasize that the investors' proposals are being translated into practical government policies. A significant number of recommendations have already been incorporated into improvements of our regulatory and legal framework.

In particular investor-friendly amendments have been introduced to the Tax Code; intercompany domestic loan agreements have been exempted from financial control; the right to accelerated



depreciation of fixed assets has been granted; numerous mandatory requirements for foreign companies reporting under international standards have been abolished

Furthermore, a draft Law on Alternative Investment Funds has been developed. A program for implementing responsible business conduct standards has been prepared, and work has been undertaken to align 16 technical regulations with international standards.

At the same time, we have taken new steps toward fulfilling international commitments aimed at ensuring equal and fair conditions for foreign investors.

Recently, we announced our decision to submit an application to accede to the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises.

As a logical continuation of our efforts in this direction, the adoption of the Constitutional Law on the Tashkent International Financial Center is expected.

All of this serves as clear evidence that your ideas and proposals are being translated into concrete actions.

Distinguished members of the Council!

Over the past period, the working groups under the Council have held more than 50 productive meetings for investors.

As a result, under the co-chairmanship of foreign investors, issues were comprehensively discussed in priority areas, such as alternative investment funds, pledge legislation, responsible business conduct, professional education and workforce development, tax administration, land allocation, and energy.

In preparation for today's meeting we received 120 new proposals and initiatives from you. Following a thorough review, these proposals were consolidated into seven priority areas.

These include issues of improving the investment climate, tax system, cadastral administration, energy, financial and banking system, corporate governance, artificial intelligence, and the digital economy.

In particular, the following proposals are especially relevant today: simplifying monitoring procedures in foreign exchange circulation; introducing new financial mechanisms and instruments, including Islamic insurance, green financing, and launching the sale of distressed bank assets; promoting the adoption of ESG principles by enterprises, including environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and effective corporate governance.



Responsible officials have been assigned to each of these areas, and specific solutions have already been developed.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to the co-chairs of the working groups who assumed this important responsibility – the heads of Vision Invest, BDO, Crowe, OTP Group, Franklin Templeton, Ernst & Young, Costa Legal, and ACWA Power.

also express my special gratitude to all members of the Council for their active engagement throughout the year, as well as for their contribution to preparation of important documents and well-developed initiatives.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Now I would like to move to an open and a direct dialogue.

What challenges have you identified based on your analyses over the past year?



What additional measure should the Government take to further improve the investment climate?

Today, members of the Government – Deputy Prime Ministers and Ministers – are present in this hall.
We are prepared to listen carefully to your views and to discuss every concern and recommendation in detail.

If you have suggestions on how to make our cooperation more effective, we will consider them in the spirit of openness and constructive dialogue.

Without a doubt, all the issues raised today will be carefully reviewed, and a comprehensive roadmap will be developed based on the results of our meeting.

Deputy Prime Minister J. Khodjaev and Minister of Investments, Industry and Trade L. Kudratov will personally report to me on a quarterly basis regarding the implementation of the roadmap.

Would this approach be acceptable to you?

I now invite you to share your views and proposals.



Dear friends!

Our dialogue today has been exceptionally meaningful and productive.

I was particularly encouraged by the practical and result-oriented nature of your proposals.

The initiatives put forward by our trusted partners will contribute to improving the well-being of our people and further strengthening the investment climate.

Your contribution to building an open, stable, and competitive economy in New Uzbekistan is highly valued.

The more opportunities we create for such constructive dialogue, the greater our progress will be.

I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your active participation in the work of our Council.

Taking this opportunity, I wish you good health, continued success in your professional endeavors, and happiness and prosperity in your personal lives.

GRESS



SPIEF'26 ПМЭФ'26

President of Uzbekistan puts forward new proposals for **UZBEK-RUSSIAN COOPERATION**

On June 5, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in the plenary session of the 29th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, currently underway in St. Petersburg.

Among the main speakers were President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, President of the United Republic of Tanzania Samia Suluhu Hassan, and Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng.

At the beginning of his address, the President of Uzbekistan warmly welcomed all those present and expressed his delight at being in St. Petersburg,

a city closely linked to Uzbekistan through history, deep spiritual ties, and human destinies.

The President noted that the world is undergoing a profound transformation, with transportation routes changing, new supply chains being formed, modern technological platforms emerging, and artificial intelligence being deployed across industries.

"Competition is increasingly evident not only in the struggle for markets and natural resources, but also is shifting into the realm of technology, algorithms, logistics and infrastructure," Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted.

As the President emphasized, under current conditions, the role of countries and regions capable of fostering cooperation, stability, and mutual benefit is becoming increasingly important.

"For millennia, Uzbekistan has been at the heart of the Great Silk Road. It was not merely goods that passed through Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent;

ideas and knowledge, cultural and religious traditions also intermingled. Therefore, for us, openness has never been a choice, but a vital necessity and a civilizational code," the President of Uzbekistan said.

Reviewing the key areas of the Uzbek-Russian strategic partnership and alliance, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev highlighted the significant progress achieved in trade and economic, interregional, and industrial cooperation, as well as partnership in the energy sector.

To expand technological and industrial cooperation between Uzbekistan and Russia, he proposed the formation of a "Eurasian Technological Industrialization Belt", an interconnected system of industrial and technological clusters united by a single digital platform.

Digitalization was also identified as a promising area of cooperation, creating new opportunities for employment, logistics, payment services, and exports.

The President of Uzbekistan also proposed launching the formation of a Joint Digital Ecosystem, which could include the harmonization of regulatory frameworks for digital trade and urban services, the further promotion of Uzbek and Russian brands across shared platforms, the creation of a unified digital employment profile, and the development of artificial intelligence-based products.

Given that Uzbekistan is one of the world's youngest countries, the Leader of Uzbekistan also proposed creating a joint online platform for human capital development aimed at linking education, vocational training, and the labor market. To strengthen the cultural and humanitarian dimension of cooperation, the President proposed launching the “From Samarkand to St. Petersburg” creative and tourism corridor, featuring joint art and film festivals, museum exhibitions, gastronomic weeks, and music events.

The key achievements of Uzbekistan’s systemic economic reforms were also presented to the participants of the plenary session.

“A decade ago, we embarked on the construction of a New Uzbekistan based on openness, inclusivity and pragmatism. Over the years, we have established a solid foundation for long-term growth, including a favorable business environment, a stable industrial base and new infrastructure,” the President said.

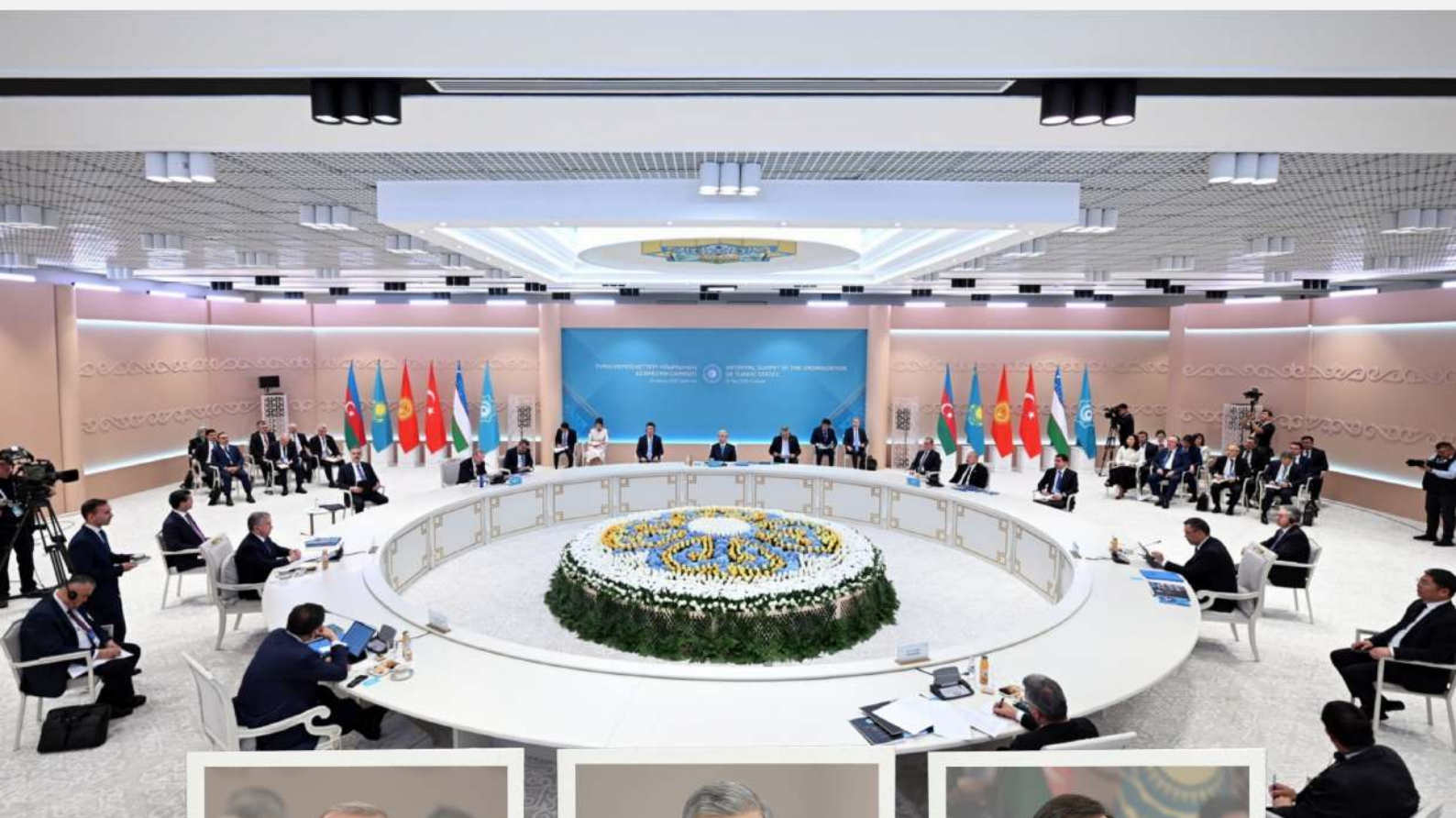
He emphasized that one of Uzbekistan’s key advantages is its young, active, and rapidly growing population, which provides a long-term foundation for the development of entrepreneurship, technology, services, and industry. At the same time, growth must be not only rapid, but also sustainable, inclusive, and focused on improving people's quality of life.



The steady creation of conditions for the inflow of global investment was highlighted through the development of a favorable business climate, the strengthening of market institutions, and the growth of competition and production potential.

Forum participants were invited to take advantage of the special legal and tax regime of the Tashkent International Financial Centre and to participate in the Tashkent International Investment Forum on June 16–18.

In conclusion, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized that open dialogue has become the main prerequisite for sustainable development today, and that new opportunities arise where there is trust, a willingness to cooperate, and a commitment to finding solutions together.



President of Uzbekistan puts forward series of initiatives at informal summit of the Organization of Turkic States

On May 15, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in the informal summit of the Organization of Turkic States held under the theme “Artificial Intelligence and Digital Development.”

The summit in the city of Turkestan was also attended by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, President of the Republic of Türkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and OTS Secretary General Kubanychbek Omuraliev.

The leaders exchanged views on the summit agenda and discussed the

current state of multifaceted cooperation and priority areas for practical partnership in detail.

At the beginning of his address, the President of Uzbekistan expressed gratitude to President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for the high-level organization of the informal summit in Turkestan, an important trade and cultural center of the Great Silk Road.

He also commended President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev for his effective chairmanship of the OTS and his efforts to strengthen the organization’s international standing.



It was noted that the integration of the Turkic world is a long-term strategic issue that directly affects the destinies of our fraternal peoples.

“Our meeting today is taking place at a time when tensions are escalating around the world. Trust in international relations is waning, and the role and influence of global institutions are increasingly weakening. These challenges require us to intensify our dialogue and develop unified positions on critical issues,” President of Uzbekistan said.

In recent years, the Organization of Turkic States has become an influential structure demonstrating sustainable development rates. For example, in 2025, the combined economic potential of our countries exceeded \$2.4 trillion, while its growth dynamics were twice the global average.

Over the past year alone, Uzbekistan’s trade turnover with the Organization’s member states increased by 14 percent. The Turkic Investment Fund began operations this year, while the Council of Central Banks and the Turkic Green Finance Council were also launched.

The President of Uzbekistan emphasized that there is an urgent need to give multifaceted relations a more systemic character. Moreover, it is no coincidence that the summit is dedicated to artificial intelligence and digital development.

“Our great ancestors – Muhammad Khwarizmi, Ahmad Fergani, Abu Rayhan Biruni, and Mirzo Ulugbek – made an invaluable contribution to the development of algorithms, mathematics, astronomy, and physics, thereby laying the foundation for modern artificial intelligence. Building upon this priceless heritage, we are today creating a new era of digital development for the Turkic world,” Shavkat Mirziyoyev said

In his address, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward a number of specific initiatives aimed at developing cooperation in this area.

The Leader of Uzbekistan emphasized the need to establish a network of strategic cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence within the Organization, taking into account global technological trends. This initiative will help identify new points of economic growth through the development of quantum computing technologies and the creation of a unified digital space.

It was also proposed to develop the concept of a “Digital Turkic



Corridor” to ensure regional data exchange and to hold a Technology Forum in Tashkent with the participation of OTS member states.

The Center for Islamic Civilization, established in Tashkent for the in-depth study and promotion of our shared scientific and spiritual heritage, is becoming a major regional scientific and educational center. A TURKSOY office has recently been opened within the complex.

“It would be beneficial for our peoples if the Center, together with TURKSOY and the Turkic Academy, brought together historical and cultural resources on a single big data platform,” the Head of State said.

It was also proposed to organize an in-depth study and broad dissemination of the ideas of tolerance and enlightenment of the Yasawi order.

Uzbekistan’s “Five Million AI Leaders” program, aimed at preparing the younger generation for modern professions, is highly praised. To finance youth startup projects, the President of Uzbekistan called on all member states to join the joint venture fund being established by Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Satisfaction was expressed with the full implementation of the “E-Permit” electronic permit system among member states to simplify freight transportation procedures. Practical tasks were identified for connecting the strategically important Middle Corridor with the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway currently under construction, as well as for the full digitalization of customs data exchange.

In order to organize coordinated efforts to counter climate change, an initiative was put forward to declare 2027 the “Year of Nature Conservation” in the Turkic World.

The need to establish a climate risk monitoring system under the OTS based on satellite data was also emphasized, along with the introduction of artificial intelligence technologies for early drought detection and transboundary water resource management. The President of Uzbekistan put forward a proposal to establish a Turkic Alliance for Cybersecurity and Digital Infrastructure Protection in order to create a solid legal and technological basis for combating terrorism, extremism, and cyber threats.

Concluding his address, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the combination of intellectual potential and unity can transform the Turkic world into a space of sustainable development and advanced solutions.

Following the summit, the Turkestan Declaration was adopted.



President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev Charts a Deeper Course With the Eurasian Union

We stand ready to develop additional incentives for high-tech residents from EAEU member states.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev joined the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council's regular session on May 29 as the head of an observer state, taking his seat among the bloc's full membership. The meeting was chaired by Kazakhstan's Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and drew Belarus's Alexander Lukashenko, Kyrgyzstan's Sadyr Japarov, Russia's Vladimir Putin, and Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigoryan, alongside observers from Cuba and Iran and officials from the Eurasian Economic Commission and the CIS.

Opening his remarks, Mirziyoyev described Tashkent's ties with the Union as having matured well past simple trade into a full economic partnership – one where logistics links, industrial cooperation, and new digital-economy initiatives are all deepening together. A three-year action plan drawn up with the Eurasian Economic Commission is wrapping up this year, and he proposed the two sides adopt its successor at a working-group meeting in Tashkent this autumn.

Much of the address centered on stitching the bloc's trade systems together digitally: aligning technical-regulation standards, exchanging customs and phytosanitary data electronically, and moving toward mutual recognition of e-documents. Mirziyoyev also floated "smart" transport and customs corridors – digital transit systems linked to traceability platforms and modernized border posts – building on the momentum of April's INNOPROM Central Asia exhibition in Tashkent, which he said had shown real appetite for joint manufacturing and localized production.

To carry that interest forward, he proposed a Joint Cooperation Project Office based in Uzbekistan – a one-stop shop, run with the Eurasian Economic Commission, to match investors with projects inside the country's free industrial zones. He also introduced a joint Green Industry Transformation Program aimed at energy efficiency and lower-carbon production, framing it not as environmental policy alone but as a competitiveness question for the region's industry.

On labor, Mirziyoyev called for linking national electronic employment services into a single digital system, giving workers direct access to verified vacancies and migration rules while cutting the risk of informal, unregulated employment. He closed by inviting EAEU partners to help promote Uzbekistan's "Tourism Ring of Central Asia" initiative across shared digital platforms, and by casting the country's broader engagement with the bloc's programs as a contribution to the region's long-term, mutual development.

AT A GLANCE

Next Action Plan

To be proposed this autumn at a Joint Working Group meeting in Tashkent

Digital Trade Space

Shared customs, phytosanitary, and e-document standards across the bloc

Smart Corridors

Digital transit systems tied to traceability platforms and modern border posts

Cooperation Office

A Tashkent-based one-stop shop for EAEU investment and industrial projects

Green Industry Pact

A joint program on energy efficiency and lower-carbon production

Labor Mobility

Linked electronic employment services across member states

Tourism Ring

A Central Asia-wide route promoted on shared digital platforms



Burkhoniddin Marginoni Complex set to become a landmark of the Fergana Valley

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev inspected the cultural and service facilities at the Burkhoniddin Marginoni scientific, educational, and tourist complex in the city of Margilan.

The work being carried out to unlock the tourism potential of the Fergana region is yielding results. This is clearly evidenced by the severalfold increase in the number of foreign tourists visiting the region in recent years.

The ancient city of Margilan has significant potential in this area. Based on a resolution of the Head of State dated April 1, 2025, the Burkhoniddin Marginoni Complex has been established here. It was built on the “city within a city” principle, harmoniously combining the traditions of national architecture, the history of Margilan, and infrastructure that meets modern tourism requirements.

The complex, which covers an area of 35 hectares, is being equipped with all necessary amenities for tourists. Construction of a hotel, a caravanserai, trade and service facilities, an artisan center, a national bazaar, and a museum has been completed.

A key focus of the complex is the study and promotion of



the rich scholarly heritage of the outstanding scholar Burkhoniddin Marginoni. Alongside this, measures are planned to preserve traditional crafts, as well as to develop pilgrimage and cultural tourism.

The complex also houses the “Otabek and Kumush House” museum. Scenes from the novel “Bygone Days” come to life here, creating a unique atmosphere where literature and history harmoniously intertwine. In addition, a makom theater, an alley of poets and artists, and a library are located here.

The project’s master plan, with a total cost of 1.7 trillion soums, was developed by the Turkish company Studio Vertebra, with the complex to be built in two stages. In the future, it is planned to establish a business center, a mosque with a capacity of 1,500 people, hotels, 400 trade and service outlets, and an eastern bazaar with 300 stalls.

The Head of State inspected the progress of construction, visited artisan workshops, viewed an exhibition of fine and applied arts and the bazaar’s trade rows, and held a conversation with community representatives.

Once fully commissioned, the complex is expected to attract an average of 200,000–250,000 foreign tourists annually, create 2,000 jobs, generate 52 billion soums in budget revenues, and export services worth \$30 million.

The experience of the Burkhoniddin Marginoni Complex is also planned to be applied to other projects, including the “Eternal Bukhara” project in Bukhara, the development of infrastructure around the Imam Maturidi Mausoleum in Samarkand, the Urda in Kokand, the Akhsikent architectural monument in Namangan, and the historic part of Tashkent.

Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex Samarkand

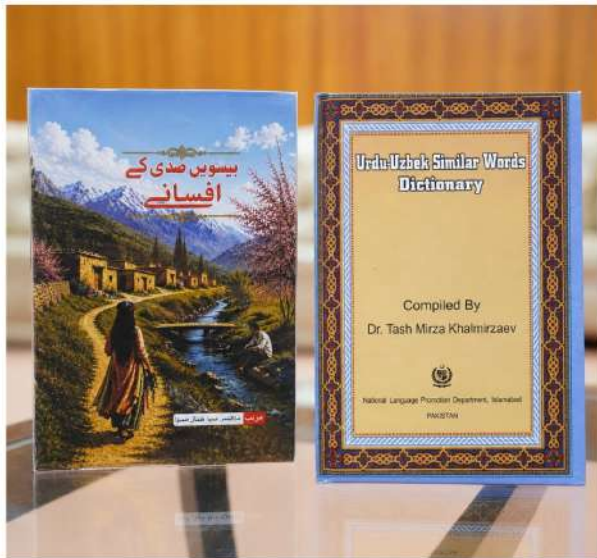
A sacred destination honouring Imam al-Bukhari, one of Islam's greatest scholars and the compiler of Sahih al-Bukhari. Located near Samarkand, this magnificent complex welcomes pilgrims from around the world for reflection, prayer and spiritual peace.

Visit Samarkand—where history, faith and knowledge come together.





In Pakistan, a presentation was held for the Urdu language book “Short stories of the 20th century”, featuring stories by Uzbek writers, as well as the dictionary “Urdu-Uzbek Similar Words Dictionary”



The presentation was opened by Uzbekistan’s Ambassador to Pakistan, Alisher Tukhtaev. In his speech, he paid special attention to the reforms being carried out under the leadership of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and their results, while also speaking about the current state of Uzbek-Pakistani relations. It was noted that the state visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Pakistan on February 5–6 of this year elevated bilateral cooperation, including in the cultural and educational sphere, to a new level. The presented books became a practical outcome of the agreements reached during that visit in the fields of culture and education.

“The dictionary ‘Urdu-Uzbek Similar Words Dictionary’ by Toshmirza Kholmiraev is the result of his many years of scientific research. Similar words in Urdu and Uzbek are the outcome of a centuries-old historical process. This dictionary will become an important practical guide for students, teachers, translators, and researchers studying both languages,” the ambassador emphasized.



The presentation took place in Islamabad at the National Language Promotion Department of Pakistan. The event introduced the Urdu-language book “Short stories of the 20th century”, which includes stories by renowned Uzbek writers, along with the dictionary “Urdu-Uzbek Similar Words Dictionary”.

The event was attended by Pakistan’s Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Advisor to the Chairman of the Senate Misbah Khar, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, heads of various ministries and agencies, members of both houses of parliament, ambassadors and diplomats from Turkmenistan, Russia, Türkiye, Tajikistan, and Iran, representatives of business and academic circles, media representatives, as well as compatriots living in and around Islamabad and members of the general public.

The ambassador also spoke about the Urdu-language book “Short stories of the 20th century”. It includes around fifty stories by outstanding representatives of Uzbek literature – Abdullah Qahhor, Said Ahmad, Saida Zunnunova, O’tkir Hoshimov, and Shukur Kholmiraev.

Speaking at the event, Pakistani Senator Talha Mahmood noted that thanks to the efforts of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbek-Pakistani relations are experiencing their best period. According to him, Uzbekistan, under the President’s leadership, is building friendly relations with all countries and becoming an important participant on the global political stage.

He also highly praised the many years of work by dictionary author Toshmirza Kholmiraev, noting

that the collection of around four thousand words with similar meanings in Uzbek and Urdu represents a major scholarly achievement.

Muhammad Salim Mazhar, Director General of Pakistan's National Language Promotion Department, stressed in his speech that literature and culture are the greatest spiritual forces bringing nations closer together.

"The dictionary 'Urdu-Uzbek Similar Words Dictionary', prepared by the distinguished diplomat and Urdu expert from Uzbekistan, Toshmirza Kholmirezayev, has been published by our Department. This is a great honor for us. I would like to express deep gratitude to the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan and the translator's family for their assistance in preparing the publication," he said.

Professor Mukhayo Abdurakhmanova of the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Candidate of Philological Sciences, spoke about the latest initiatives supporting art,



reading culture. If our Uzbek-Urdu dictionary helps translators in their work and benefits young people studying languages, then we will have achieved our goal," he said.

Pakistan's Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture, Aurangzeb Khichi, highlighted in his speech the importance of the "Uzbek model" of reforms aimed at modernizing society, improving public welfare, and preserving cultural heritage.

"During my visits to Uzbekistan, I personally witnessed the results of the reforms and the achievements attained. Undoubtedly, positive changes in the neighboring region, especially in Uzbekistan, are also reflected in our country. Uzbekistan's experience in preserving cultural heritage and respecting the contribution of ancestors to world civilization can serve as an example for Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan highly values the cultural, educational, and historical initiatives of the President of Uzbekistan," the minister emphasized.

culture, and literature in the country, as well as efforts to translate works by Uzbek authors into foreign languages. According to her, the book "Short stories of the 20th century" bringing together works by five outstanding Uzbek writers, is an important step in promoting Uzbek literature internationally.

"In Uzbekistan, translation activities receive significant attention at the state level. Translating the best examples of Uzbek literature into foreign languages and world literary works into Uzbek contributes to strengthening international cultural ties. Today's book is a practical result of these efforts," the translator noted.

Dictionary author Toshmirza Kholmirezayev emphasized in his speech that the goal of compiling the dictionary is to further strengthen the historical, cultural, and linguistic ties between the two peoples.

"In Uzbekistan, great attention is paid to literature and translation, supporting young translators, and developing a



AMBASSADOR OF UZBEKISTAN AND ISLAMABAD ADMINISTRATION CHIEF REVIEW PROGRESS OF BABUR PARK AND TASHKENT STREET CONSTRUCTION IN PAKISTAN'S CAPITAL



**the park will become a
future symbol of the
enduring friendship and
fraternal relations between
the peoples of Uzbekistan
and Pakistan**

Ambassador of Uzbekistan Alisher Tukhtaev, met with Chief Commissioner of the Islamabad Capital Territory Sohail Ashraf.

During the meeting, the parties reviewed issues concerning the further improvement of the “Babur” Park and “Tashkent” Street projects, which are being established in the Pakistani capital at the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan.

Pakistani side was informed about the Sister Cities Forum scheduled to take place in Uzbekistan in June 2026. Given Islamabad's sister-city ties with Tashkent and Samarkand, the parties discussed the participation of Islamabad's administration representatives in the forum, as well as a proposal to sign a new agreement on establishing sister-city relations with the city of Fergana.

Following the negotiations, the parties visited the “Babur” Park construction site - the creation of which was announced during the state visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Pakistan and reviewed the progress of the construction work.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan provided detailed information on the park project and its implementation progress, noting that construction is being carried out under the supervision of Uzbek designers and specialists. He emphasized that eco-friendly plantations and professional landscaping will be used to beautify the territory.

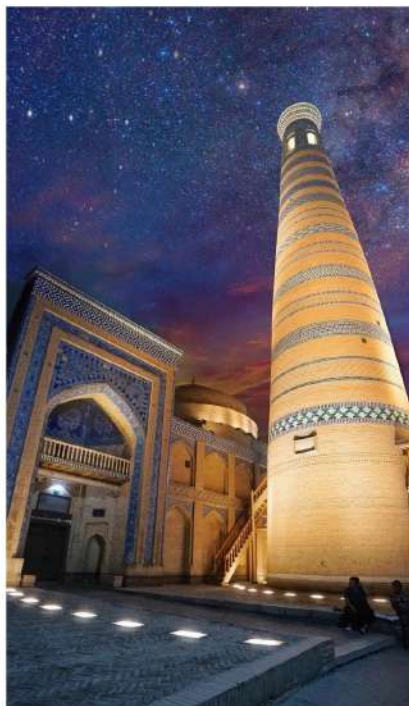
According to the Ambassador, the park will become a future symbol of the enduring friendship and fraternal relations between the peoples of Uzbekistan and Pakistan, as well as their shared historical and cultural ties. Sohail Ashraf spoke highly of the project and expressed his gratitude to the President of Uzbekistan for such an initiative. He noted that upon completion, the park would become one of the most beautiful and modern recreational areas not only in Islamabad but in all of Pakistan.

He also stated that the city administration would provide full support for the project's implementation and expressed interest in engaging Uzbek designers and planners to develop similar urban landscaping concepts.

During the visit to the park, the parties emphasized the importance of preserving existing trees, expanding green spaces and protecting the ecological environment.

Furthermore, Ambassador of Uzbekistan and Chief Commissioner of Islamabad visited the “Tashkent” Street construction site in the Pakistani capital and outlined further tasks for its transformation into an exemplary and modern urban street.

UZBEKISTAN'S TOURISM RENAISSANCE: A JOURNEY TOWARDS GLOBAL RECOGNITION



Hamid Mahmood

Uzbekistan is experiencing an inspiring transformation as it emerges as one of the world's most promising tourism destinations. Blessed with magnificent architecture, ancient cities, rich cultural traditions and the legendary hospitality of its people, the country is attracting increasing attention from travellers across the globe.

The historic cities of Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva remain at the heart of Uzbekistan's tourism appeal. Their majestic monuments, colourful bazaars, Islamic heritage and centuries-old traditions take visitors back to the golden age of the Great Silk Road. At the same time, Tashkent presents the image of a modern and progressive capital, where contemporary development exists in harmony with history and culture.

The growth of tourism in Uzbekistan is the result of a clear national vision and sustained efforts by the government. Improved infrastructure, modern hotels, convenient transportation, simplified visa procedures and expanding international air connections have made the country more accessible and welcoming. New tourism products—including pilgrimage tourism, cultural festivals, gastronomic experiences, mountain adventures and eco-tourism—are allowing visitors to discover Uzbekistan from many different perspectives.

Pakistan is becoming an increasingly important tourism market for Uzbekistan. The historical, cultural and spiritual connections between our two nations provide a strong foundation for closer relations. The shared legacy of great personalities such as Amir Timur, Zahir-ud-Din Muhammad Babur, Imam al-Bukhari and Bahauddin Naqshband holds deep significance for Pakistani travellers. Direct flights, tourism exhibitions, familiarization tours, media visits and collaboration between tour operators are helping more Pakistanis discover Uzbekistan. The growing interest among

families, business travellers, students and Ziyarat groups clearly demonstrates the enormous potential of this market.

Tourism, however, is not only about increasing the number of visitors. It is also about building bridges between people, creating employment, supporting local communities and preserving cultural heritage for future generations. Every visitor who experiences Uzbekistan's beauty and hospitality becomes an ambassador for the country.

As Uzbekistan continues its journey towards becoming a leading international tourism destination, cooperation between governments, airlines, travel companies, media organizations and educational institutions will remain essential. Through joint efforts, we can present the true spirit of Uzbekistan to the world—a country where history lives, culture flourishes and every guest is welcomed as a friend. The future of tourism in Uzbekistan is bright. With its timeless heritage, ambitious development and warm-hearted people, Uzbekistan is ready to welcome the world.

UZBEKISTAN AND PAKISTAN OPEN NEW CHAPTER IN OPHTHALMOLOGY AND MEDICAL TOURISM

The Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan recently visited Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital in Rawalpindi, marking an important step towards expanding bilateral cooperation in ophthalmology, medical education and healthcare tourism.

Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital is one of Pakistan's largest and most respected ophthalmology institutions. During the visit, the Uzbek Ambassador held comprehensive and productive discussions with the hospital's senior leadership. The meeting explored opportunities to establish direct and long-term cooperation between healthcare institutions and medical specialists from Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

The two sides reached important understandings on cooperation in the diagnosis and treatment of eye diseases, the introduction of modern ophthalmic technologies and the professional development of doctors and medical personnel.



Supporting Uzbek Patients

Particular attention was given to arranging medical treatment for citizens of Uzbekistan, especially children, elderly patients and members of socially vulnerable communities.

The discussions included the possibility of organizing charitable eye examinations and surgical programmes for Uzbek patients. Such initiatives could provide life-changing treatment to people who might otherwise have limited access to specialized ophthalmic care.

The cooperation would also create opportunities for Uzbek patients to receive treatment at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, contributing to the development of medical tourism between the two countries.

Training and Exchange of Expertise

Medical training and professional capacity-building formed another major part of the discussions. Proposed initiatives include specialist exchanges, practical training programmes and opportunities for Uzbek doctors and medical staff to benefit from Pakistan's experience in ophthalmology.

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Training and Exchange of Expertise

Medical training and professional capacity-building formed another major part of the discussions. Proposed initiatives include specialist exchanges, practical training programmes and opportunities for Uzbek doctors and medical staff to benefit from Pakistan's experience in ophthalmology. Visits by Pakistani ophthalmologists to Uzbekistan were also discussed. These specialists could conduct medical consultations, perform charitable eye surgeries and provide training to local doctors and healthcare professionals.

By sharing expertise and introducing advanced treatment techniques, both countries can strengthen the capabilities of their medical institutions and improve the quality of healthcare services available to their citizens.

Telemedicine and Scientific Cooperation

The Ambassador and the hospital's leadership also considered the development of telemedicine as a practical means of connecting specialists in Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Through remote consultations, doctors from both countries could jointly review complicated cases, exchange professional recommendations and provide timely assistance to patients.

Plans for joint scientific conferences, medical workshops and practical training events were also discussed. These activities would encourage academic cooperation, support



medical research and create lasting professional connections between ophthalmologists and healthcare institutions in both countries.

Strengthening People-to-People Relations

The Ambassador expressed confidence that the understandings reached during the visit would serve as an important step towards further strengthening Uzbekistan-Pakistan relations. Cooperation in healthcare carries a special humanitarian value because it directly improves people's lives. The partnership with Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital could restore sight, expand access to specialized treatment and create valuable learning opportunities for medical professionals.

The initiative also demonstrates the growing scope of relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. While the two brotherly countries continue to strengthen cooperation in tourism, trade, education and culture, healthcare and medical tourism are now emerging as promising new areas of partnership.

The Ambassador's visit to Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital has laid the foundation for practical cooperation that could benefit patients, doctors and healthcare institutions in both countries. It represents a shared commitment to developing modern, accessible and compassionate healthcare services for the people of Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

CENTER OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION OF UZBEKISTAN RECOVERS STOLEN ARTEFACTS FROM ABROAD



Stolen cultural property dating back to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD has been returned to Uzbekistan following a large-scale investigation involving law enforcement agencies and scholars from across Europe.

A number of artefacts, illegally smuggled from the Central Asian republic that was once the heart of the Bactrian and Kushan empires, were presented by the Metropolitan Police's Art and Antiquities Unit at the Embassy of Uzbekistan. They will subsequently be transported back to their homeland, where they will take a prominent place in the exhibition of the recently opened Center of Islamic Civilization in Tashkent.

The event serves as vivid evidence of Uzbekistan's consistent policy regarding the repatriation of national cultural

heritage and highlights the growing global trend toward the protection of cultural values.

"This event is a compelling confirmation of the broad international support for the consistent course of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, aimed at returning cultural treasures to their homeland, - noted Firdavs Abdukhalikov, Director of the Center of Islamic Civilization in Tashkent and Chairman of the Board of the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Legacy of Uzbekistan (WOSCU). - We are deeply grateful to our partners and law enforcement representatives from European countries for their support and look forward to further cooperation in preserving and restoring our cultural heritage".

Detective Sophie Hayes of the Metropolitan Police, addressing a gathering of prominent scholars and officials, emphasized that the recovered artefacts are the heritage not only of Uzbekistan but of all humanity. According to her, the investigation was conducted with the assistance of both national and international specialists, as well as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), with the support of the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularization of the Cultural Legacy of Uzbekistan (WOSCU).

The items presented at the exhibition are among the findings

The ceremony reflected a broader trend toward strengthening global interaction in the field of cultural heritage protection, with a particular focus on increasing transparency and adhering to ethical standards in the art and antiquities market.

The Center of Islamic Civilization also announced its intention to participate in the upcoming Sotheby's and Christie's auctions and to visit art galleries in London. These initiatives are aimed at acquiring new items of Uzbek cultural heritage for the purpose of their



discovered in November 2025 during an investigation codenamed Operation Inherent Vice by the police.

A total of nine artefacts were on display, including statue heads and fragments of gypsum frescoes. These monuments date from the 2nd-3rd to the 7th century AD and hold exceptional historical significance for both Uzbekistan and the broader Islamic world.

"The return of these priceless artefacts is not only a victory for New Uzbekistan but also a compelling testament to the power of international cooperation in preserving the country's historical heritage, - added Mr. Abdukhalikov, noting that cultural organizations, legal institutions and diplomatic missions have confirmed their readiness to assist Uzbekistan in recovering its lost treasures".

preservation and return to the homeland.

"Uzbekistan's efforts to return and protect its cultural heritage continue to attract the attention and support of the international community. We are setting a powerful example of coordinated action in the field of restitution of cultural property", - emphasized Mr. Abdukhalikov.

"The returned items possess exceptional historical and scientific value, as they belong to various eras of the ancient history of the territory of modern Uzbekistan and reflect the diversity of civilizational processes that have occurred in Central Asia over the centuries", - noted Dr. Farhod Maksudov, Director of the National Center of Archaeology (Institute of Archaeology) of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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Bukhara

REGION

2026

**IS ONE OF THE
CENTERS FOR THE
CREATION AND
DEVELOPMENT OF
NEW UZBEKISTAN**

Large-scale landscaping activities are underway in Bukhara region. The territories' infrastructure is being renovated, and the preservation of historical heritage and the harmonious combination of traditional architecture with modern construction solutions are ensured.

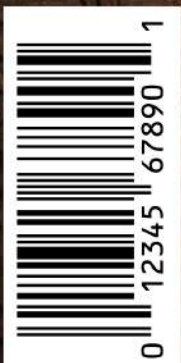
Bukhara, a historically significant center of Eastern civilization, continues to draw attention for its distinctive monuments and architectural ensembles.

The Poi-Kalon Complex, Ark Fortress, and the Labi-Khavuz Ensemble, which adapt to modern requirements while preserving their historical appearance, are among the reconstruction projects.

New residential areas are being developed, road and transportation infrastructure is expanding, and social facilities are being built in the region.

Efforts to increase the region's tourism potential include building modern hotels, service facilities, and cultural and recreational areas. These efforts create favorable conditions for both the local population and foreign tourists.

In the first quarter of this year, the number of tourists who visited the region totaled 2 million 137, which is 1.3 times that of the same period last year.



Uzbekistan

RANKED AMONG THE WORLD'S FASTEST-GROWING TOURISM DESTINATIONS

Based on the latest data from the World Tourism Barometer published by UN Tourism, Uzbekistan has ranked among the top five countries with the highest growth rates in attracting foreign tourists from January to March 2026. The number of international visitors to the country increased by 37% compared to 2025, reflecting the country's continued strengthening of its position on the global tourism stage.

The volume of international travel worldwide increased by an average of 2%, reaching 307 million travelers. This is 6 million more than in the same period of 2025.

Against the backdrop of global trends, Uzbekistan is showing even more remarkable growth in activity. Last year, the country set a new record by welcoming nearly 11.7 million foreign tourists in 12 months. In the first five months of this year, over 5.3 million visitors have already arrived.

Experts link this growth to the expansion of the visa-free regime, improvements in transport infrastructure, and efforts to promote the country's potential internationally. The number of hotels, industrial firms, and service facilities is rising rapidly, contributing to improved tourism service quality.

Safety, affordable prices for travelers, and rich historical and cultural heritage remain significant advantages. Traditional hotspots like Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva remain highly popular, but in recent years there has been rising interest in ecotourism, gastronomic tourism, and adventure tourism.

The rising number of tourists from non-regional countries shows that Uzbekistan is steadily establishing itself not only as a regional but also as an international tourist destination. Experts note that sustaining these growth rates will foster the industry's continued development and enhance its impact on the national economy.



Arda Khiva

a new brand on the international tourism stage



Under the agreements reached, the parties will work together to promote the Arda Khiva complex in the Russian and other promising markets, develop new tourism products, participate in international exhibitions and forums, and expand business contacts and partnerships.

According to experts, the agreement will help expand Uzbekistan's tourism exports, increase tourist traffic from Russia, and strengthen the international appeal of ancient Khiva as one of the region's key tourist centers.

Experts note that this partnership creates new opportunities not only for the Arda Khiva complex but also for the entire tourism industry of Khorezm region and Uzbekistan as a whole. This contributes to the broader promotion of the country's rich historical and cultural heritage, modern tourism infrastructure, and Uzbekistan's open investment policy on the international stage.



An important cooperation agreement to promote one of Uzbekistan's largest tourism projects – the Arda Khiva tourist complex – in international markets was signed during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

The agreement between Cronwell Development, one of Russia's leading companies in tourism infrastructure management and development, and Ostrovok, Russia's largest online travel aggregator, marks a new stage in the international promotion of the multifunctional Arda Khiva tourist complex in the Khorezm region of Uzbekistan.

This partnership is viewed as a practical outcome of the large-scale reforms initiated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and aimed at modernizing the country's tourism infrastructure, integrating historical and cultural heritage into global tourism routes, and increasing the flow of foreign tourists.



Centrum Air

An Additional Regular Air Route Launched Between Tashkent and Lahore

Uzbekistan's private airline Centrum Air has launched additional regular flights on the "Tashkent-Lahore-Tashkent" route.

On April 21 of this year, the airline's flight "SU 6561" successfully landed at Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore at 06:30 local time.

At Lahore International Airport, the inaugural flight was ceremonially welcomed with a traditional water salute in accordance with international aviation procedures, followed by an official ceremony.

The event was attended by Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan Alisher Tukhtayev, Uzbekistan's Honorary Consul in Punjab Najib Vohra, the management of Allama Iqbal International Airport, the aircraft commander and crew members, representatives of leading tourism companies, local media personnel, as well as passengers arriving from Tashkent and departing from Lahore.

During the welcoming ceremony, Pakistani representatives expressed sincere gratitude for the launch of another direct flight on the "Tashkent-Lahore-Tashkent" route. They also emphasized the importance of establishing direct air connections between regions of Uzbekistan and the city of Karachi.

It is worth noting that flights on the "Tashkent-Lahore" route represent another practical outcome of ongoing efforts to develop transport links between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, fully utilize and expand existing potential in trade, investment, and tourism within the framework of regional connectivity initiatives.

Additionally, these flights will contribute to creating a convenient, fast, and safe air corridor between Central Asian countries and Pakistan via Uzbekistan.

"We are pleased that Centrum Air's entry into the Pakistani market is being supported by a strong and experienced partner such as Gerry's Group," said Adil Mirza, a representative of Centrum Air. "The launch of additional flights on the Lahore-Tashkent route reflects our broader goals of strengthening regional connections and providing passengers with more efficient travel opportunities across our network."

With this new route, Centrum Air continues to expand its flight geography and strengthen its position as a reliable and active airline connecting Central Asia with key global destinations.



TASHKENT TO KARACHI

***will be starting from 3rd of
September 2026***

Centrum Air is set to launch direct flights between Tashkent and Karachi in September 2026. This new air connection will provide greater convenience for travellers and is expected to significantly increase tourism between Uzbekistan and Karachi, Pakistan's largest city.

The direct service will also strengthen people-to-people relations, promote cultural exchange, and create new opportunities for tourism and business cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.



UZBEKISTAN AND PAKISTAN STRENGTHEN TOURISM COOPERATION



A delegation of representatives from Pakistan's tourism industry is continuing its visit to Uzbekistan, organized by the Tourism Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The visit aims to expand tourism exchanges between the two countries and to develop direct partnerships between tour operators.

The key event of the first day of the program was a major B2B meeting on May 8, attended by 24 leading tour operators from Pakistan and about 50 representatives of tourism companies from Uzbekistan.

During the talks, the sides discussed the current state of cooperation in tourism, prospects for increasing tourist flows, and opportunities to launch new joint routes and programs.

Following the meeting, Uzbekistan and Pakistan's tour operators agreed to develop new tour packages and to sign cooperation agreements.

As part of the visit, the Pakistani delegation will also visit several tourist cities in Uzbekistan, where meetings with representatives of the regional tourism industry and familiarization with the country's tourism potential are planned.



Foreign tourist flow to Uzbekistan expected to increase



Interest in Uzbekistan has been growing recently.

The expansion of the visa-free regime and the increase in the number of air routes, international festivals, and cultural events are contributing to the growth in the flow of tourists visiting Uzbekistan.

According to the National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, from January to April, 4,048,417 foreign citizens visited the country for tourism purposes. This is 930,800 people, or 29.9% more than in the same period last year, indicating rapid development in the tourism sector.

The high share of tourists from Central Asian countries reflects the strengthening of close economic and cultural ties in the region. The increase in visits from China, India, and South Korea also indicates the strengthening of Uzbekistan's position in the international tourism market. The number of foreign tourists visiting Uzbekistan is expected to continue growing by the end of the year.



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GOOD FOOD



ZIYARATS

PAKISTAN, WE ARE COMING CLOSER



TASHKENT → KARACHI

FLIGHTS BEGIN 3 SEPTEMBER 2026



TASHKENT → ISLAMABAD

COMING SOON



Thanks to



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Uzbekistan in the Islamic
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