

NEWSLETTER

UZBEKISTAN

MARCH 2026 / VOL.01



PRESIDENT MIRZIYOYEV'S LANDMARK VISIT TO PAKISTAN

Opening a New Chapter in Trade, Tourism, Connectivity, and
Cultural Cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.





Pakistan Air Force fighter jets escorted the aircraft of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev into Pakistani airspace, symbolizing the deep friendship and respect between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

State visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Pakistan

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev has arrived in Islamabad on a state visit.

In Pakistan's airspace, the distinguished guest's aircraft was escorted by fighter jets of the Pakistan Air Force.

At Nur Khan Airport, the Head of our state was welcomed by President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and other officials.

The national flags of both countries were raised and a guard of honor was lined up. After the exchange of greetings between the leaders, children in national costumes presented them with flowers.



In accordance with the program, talks are scheduled today with the Commander of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif, as well as the first meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council.

Tomorrow, February 6, a meeting with President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, and participation in the Uzbek-Pakistani business forum are scheduled.

Upon arrival in Islamabad, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the headquarters of the company Global Industrial & Defence Solutions, where he held a meeting with the Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan Armed Forces, Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Key aspects of the further development of multifaceted Uzbek-Pakistani cooperation and the strategic partnership were reviewed.

Special attention was paid to expanding interaction in the military and military-technical spheres, as well as coordinating efforts to counter modern challenges and security threats.

The importance of strengthening cooperative ties between leading enterprises of the two countries' defence-industrial complexes was emphasized, including the expansion of training programs for military specialists, the exchange of experience, and the conduct of joint training exercises.

Issues related to accelerating the implementation of promising infrastructure projects in the transport and logistics sector were given particular attention.



An agreement was reached to prepare a separate roadmap for the development of military and military-technical cooperation.

Following the meeting, the President of Uzbekistan familiarized himself with the developments of Global Industrial & Defence Solutions, including samples of modern Pakistani military equipment and armaments.

President of Uzbekistan familiarizes himself with Pakistan's military-industrial capabilities



THE PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN OUTLINE PRIORITIES FOR DEEPENING THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



On February 5, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif held narrow-format talks and the first meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council in Islamabad.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Head of our state congratulated his Pakistani counterpart on the upcoming holy month of Ramadan and Pakistan Day.

Practical issues related to further expanding and strengthening Uzbek-Pakistani relations of strategic partnership and multifaceted cooperation were comprehensively reviewed in the context of implementing high-level agreements.

The high level of interaction achieved in recent years was noted with satisfaction. Political dialogue continues to strengthen, while inter-parliamentary and inter-departmental exchanges are developing dynamically.

By the end of last year, the volume of mutual trade had reached nearly 500 million US dollars. Around 230 enterprises with Pakistani capital are currently operating in Uzbekistan. The number of flights between the two countries has increased and interbank correspondent relations are being strengthened.

Cooperation projects in the textile, pharmaceutical, chemical industries, agriculture, and other sectors are being successfully implemented.

The parties welcomed the productive outcomes of the political consultations and the meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission held on the eve of the visit. An exhibition of industrial products of Uzbekistan is taking place as part of the visit.

The need to hold the first meeting of the Coordination Committee of the foreign ministries of the two countries in Tashkent in the near future was noted.

To establish long-term partnerships between business communities, an agreement was reached to create an Uzbek-Pakistani Business Council.

A task was set to increase bilateral trade turnover to 2 billion US dollars in the near future. Decisions were taken to significantly expand the product range under the existing Preferential Trade Agreement, broaden the list of phytosanitary permits for Uzbek agricultural products, and actively utilize Uzbekistan's trade houses in Lahore and Karachi.

As part of the preparations for the visit, a portfolio of projects worth nearly 3.5 billion US dollars has been formed in the fields of agriculture, electrical engineering, geology, pharmaceuticals, light and food industries, and other sectors.

Particular attention was paid to the development of transport and logistics connectivity. The importance of accelerating the implementation of the Trans-Afghan railway construction project, as well as promoting the "Pakistan – China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan" transport corridor, was emphasized.

Interregional cooperation was identified as one of the key drivers of economic cooperation development.

An agreement was reached to establish an Uzbek-Pakistani Forum of Regions, with the first meeting proposed to be held this year in the Khorezm region.

Issues related to the establishment of systematic cooperation in the field of pilgrimage tourism were discussed separately. In order to further bring the peoples of the two countries closer, it was agreed to hold Uzbekistan Culture Weeks and Uzbek Cinema Days in Pakistan this year.

The Head of our state also proposed the establishment of a joint cultural center in Lahore to promote the Baburid heritage.

During the talks, views were exchanged on topical issues of the international and regional agenda, and commitment to continuing close cooperation within multilateral structures was reaffirmed.

In conclusion, Shavkat Mirziyoyev invited Shehbaz Sharif to pay a return visit to Uzbekistan.



Solid package of agreements adopted between Uzbekistan and Pakistan



Following the first meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif signed a Joint Declaration.

In addition, the following documents were exchanged in the presence of the leaders:

- Cooperation Program between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs for 2026–2028;
- Agreement on the establishment of the Uzbek-Pakistani Business Council;
- Treaty on the establishment of the Uzbek-Pakistani Interregional Forum;
- Protocol on the inclusion of a new list of goods to the Preferential Trade Agreement;
- Agreement on cooperation in the field of port services and provision of discounts;
- Agreement on cooperation in mining and geology;
- Agreement on cooperation in agriculture;
- Agreement on cooperation in agricultural research and development;

- Agreement on cooperation in the control of pharmaceutical products;
- Agreement on cooperation in the textile and clothing industry;
- Agreement on cooperation in digital and information technologies;
- Agreement on cooperation in culture;
- Agreement on the preservation, study, and wide promotion of the scientific, educational, cultural, and architectural heritage of the Great Baburid Dynasty;
- Agreement on cooperation in sports;
- Agreement on cooperation in radiation and nuclear safety;
- Agreement on cooperation in ecology and natural disasters;
- Treaty on cooperation in emergency management;
- Agreement on cooperation in combating corruption;
- Agreement on cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, new psychoactive substances, and their precursors;
- Agreement on the transfer of sentenced persons to continue serving their sentences;

- Protocol on phytosanitary requirements for the export of fresh apples, figs, lemons, and hot peppers from Uzbekistan to Pakistan for consumption;
 - Roadmap between the Ministries of Defense of the two countries.
- Agreements were also signed on the establishment of the Uzbek-Pakistani Council of Experts, on cooperation between the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uzbekistan and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority under the Ministry of Industries and Production of Pakistan, between the Hokimiyat of the city of Termez and the administration of the city of Peshawar, the Khokimiyat of the city of Samarkand and the Administration of the city of Islamabad, the Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamabad Strategic Studies Institute, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies and the University of Peshawar.



The next event on the program of the state visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Pakistan was a ceremony to name one of the streets in Islamabad “Tashkent”, as well as to name a park in the capital after Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized that this decision reflects the close historical and cultural ties between the two countries, and also reaffirms the strategic level of the Uzbek-Pakistani multifaceted partnership.

It was particularly noted that Tashkent Street and the park named after our great ancestor Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur will become a tangible symbol of the parties' shared commitment to further strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between the nations.

TASHKENT STREET AND BABUR PARK TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ISLAMABAD

PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN AWARDED HONORARY DOCTOR AND PROFESSOR TITLES BY A LEADING UNIVERSITY IN PAKISTAN



As part of the first meeting of the Strategic Cooperation Council, a ceremony was held to confer upon the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev the honorary titles of Doctor and Professor of the National University of Sciences and Technology of Pakistan.

The corresponding certificate was presented to the Head of our state by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The honorary title was awarded in recognition of the outstanding contribution of the Leader of Uzbekistan to socio-economic and educational reforms, the country's sustainable modernization, the advancement of science and technology, as well as the strengthening of international cooperation and academic ties.

During the ceremony, Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the university's leadership, and its academic community for the high honor, and noted the importance of further strengthening educational ties and the joint training of highly qualified specialists.

Founded in 1991, the National University of Sciences and Technology combines research and innovation activities, master's and doctoral training, and the promotion of applied research focused on the needs of industry and the economy.



STRENGTHENING TIES



President of Uzbekistan and Prime Minister of Pakistan highly commend the outcomes of productive talks.

Following the first meeting of the Strategic Cooperation Council held in Islamabad, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif delivered statements to media representatives.

At the beginning of his remarks, the Leader of Uzbekistan expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the invitation to pay a state visit to the country and for the productive talks that took place.

Over the past 5 years, the volume of bilateral trade has increased 2.5 times, while the number of joint ventures and projects has grown by nearly threefold. The goal has been set to increase the trade turnover to 2 billion US dollars in the near future. A portfolio of promising trade and investment agreements worth 3.5 billion dollars has been formed.

Following the negotiations, a Joint Declaration and around 30 important documents in priority areas of cooperation were signed. A meeting with representatives of leading Pakistani companies will take place tomorrow.

It was particularly emphasized that the dynamically developing Pakistan is a reliable strategic partner of Uzbekistan. Our country sincerely welcomes the large-scale reforms being carried out under the Prime Minister's leadership to improve public welfare, ensure accelerated economic growth, and strengthen the country's international standing.

It was noted with satisfaction that the current visit is taking place in the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Uzbek-Pakistani strategic partnership.



PAKISTAN IS A RELIABLE STRATEGIC PARTNER OF UZBEKISTAN. PRESIDENT MIRZIYOYEV

The mutual commitment to strengthening connectivity between Central and South Asia through consistent development of regional cooperation was reaffirmed. Readiness to continue mutual support within international and regional organizations was noted.

The President of Uzbekistan expressed his appreciation for Pakistan's active support for Uzbekistan's accession to the World Trade Organization and highly praised Pakistan's efforts as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2025–2026 to ensure peace and international stability.



SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV CONGRATULATED ON THE FORTHCOMING PAKISTAN DAY AND THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN.

An agreement was reached to expand cooperation in the pharmaceutical, light, electrical, mining, and food industries, as well as in agriculture. Particular attention was paid to the development of transport and logistics links and the creation of favorable conditions for business communities.

To further deepen interregional cooperation, a decision was made to hold the first Forum of Regions in Uzbekistan this year.

In addition, plans are in place to organize culture weeks and film festivals, as well as joint initiatives to study and promote the scientific and educational heritage of great thinkers.

Gratitude was once again expressed for the naming of one of the streets in Islamabad as "Tashkent".

In turn, the President announced the decision to establish a park in the capital of Pakistan named after the great statesman and poet Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, as a gift to the Pakistani people on the eve of the country's Independence celebration.

The Leader of Uzbekistan expressed his appreciation to the Pakistani side for conferring upon him the title of Honorary Doctor of the National University of Science and Technology of Pakistan.

Concluding his remarks, Shavkat Mirziyoyev congratulated on the forthcoming Pakistan Day and the holy month of Ramadan.



A NEW CHAPTER IN UZBEKISTAN-PAKISTAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



Editor Hamid Mahmood

The recent visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan marks another significant milestone in the

deepening relationship between the two brotherly nations. The visit was warmly received by the leadership and people of Pakistan, reflecting the growing importance of Uzbekistan–Pakistan cooperation in regional connectivity, trade, culture, and tourism.

During the visit, President Mirziyoyev held productive and forward-looking talks with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif. The discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations in areas such as economic cooperation, regional connectivity, tourism development, education exchange, and cultural diplomacy. Both leaders expressed strong commitment to transforming historical friendship into a dynamic strategic partnership that benefits the people of both nations.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this visit was the visible warmth and mutual respect displayed by both sides. The ceremonial welcome, including the escort of the presidential aircraft by fighter jets of the Pakistan Air Force, symbolized the high level of honor Pakistan extended to the distinguished guest. Such gestures reflect the importance Pakistan places on its relationship with Uzbekistan.

Historically, Uzbekistan and Pakistan share deep civilizational ties that go back centuries along the Silk Road. Cultural and spiritual links connect cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, and Tashkent with the intellectual and spiritual traditions of South Asia. These shared roots provide a strong foundation for modern cooperation. The visit also highlighted the strategic importance of regional connectivity. Uzbekistan has been actively promoting transport and trade corridors that connect Central Asia to South Asia through Pakistan's ports.

Projects such as the proposed Trans-Afghan railway could transform regional trade dynamics and provide new economic opportunities for both countries.

Tourism and people-to-people relations were also among the key areas discussed during the visit. Uzbekistan, with its rich Islamic heritage and historical cities, has become an increasingly attractive destination for Pakistani travelers. Religious tourism, particularly visits to the mausoleums of great Islamic scholars in Uzbekistan, continues to strengthen cultural bonds between the two nations.

Educational and academic cooperation is another promising field. Universities, research institutions, and cultural organizations from both countries are exploring partnerships to promote historical research, student exchanges, and joint cultural initiatives.

Beyond diplomacy and agreements, this visit carried a powerful symbolic message: Uzbekistan and Pakistan are natural partners. Their shared history, cultural affinity, and strategic geographic positions create immense opportunities for cooperation in the years ahead.

As Uzbekistan continues its dynamic reforms and opens new avenues for international cooperation, Pakistan remains an important partner in South Asia. The outcomes of this visit reaffirm the commitment of both nations to build stronger bridges of friendship, prosperity, and cultural exchange.

The leadership shown by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif demonstrates that Uzbekistan–Pakistan relations are entering a new era—one defined not only by historical friendship but also by a shared vision for regional peace, connectivity, and development.

For the readers of Newsletter Uzbekistan, this historic visit stands as a reminder that diplomacy, cultural understanding, and economic cooperation can together shape a brighter future for our region.



PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN AND PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN ATTEND JOINT BUSINESS FORUM



Strengthening transport and logistics connectivity was emphasized as a key condition for further expanding trade.

On February 6, as part of the business program of the state visit to Islamabad, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, together with Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif, took part in a joint business forum.

The event was attended by heads and representatives of more than 300 leading industrial enterprises and trading companies, industry organizations, and business entities from both countries.

Pakistani business was represented by companies such as PEL, Waves Singer, Sadaqat, Fauji, Platinum, Fast Cables, National Fruit, Amson Group, Shaigan, Hans International, Secure Logistics Group, NLC, Fairmont, Go Dairy, Engro, Herbion, AGP, Arco, Habib Rafiq, Pakistan Steel Mills, Siddiq Sons,



Uniworth, Diners, Fatima Group, Fateh Group, Hub Leather, Siddiq Leather, Royal Leather, Davis, Ahsan Dyeing and many others.

In his address, the Head of state noted with great satisfaction that the high-level talks marked a new stage in the development of Uzbek-Pakistani relations, primarily in the trade, economic, and investment spheres.

For the first time in the history of bilateral cooperation, a protocol was signed, providing for a new quality of economic interaction and an increase in the volume of mutual trade to 2 billion dollars.

Relevant officials of the two countries have been instructed to develop a comprehensive roadmap and implement a mechanism for the prompt resolution of emerging issues.

The President of Uzbekistan outlined the key areas of economic partnership.

These include pharmaceuticals and medicine, light industry, the mining and metallurgical industry and geology, and expanding cooperation in food security.



Particular attention was paid to the prospects for joint production of meat, potatoes, and rice, as well as partnership with the National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology of Pakistan in the field of seed production and breeding.

Strengthening transport and logistics connectivity was emphasized as a key condition for further expanding trade.

Freight transportation has been launched along the "Pakistan – China – Kyrgyzstan – Uzbekistan" route, air service to Lahore and Islamabad has commenced, and the Trans-Afghan Railway project is being advanced. Starting in April this year, cargo flights to Karachi and direct passenger flights to Lahore will be introduced.

In order to practically strengthen interregional contacts, the initiative to hold the first Forum of Regions this year was supported.

In conclusion, the President of Uzbekistan and the Prime Minister of Pakistan signed a separate protocol on the agreements reached, specifying implementation deadlines and the ministries and agencies of both countries responsible for their execution.

Furthermore, in the presence of the leaders, a ceremony was held to exchange a number of investment, trade, and economic agreements.

Pakistani companies were invited to projects for the localization of medicines, biotechnologies, and medical equipment in Uzbekistan. Favorable conditions will be created for Pakistani investors to operate at the Tashkent Pharma Park.

It was noted that there is great potential for cooperation in the joint production of finished textile products for international brands. Uzbekistan is ready to transfer textile enterprises to trust management and establish dedicated leather industry zones for Pakistani partners.

MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS OF UZBEKISTAN AND PAKISTAN

As part of the state visit to Islamabad, a meeting was held between the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari at the Aiwan-e-Sadr residence, in both narrow format and with the participation of official delegations.

The current state and key directions for the further expansion of multifaceted interaction, as well as the strengthening of friendship and strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, were reviewed.

At the beginning of the meeting, Asif Ali Zardari congratulated the Head of our state on the successful outcomes of the first meeting of the Strategic Cooperation Council and also emphasized the historical significance of the current state visit in the context of giving new impetus to the deepening of bilateral relations.

High praise was given to the large-scale socio-economic reforms being implemented in New Uzbekistan under the Development Strategy–2030.

Active contacts at various levels were noted with satisfaction. Trade turnover and the number of joint ventures continue to grow at a steady pace. Cooperation projects are being implemented in priority sectors of the economy.

On the eve of the summit in Islamabad, a meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission and political consultations were held productively.

The importance of further expanding practical cooperation was emphasized, including strengthening political dialogue, developing trade, economic, and investment ties, and intensifying business exchanges.



ISSUES RELATED TO
COORDINATING AND
IMPLEMENTING JOINT MEASURES
TO BRING THE VOLUME OF
MUTUAL TRADE TO 2 BILLION
DOLLARS IN THE NEAR FUTURE
WERE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY.

Issues related to coordinating and implementing joint measures to bring the volume of mutual trade to 2 billion dollars in the near future were discussed separately.

Particular attention was paid to the development of interregional cooperation. It was agreed to hold the first meeting of the Forum of Regions in the city of Khiva this year.

An exchange of views took place on strengthening cooperation within international organizations. The sides confirmed their mutual support and the closeness of their positions on current regional and international issues.

A shared commitment to the further expansion of cultural and humanitarian exchanges and the promotion of joint projects in the fields of education, ecology, sports, and other areas was noted.

At the conclusion of the talks, Shavkat Mirziyoyev invited Asif Ali Zardari to visit Uzbekistan.



HIGH PRAISE WAS GIVEN TO THE LARGE-SCALE SOCIO-ECONOMIC REFORMS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN NEW UZBEKISTAN UNDER THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY-2030.



**PRESIDENT OF UZBEKISTAN
AWARDED PAKISTAN'S HIGHEST
STATE HONOR – THE ORDER OF
NISHAN-E-PAKISTAN**





A CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE AIWAN-E-SADR RESIDENCE TO PRESENT THE ORDER OF NISHAN-E-PAKISTAN (MARK OF PAKISTAN) TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV.

THE HIGHEST AWARD OF PAKISTAN WAS SOLEMNLY CONFERRED UPON THE HEAD OF OUR STATE BY THE PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN ASIF ALI ZARDARI.

IT WAS NOTED THAT THIS HIGH DISTINCTION REPRESENTS A WORTHY RECOGNITION OF THE JOINT EFFORTS TO EXPAND MULTIFACETED COOPERATION, AS WELL AS A REFLECTION OF THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND DEEP RESPECT EXTENDED TO THE PEOPLE OF UZBEKISTAN. CONFIDENCE WAS EXPRESSED THAT THE UZBEK-PAKISTANI STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO BE ENRICHED WITH NEW SUBSTANCE.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OVER THE YEARS, THIS HIGH AWARD HAS BEEN BESTOWED UPON SUCH DISTINGUISHED FIGURES AS QUEEN ELIZABETH II OF GREAT BRITAIN, US PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA, KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND, UAE PRESIDENT SHEIKH ZAYED BIN SULTAN AL NAHYAN, PRC CHAIRMAN HU JINTAO, PRESIDENT OF TÜRKIYE RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN, CROWN PRINCE OF SAUDI ARABIA MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN, AND OTHERS.



Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex – a pearl of the New Uzbekistan

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev reviewed the completed construction work and the facilities created at the Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex.

At the initiative of the Head of State, the complex was rebuilt in line with the high spiritual authority and great scholarly heritage of the outstanding collector of hadiths, who holds a special place in the Islamic world. All necessary facilities have been created for pilgrims.

Specifically, a tourist center has been established at the complex. On the adjacent 15-hectare area, modern infrastructure has been developed, including comfortable hotels and service facilities. In particular, one four-star hotel, two three-star hotels, 22 family guesthouses with 176 beds, and a parking area have been built. The facilities are fully equipped with communication networks, and the surrounding area has been landscaped.

As a result, while the Imam Bukhari complex previously received up to 12,000 pilgrims per day, its capacity now allows it to serve up to 65,000 pilgrims daily.

The memorial complex, covering a total area of 45 hectares, has become a pearl of Samarkand and the New Uzbekistan. The complex features a grand mosque with a capacity of 10,000 people, an administrative building, and a majestic aivan in the national style with 154 columns.

Using advanced information technologies, a unique museum comprising nine pavilions has been created. It presents the life and scholarly heritage of Imam Bukhari, recognized in the Islamic world as the “sultan of the muhaddiths,” as well as his contribution to the development of Islamic enlightenment. The museum also enables visitors to learn about the stories of the 25 prophets mentioned in the Holy Qur’an, the genealogy of the Prophet Muhammad, his life in Makkah and Madinah, and the process of collecting and recording hadiths.

Fourteen blue domes and four 75-meter-high minarets give the complex a majestic appearance.

The Head of State inspected the facilities created at the tourist center and the mosque.





As is well known, one and a half thousand years of Islamic history and Islamic science are unimaginable without the names of the great scholars and religious figures who grew up on this land. The Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, which has recently opened, reaffirms this truth.

When it comes to the science of hadith in the Islamic world, our region is undoubtedly among the first. This is because great hadith scholars such as Imam Bukhari and Imam Tirmidhi were born on this very land.

In particular, Imam Bukhari's work Sahih al-Bukhari is one of the six most important hadith collections recognized worldwide. The scholar, who began studying hadith at the age of ten, authored more than 20 works, which continue to serve the Islamic ummah to this day.

Each time the President visited Samarkand, he reviewed the construction process of the complex, emphasizing that it should serve not only as a center of pilgrimage but also as a space for knowledge, education, and spiritual guidance and that Imam Bukhari's knowledge, and exemplary moral qualities should serve as a noble example for pilgrims, especially the youth.

"This unique complex clearly demonstrates the great potential of New Uzbekistan. I believe that this shrine will become a blessed place, spreading goodness and enlightenment for our people and for Muslims around the world. I am confident that young people who visit this shrine and are imbued with its spiritual atmosphere will understand the true essence of Islam and will not stray from the right path," the President said.

It was emphasized that, for this reason, it is necessary to expand spiritual and educational activities at the Imam Bukhari complex, transform it into a true school of upbringing, and also enhance professional development programs for imam-khatibs and mahalla activists.

Given the completion of all works, it was proposed to hold tomorrow's Ramadan Hayit prayer at the new mosque of the complex, which will delight Muslims across the country and serve as a worthy holiday gift for all our people.

This concluded the President's visit to the Samarkand region.



A grand center of enlightenment bridging three millennia of heritage and the New Uzbekistan

In his address at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly on 19 September 2017, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, speaking about the Center for Islamic Civilization being established in Tashkent, emphasized that our sacred religion calls for goodness and peace, the preservation of true human values, and the pursuit of knowledge and enlightenment, and that there can be no compromise with those who associate it with violence and bloodshed.

Founded on these noble ideals and aspirations, the center will serve as a platform for the in-depth study and broad dissemination of our people's three-thousand-year history, their creative potential, their great contribution to world civilization, as well as the rich cultural and educational heritage of our great ancestors.



In terms of its grandeur, scale, and scope, the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan is among the largest complexes in the world dedicated to the study and promotion of history, culture, and Islamic civilization.

The complex has been built on the territory of the renowned Hazrat Imam ensemble in Tashkent, covering an area of 10 hectares. The building comprises three floors, extending 161 meters in length and 118 meters in width. The height of its dome reaches 65 meters, while the total usable area exceeds 42,000 square meters. These figures provide a basis for its inclusion in the Guinness World Records.

The architectural concept of the center was developed on the basis of the ideas and proposals of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Throughout the construction process, the Head of State repeatedly visited the complex, offering valuable recommendations and guidance for further improvement both its content and architectural design. In particular, during several visits in 2025 alone, the President gave important instructions on improving the exhibitions, infrastructure, as well as educational and scientific directions.

The architectural concept of the center was developed on the basis of the ideas and proposals of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The building, constructed in line with ancient and national architectural traditions, can be accessed from four sides through four grand portals. These portals and the exterior arches are adorned with Qur'anic verses and hadiths reflecting the ideals of enlightenment, generosity, humanism, and respect for parents.

The underground level houses a dedicated children's platform, a restoration and digital preservation laboratory, storage facilities for museum exhibits and rare manuscripts, a modern cafeteria, and museum service areas.

The first floor features a museum with an exhibition hall of approximately 8,350 square meters, as well as a conference hall with 550 seats. The second floor houses a library containing handwritten and lithographic sources, printed and electronic publications, reading rooms, and facilities for international organizations and scientific institutions.

During his visit to this complex of immense spiritual and educational significance, the President once again familiarized himself with the conditions created, the rich exhibitions, and newly introduced initiatives.

The Head of State first visited the Qur'an Hall, regarded as the spiritual heart of the Center, where he examined its unique environment and exhibits.

A special mapping hologram has been created beneath the dome, initially displaying a star-filled image of space. Notably, the composition of the stars reflects the night sky over Tashkent. Ninety Swarovski elements and over 650 light points have been used to recreate the stars, lending the hall a distinctive grandeur.

Displayed here, alongside the Mus'haf of Uthman, are 114 rare Qur'an manuscripts from various historical dynasties

Displayed here, alongside the Mus'haf of Uthman, are 114 rare Qur'an manuscripts from various historical dynasties, including the Samanid, Karakhanid, Ghaznavid, Timurid, and Shaybanid periods. These works hold not only religious significance but also exceptional historical, scientific, and artistic value as outstanding examples of Eastern manuscript art. The hall's modern display cases prominently feature original manuscripts that have been carefully preserved by the people and subsequently incorporated into the Center's collection.

As noted, from the laying of the Center's foundation to 2025, its collection grew to over 2,000 historical sources, including more than 60 rare Qur'an manuscripts. These were carefully preserved and contributed by compatriots, as well as acquired through international auctions. This work demonstrates a strong commitment to reviving national and religious heritage, returning priceless sources scattered across the world to the Motherland, integrating them into scholarly discourse, and preserving them for future generations.

The President was briefed on a number of particularly valuable manuscripts. Among them is the "Bozuband" Qur'an, created by the calligrapher Sultan Muhammad in 1589 in an octagonal form and used as a "tumar" (amulet), alongside an exquisite 17th-century Safavid-era copy reflecting the peak of calligraphy and book art. Also presented was a rare Maghribi-script manuscript produced in 1872 by Muhammad ibn Abd al-Hadi. A unique Seljuk-period copy dating from the 12th–13th centuries, prepared in the Naskh style with an interlinear Persian translation by Muhammad Sadiq ibn Muhammad Shafi, was also displayed. The traditions of the Samarkand, Herat, and Bukhara schools of calligraphy are clearly reflected in these works.

The President then reviewed a presentation on efforts to ensure high-quality services for museum visitors.

It was noted that the Center has quickly gained recognition from leading international organizations and publications. In particular, it was awarded the French Avicenna Prize and listed among the world's ten most anticipated museum openings of 2026 by Smithsonian Magazine. In addition, Condé Nast Traveler included it in its list of museums to visit in June 2026, while BBC Travel ranked it among the world's most anticipated museums.

Handouts, brochures, and publications have been prepared for visitors at the Center in accordance with international service standards. For the first time in Uzbekistan's museum practice, the chemical composition and dating of all exhibits have been determined in a modern laboratory with the involvement of international experts, and the technical passports have been prepared for each item.

The exhibits have been digitized in accordance with international ISO standards and placed on a unified electronic platform. Based on the requirements of UNESCO and ICOM, as well as the experience of leading world museums, standards and classifications for exhibit labeling have been developed in 8 areas. Thanks to QR codes placed on each exhibit, visitors can use their mobile phones or tablets to access its video and audio content, initially in three languages, and later in eight.

The presentation paid special attention to transforming the center into a social integration platform based on the “A Museum Open to Everyone” concept. In the future, it is planned to equip all exhibits with special electronic chips and introduce an automated audio guide system for visually impaired visitors, enabling them to receive information about an exhibit as they approach it. It is also planned to implement an indoor navigation system using Bluetooth beacons, allowing for independent navigation within the building.

The use of robot guides, tablets for video and audio introductions, as well as audio guides, radio guides, and directional headphones, similar to those used in the British Museum, the Louvre, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is also planned.



It was noted that, according to preliminary estimates, the center is expected to receive an average of around 5,000 visitors per day. For the full operation of the center and museum in line with international standards, more than 400 employees are required. At present, over 100 specially trained attendants and more than 30 tour guides are employed. Separate guide scripts have been developed for visitors from 10 countries.

Afterwards, the Head of State reviewed the conditions created on the second floor of the Center’s building for the activities of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan.

Continuing his visit, the President toured the Center’s library.

The total area of the library is 3,105 square meters. Its collection currently comprises more than 45,150 publications, including 2,609 rare volumes. In addition, the library holds over 350,000 electronic publications. It has the capacity to serve up to 310 users simultaneously. Four separate offices have been established for scholars and professors, equipped with all the modern technology and amenities necessary for conducting research.

One of the library’s departments is dedicated to the legacy of 22 Jadid enlighteners. It features their photographic portraits, while the bookshelves house unique works authored by them and publications devoted to their activities.

Furthermore, a series of measures are being taken to replenish the library’s collection with rare publications on the life and work of outstanding thinkers and scholars of Uzbekistan, as well as the scientific schools they founded.



In particular, the collection includes first editions of manuscripts and lithographic works by great scholars, along with rare studies and commentaries devoted to their scientific heritage. This work is ongoing, with acquisitions from foreign auctions, scientific institutions, private collections, and donations from compatriots.

The library also features unique European publications, including works in Latin on Muslim dynasties, the history of Turkic peoples, encyclopedias on the peoples of the East, and travelogues on Khorasan and Mawarannahr published prior to the 20th century. In addition, the collection has been enriched with rare sources acquired from private collections, such as Nasuriddin Rabguzi’s “Qisas ul-Anbiya,” diwans of Alisher Navoi transcribed in Tashkent in the early 19th century, and Turkic translations of the works of Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi.

Information was also presented on the creation of special conditions for users with disabilities. In particular, dedicated rooms have been established for visually impaired and blind individuals, equipped with specialized software, printers, and assistive devices, and more than one thousand publications in Braille have been introduced. Notably, for the first time in Uzbekistan, soundproof booths have been installed in the library, enabling users to conduct online conversations without disturbing others while ensuring the confidentiality of their conversations and personal data.

Furthermore, the modern Sonic Chair device for working with audio resources has been introduced for the first time not only in the country but across Central Asia.

On the library's premises, a green reading zone, a copying service, dedicated rooms for individual study, and a separate area for children have been organized.

The President then familiarized himself with the activities of the international scientific and educational platform established at the Center.

As noted, cooperation has been established with a number of reputable international organizations within the framework of the platform. Office spaces have been provided for ICESCO, IRCICA, the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, the Association of Timurids in France, TURKSOY, and other international organizations. This creates a favorable environment for domestic scholars and representatives of foreign institutions to collaborate, conduct joint research, develop projects, and implement educational initiatives.

During the visit, the Head of State viewed an exhibition of valuable artefacts donated to the Center and acquired from abroad.

As noted, in accordance with the President's instructions, systematic work is being carried out to repatriate cultural treasures located abroad to Uzbekistan. Last year, more than 700 artefacts were acquired from art dealers and private collectors at auctions in the United Kingdom, including Sotheby's and Christie's. In addition, over 1,000 items were donated by various institutions, organizations, and patrons. The majority of these exhibits are housed in the museum on the first floor.

The exhibition features numerous rare artefacts from the Samanid, Karakhanid, Ghaznavid, Timurid, and other eras. Particularly noteworthy are a silver barkash (tray) with gold plating bearing the name of the Samanid commander Abu Mansur Sebük-Tegin, dating from the late 10th century, a silver bowl and a copper inkwell from the Samanid period, a woman's belt adorned with turquoise from the reign of Öz Beg Khan of the Golden Horde, and 19th-century Ottoman gold-thread embroidery bearing the inscriptions "Allah" and "Muhammad."

The exhibition features 19th-century Ottoman gold-thread embroidery bearing the inscriptions "Allah" and "Muhammad."

The President was presented with information on examples of ceramic art from the Timurid era, a 19th-century silk covering that veiled the Prophet's tomb in Medina, and a historical example of a hizam (the belt at the top of the kiswah) that once hung above the door of the Kaaba, as well as a large-scale "mother of all suzanis." Additionally, fragments of a large Qur'an transcribed by Umar Aqta during the time of Amir Timur were displayed, along with ceramic tile elements from Timurid architectural monuments, as well as weapons and armor from the Baburid period, including helmets, shields, swords, and armor components.

Furthermore, a report was presented on finds related to the Amu Darya Treasure. In 1877, a number of unique items from this treasure, discovered in the territory of the Emirate of Bukhara and now housed in the British Museum, were successfully returned to Uzbekistan through London trading houses.



Among them are a gold pectoral depicting a Sogdian horseman from the 8th–9th centuries, as well as unique snake-shaped bracelets weighing 666 grams, dating back to the Bactrian era.

A significant part of the exhibition is devoted to artefacts donated to the Center. Notably, Alexander Naymark, an Orientalist based in the United States, donated a manuscript of Pahlavon Mahmud. Transcribed from the personal signature of the Khivan Khan Muhammad Rahimkhan Feruz, its study resulted in the discovery of more than 70 previously unknown rubais. The exhibition also includes coins, jewelry, medallions, and other historical items from various periods, including finds from the hoard discovered in the Mayskiy settlement.

Overall, the visit once again vividly demonstrated the immense potential of the Center. It enables a deeper understanding of the country's history and cultural heritage, reveals the true humanistic and enlightening essence of Islam, and presents the great scientific and spiritual legacy of our ancestors to the international community.

"Today, we have witnessed a significant event on the path to understanding our identity. Praise be to the Almighty that over the past nine years, through dedication, hard work, and perseverance, we have created a complex that truly reflects who we are, who our people are, and what our history represents. Everyone who comes here, especially our youth, should know and understand the greatness of the ancestors from whom we descend. This large-scale project is not merely a design or a structure. It was created from the heart, born of love, dreams, and the deepest aspirations. The sacred hall where the Qur'an will be kept did not come into being by chance. It emerged from the heart, from a desire to reflect the dreams of our people, their greatness, and their spiritual strength. This project is the result of noble aspirations aimed at embodying the true image of our great people," said the President.

At the conclusion of the visit, the Head of State signed the Book of Honored Guests of the Center for Islamic Civilization.

Where history speaks and its lessons are learned, knowledge, enlightenment and prosperity will follow

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended the official opening ceremony of the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, followed by an iftar.

Through regional studios, representatives of the older generation and the wider public took part in the ceremony. Also in attendance were representatives of various nationalities and religious denominations, as well as members of the diplomatic corps and international organizations.

At the beginning of the event, the Head of State once again sincerely congratulated the entire nation on the holy month of Ramadan. Gratitude was expressed to the Almighty for the country observing these blessed days in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility.

The month of Ramadan is a symbol of care, compassion, and good deeds. State and non-governmental organizations, including the National Agency for Social Protection, the Mahallas Association, the “Waqf” fund of the Muslim Board, and the “Inson” centers, as well as entrepreneurs, are providing moral and material assistance to the elderly and those in need, persons with disabilities, and low-income families. Medical teams travel to remote and hard-to-reach areas, conducting examinations of women, children, and veterans, and performing surgeries on those in serious condition.

It was noted that these good deeds contribute to enhancing human dignity and strengthening an atmosphere of peace and national unity in society.



The Head of State emphasized the need for a deeper understanding of the truly priceless value of peace in today's turbulent times, noting that the greatest wealth lies in the fact that the country's population of more than 38 million lives as a united and harmonious family.

The participation of representatives of the diplomatic corps in Uzbekistan in the event was perceived as a manifestation of respect for the values of our religion, humanism and tolerance, as well as for the state's policy of openness.

It was especially noted that this day marks another historic event for our people, the official opening ceremony of the Centre for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan.

“I sincerely congratulate all of you on this historic event, as the dreams and aspirations of many generations of our ancestors have come true — a celebration of science, spirituality, and enlightenment.

I congratulate all of you, our entire nation, on the creation of such a unique and magnificent complex, which stands as a vivid reflection of our glorious three-thousand-year history, rich culture, and the great opportunities of the New Uzbekistan,” said the President.

As was noted, to build the foundation of a developed state and a free society in the country, the highest goal is the implementation of the principle “science and education—first and foremost.” After all, this is what our sacred religion calls for. In this context, the inscription of the Qur’anic verse “Iqra!”—“Read!”—on the Ulugbek Portal at the Centre for Islamic Civilisation carries deep symbolic meaning.

The noble initiative to establish the Centre, announced at the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, received broad support from the international community, particularly the Islamic world. The project was implemented without haste, thoughtfully, and in accordance with scientific research and studies.

As a result, an entire eastern-style town with a unique architectural appearance, imbued with national spirit, has emerged next to the Hazrati Imam complex.

At the Center, within a single educational space, one can simultaneously see the treasures of Uzbekistan’s ancient history and civilisation and clearly witness the intellectual and cultural potential of the Uzbek people.

“Here, every visitor, especially young people, will be able to better understand the true values of Islam and realise the great heritage to which we are heirs,” the President noted.

It was emphasized that, in order to more deeply study and promote the spiritual heritage not only of our country but of the entire vast region worldwide, it was decided to present it under the unified title Islamic Civilization. It was noted that, according to international experts, Uzbekistan has demonstrated to the world that a distinctive scientific school for the study and promotion of the heritage of Islamic civilization is being formed in the country, supported by significant intellectual potential.

Touching upon the scale and capabilities of the Center, the President noted that this unique complex is located on a site of nearly 10 hectares, with a total usable area of 50,000 square metres. Exhibition halls such as The Pre-Islamic Period on the Land of Uzbekistan, The First and Second Renaissance, and New Uzbekistan—the Foundation of the Third Renaissance have been created here.

Significant work has been carried out to develop and enrich the museum’s exhibitions. Last year alone, more than 1,500 exhibits were added, including around 800 ancient manuscripts, archaeological finds, and historical maps. It was stressed that cooperation has been established with foreign auction houses, major collectors, and art dealers, and 743 original exhibits have been repatriated to the country.

In the main hall of the Center—the Hall of the Holy Qur’an—one of the six oldest Qur’ans in the world, the Mushaf of Uthman, has taken its rightful place. Rare Qur’anic manuscripts from different periods are also preserved here.

As was noted, the Center for Islamic Civilization has already attracted significant interest among thousands of foreign guests. Among them were heads of state and government, parliamentarians, deputies, senators, ministers, ambassadors, scientists and public figures, as well as heads of religious organisations. Highly qualified specialists from France, China, Great Britain, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Turkey, Germany, Spain, Italy, Malaysia, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, India, Central Asian countries, and a number of other countries also took an active part in the design, construction of the Center, and the equipping of the complex with modern information technologies.

The Head of State expressed sincere gratitude to the skilled designers, builders and engineers, scientists and ulema, foreign partners and experts, particularly members of the World Society for the Study, Preservation and Popularisation of the Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan, as well as to all those who made a worthy contribution to the creation of the complex. Special thanks were also extended to domestic and foreign entrepreneurs, as well as cultural and sports figures who provided sponsorship for the construction of this grand complex.

“When we began the construction of the Center for Islamic Civilization, I set myself the goal of finding and bringing to our country any manuscript or artefact related to our history, wherever in the world it might be. Today, praise be to the Almighty, we have achieved this goal, and we will certainly continue this work,” the Head of State said.

It was noted that new international scientific expeditions will be organized to identify and study rare manuscripts stored in different countries of the world. Domestic and foreign scientists and the world’s leading scientific centers will be involved in this work.

It was emphasized that, in order to expand the scope of the Center’s activities, offices of organisations such as ICESCO, IRCICA, the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, the Association for the Study of the History and Art of the Timurid Era in France, and TURKSOY have been established here on the basis of international cooperation. It is planned to create all the necessary conditions to strengthen cooperation with them.

It was noted that the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan has also been provided with a new residence at the Center. The expediency of organising work here for the in-depth study of Islamic heritage, the improvement of the qualifications of religious figures and imams-khatibs, and the development of international cooperation was emphasized.

In the near future, it is planned to hold a presentation of the Center of Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan and the international research centers of Imam Bukhari, Imam Termezi, and Imam Maturidi at the UN headquarters.

The President particularly noted that the Center will become a fundamental platform for spiritual and educational activities. It is here that senior students of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan will be trained, and teachers will enhance their knowledge and qualifications. Most importantly, the Center should become a strong spiritual support for young people, contributing to the emergence of new Khwarizmis, Berunis and Ulugbeks, Ferganis and Ibn Sinas, Bukharis and Termezis among us.

In this regard, the Head of State addressed scientists and researchers, poets and writers, religious figures and ulema, directors and artists, journalists, and creative youth.

“May your scientific research, works of fiction, film and theatrical productions, paintings and broadcasts, inspired by this unique heritage, resonate across the world as the voice of our people’s three-thousand-year history and culture. May they present the New Uzbekistan to the world as a country of peace and goodness, knowledge and enlightenment, and contribute to the upbringing of our youth,” said the President.

In conclusion, the President expressed confidence that the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan will remain a lasting platform of peace, goodness, knowledge, and enlightenment, providing opportunities for both our people and the wider international community.

At the iftar ceremony, surahs from the Holy Qur’an were recited and prayers were offered, asking the Almighty to accept the fasts and prayers observed during the holy month of Ramadan, and to protect our Motherland and people.

UZBEKISTAN STRENGTHENS ITS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH PAKISTAN

Uzbekistan's Ambassador to Pakistan, Alisher Tokhtayev

gave an interview to representatives of the mass media. The interview focused on the current state of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan in bilateral and multilateral formats, as well as on the priority areas and future prospects of bilateral relations.

Dear Alisher Hakimovich, let us begin our conversation with your views on the history and stages of development of Uzbekistan–Pakistan relations.

– Uzbekistan and Pakistan have long been connected by shared historical roots, traditional ties of friendship, common religion, and similarities in customs and cultural values. In recent years, these commonalities have become especially evident and have turned into a driving force behind the development of socio-economic as well as cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the two countries.

In Pakistan, one can find many elements of Uzbek culture and way of life. It is well known that the territory of present-day Pakistan was once part of the Mughal Empire founded by our great ancestor, the military commander and statesman Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur. The Mughal legacy can be seen in many regions of Pakistan, particularly in the city of Lahore. Gardens, fortresses, mosques and madrasahs, as well as water facilities built during that period have become an integral part of Pakistan's cultural heritage. The people of Pakistan take pride in this legacy and hold the Mughals in high esteem. In this sense, historical interconnectedness and shared heritage serve as a solid foundation for the development of modern relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

Uzbekistan is geographically located at the heart of Central Asia and shares borders with all countries of the region.

Pakistan, in turn, occupies a strategically important logistical position. Transport corridors of major strategic importance pass through its territory, providing access to the Indian Ocean. These corridors represent vital arteries for transportation links between the world's most populous countries.

In addition, Pakistan holds a central geographical position in South Asia. In this context, Uzbekistan and Pakistan can serve as a unique bridge between Central and South Asia.

I would also like to emphasize another important aspect: both Uzbekistan and Pakistan are lands of great civilizations. We share deep historical roots and numerous similarities. Most importantly, today we are good friends and reliable partner countries.

– Although Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize Uzbekistan's independence, a noticeable intensification in bilateral relations has been observed after 2017. What can you say about this?

– Indeed, Pakistan was one of the first countries in South Asia to recognize Uzbekistan's independence on May 10, 1992. This year marks the 34th anniversary

of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan.

It is true that in the period prior to 2017, relations developed rather modestly, and the two countries did not fully utilize the existing potential. However, after Shavkat Mirziyoyev was elected President of Uzbekistan, relations



with Pakistan were also reviewed, and specific measures were defined to elevate cooperation in all areas to a new level. During mutual visits at the highest level, a solid foundation was created for the development of friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation. A number of intergovernmental documents were signed.

In recent years, relations between the two countries have been significantly strengthened. Political dialogue at the highest and high levels has intensified, and trade-economic as well as cultural-humanitarian cooperation has expanded.

In this regard, it is worth noting that on September 15–16, 2022, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, paid a visit to Uzbekistan to participate in the SCO Summit held in the city of Samarkand. Within the framework of this visit, negotiations were held with the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The year 2025 was of particular significance for Uzbekistan–Pakistan relations. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, paid an official visit to Uzbekistan on February 25–26. This visit elevated the partnership between the two states to a new stage. The Joint Statement on Deepening Multifaceted Cooperation signed by the parties outlined priority areas for the near future.

– How do you assess the current state of inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation between foreign policy agencies in Uzbekistan–Pakistan relations?

– It should be noted with particular satisfaction that inter-parliamentary dialogue, as well as interactions at the level of ministries, agencies, and sectors between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, have become more active, and exchanges have taken on an effective character.

In particular, several visits to Uzbekistan by the leadership of the Lower House and the Senate of the Parliament of Pakistan have been organized.

In September 2025, the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, Nuriddin Ismoilov, and in December, a delegation of our country led by the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Sodiq Safoev, paid visits to Pakistan. The activities of the friendship groups established between the parliaments of the two countries are also becoming more active.

Bilateral political consultations between the foreign policy agencies of Uzbekistan and Pakistan are considered an important mechanism of cooperation. In particular, in order to support political dialogue, the foreign policy agencies of the two countries are effectively utilizing the eighth round of bilateral political consultations held in Tashkent in February 2025, as well as dialogue mechanisms within the framework of major international events. It is planned to hold the next round of political consultations in Islamabad later this year.

– One of the important areas of mutual cooperation is trade, economic, and investment partnership. Are Uzbekistan and Pakistan fully utilizing their potential in this area?

– Pakistan is becoming one of Uzbekistan’s important trading partners among the countries of South Asia. Bilateral trade turnover indicators have demonstrated steady growth since 2017.

Pakistan mainly imports legumes, yam, cereals, onions, peanuts, and transport services from Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan, in turn, purchases pharmaceutical products, citrus fruits, potatoes, textile industry products, soap, and other goods.

In recent years, the confidence of Pakistani investors in Uzbekistan has also been steadily increasing. Currently, 176 joint enterprises with the participation of Pakistani capital are operating in Uzbekistan. In cooperation with major Pakistani companies such as Novugen Pharma, Nurin Pharma, Hero Brands, and Diamond Group, investment projects have been implemented in the regions of our republic, particularly in the Syrdarya, Tashkent, and Namangan regions, as well as in the city of Tashkent.

By sector, the main share of enterprises falls within the industrial, services, and agricultural sectors. In particular, industrial production capacities include textiles, chemicals, food processing, leather industry, and others.

In addition, in November 2024, the 9th meeting of the Uzbekistan–Pakistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, and Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held in the city of Tashkent. It is planned to hold the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission in the city of Islamabad.

As a result of systematic efforts, bilateral trade volumes have demonstrated dynamic growth over the past eight years, with the total volume increasing almost twelvefold. As of December 1, 2025, this figure amounted to USD 434.3 million. In accordance with high-level agreements, concrete measures have been defined to increase mutual trade turnover to USD 2 billion in the near future.

It should be noted that the most-favored-nation regime has been established in mutual trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan, and a “Preferential Trade Agreement” has been signed. Under this agreement, tariff preferences have been introduced for a number of commodity items. Within the framework of this agreement, the parties are maintaining continuous dialogue on expanding the nomenclature of goods.

Cooperation in the field of industrial cooperation is also developing at a rapid pace. Exhibitions of industrial products under the brands “Made in Uzbekistan” and “Made in Pakistan,” as well as “National Food Fest” food exhibitions, are regularly held, and mutual visits of business delegations are being organized.

At the same time, Uzbek specialists, together with their Pakistani partners, are continuing efforts to develop alternative logistics routes between Central Asia and Pakistan, in particular the construction of the “Trans-Afghan” railway connecting Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, as well as the establishment of logistics centers in the territories of both countries.

Thanks to its strategic location, developed transport infrastructure, and existing free trade agreements with neighboring countries, Uzbekistan can serve as an important gateway for Pakistani businesses to access the Central Asian market with a population of 80 million. In turn, Pakistan serves as a vital bridge for Uzbek businesses seeking to expand their presence in the markets of South Asian countries.

– Mr. Ambassador, how do you assess the current state of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan in the field of tourism, and in general, how do Pakistanis perceive Uzbekistan’s rich heritage?

– Alongside various areas of cooperation with Pakistan, we pay special attention to tourism. This is because the tourism experience of Uzbekistan and Pakistan is highly attractive and beneficial, which is no secret to anyone. It should be emphasized



that Uzbekistan is increasingly becoming an appealing tourist destination for Pakistanis.

It is important to note that Uzbekistan and Pakistan have introduced a simplified visa regime for tourists. We support increasing the exchange of tourists between the two countries and further expanding cooperation among tour operators, hotel owners, and business representatives working in this sector in general.

It should be noted that both Uzbekistan and Pakistan possess high potential and significant opportunities for the development of tourism and the attraction of tourists. The land of Uzbekistan, which in its time was one of the cradles of Islam, with its ancient historical monuments and rich heritage, has become an important destination for pilgrimage tourism for Pakistanis. Uzbekistan is also considered attractive from the perspective of developing relations in the field of pilgrimage tourism. Pakistanis likewise approach with great respect the heritage of our great thinkers such as Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, Imam Bukhari, Imam Tirmidhi, Bahauddin Naqshband, and others.

Alongside the unique historical monuments of ancient cities such as Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva, Shahrisabz, and Tashkent, there are numerous pilgrimage sites in other regions of our country as well, which may also be of interest to Pakistani tourists. From this perspective, issues related to transport connectivity between the two countries deserve special attention of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Uzbekistan, direct flights connecting Tashkent and Islamabad were launched. Currently, the national airline “Uzbekistan Airways” operates four flights per week between Tashkent and Islamabad and between Tashkent and Lahore. To date, more than 30,000 passengers have used these air services. Referring to specific figures, in 2025 alone nearly 17,000 Pakistani citizens visited Uzbekistan for tourism purposes.

Industry officials emphasize that our opportunities for the mutual promotion of tourism products and services, as well as for the implementation of joint projects in this area, are very substantial. In short, the development of tourism relations between our countries has become one of the key issues on our agenda. In accordance with the agreements reached during the visit

– Your views on Uzbekistan–Pakistan relations in the fields of education and culture are also important to us...

– Education continues to be another important area of bilateral cooperation. Effective partnership relations have been established between the educational and scientific institutions of the two countries. Today, more than two thousand Pakistani citizens are studying at higher education institutions of Uzbekistan in such fields as medicine, pharmaceuticals, tourism, ICT, and other areas.

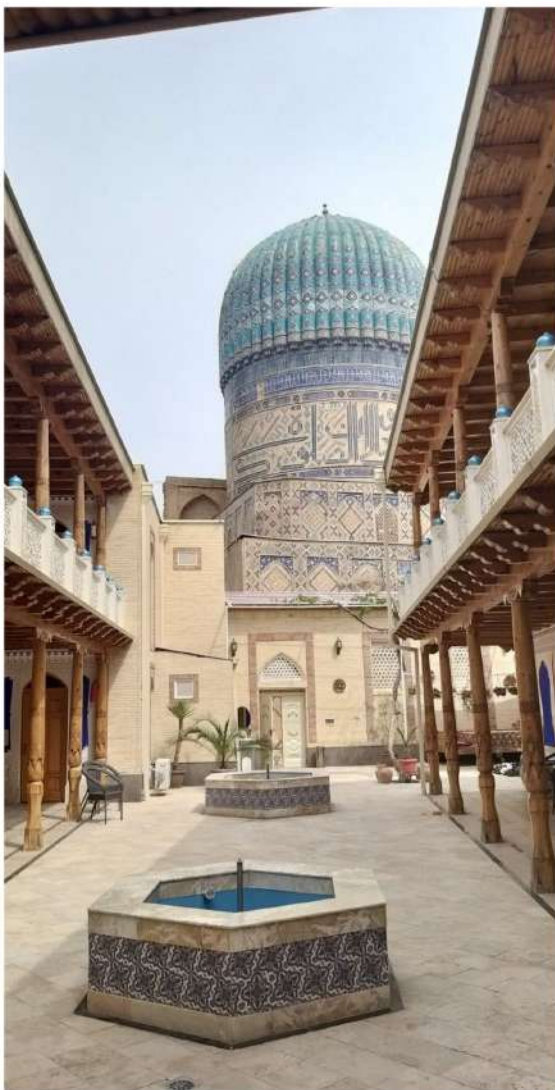
Efforts are ongoing to launch exchange programs between the universities of the two countries, share experience, allocate grants, and organize various seminars and training sessions aimed at improving the qualifications of professors and lecturers.

The leather industry is quite well developed in Pakistan. In this field, the Gujranwala Institute of Leather Technologies, which trains qualified specialists, has announced the allocation of scholarships for citizens of Uzbekistan. In addition, the “Uzbekistan–Pakistan Growth Gateway” has been opened at GIFT University in Gujranwala.

The fact that courses on the Urdu language, literature, and the history of Pakistan have been taught at Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies for nearly 75 years has been playing an important role in strengthening cultural ties between the two countries.

In Pakistan as well, demand for learning the Uzbek language and history has increased sharply, and projects in this area are being implemented at an accelerated pace. It should be noted that the holding of joint cultural events, festivals, exhibitions, and forums has become regular practice.





It is important to note that Uzbekistan and Pakistan have introduced a simplified visa regime for tourists. We support increasing the exchange of tourists between the two countries and further expanding cooperation among tour operators, hotel owners, and business representatives working in this sector in general.

In February 2021, the Babur Heritage Center was opened at Punjab University with the aim of studying the life and legacy of the great ancestor of the Uzbek people. At Peshawar University, a center named after Alisher Navoi was established. The center is actively contributing to the further popularization of Uzbek culture in Pakistan. Scholars from Uzbekistan and Pakistan are showing great interest in jointly studying the heritage of the Baburid dynasty. In this regard, we are working together with the Pakistan Muslim Institute on the establishment of a cultural center. Another noteworthy development is that in the near future, a film dedicated to the life of Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur, produced through the cooperation of filmmakers from the two countries, will be presented to the public.

In 2025, three important books dedicated to the activities of the President of Uzbekistan were presented to the general public in Islamabad: “Uzbekistan: The Third Renaissance – The Concept of the Future” by Muhammad Abbas Khan, “Shavkat Mirziyoyev: Great Leader of Reforms and Regional Integration” by Mehmood ul-Hasan Khan, and “New Uzbekistan: The Path of Shavkat Mirziyoyev” authored by Kudratilla Rafiqov. This indicates a growing interest in Uzbekistan among representatives of Pakistan’s scientific and academic circles. In December of last year, the photo exhibition “Uzbekistan Through the Eyes of Pakistani Photographers” was organized, and festivals of national cuisine are also being held.

— **Final question: what outcomes do you expect from the upcoming high-level Uzbekistan–Pakistan summit and the events to be held within its framework?**

— I am firmly convinced that the visit of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to Pakistan and the high-level dialogue will elevate the warm and friendly relations between our countries to a qualitatively new stage and will serve to activate bilateral cooperation that possesses high yet untapped potential.

Within the framework of the visit, the signing of a number of intergovernmental documents, as well as agreements in the trade and economic, investment, and cultural and humanitarian spheres, is expected. Islamabad will become an important venue for holding a business forum of the business communities of the two countries. During the forum, it is planned to discuss a number of promising projects for joint implementation and to reach relevant agreements.

In short, the upcoming visit of the President of Uzbekistan to Pakistan will open a new chapter in bilateral relations based on centuries-old friendship, mutual trust, and understanding in the fields of politics, security, trade, economy, investments, transport connectivity, tourism, education, innovation, culture, and people’s diplomacy.

– We express our gratitude for your detailed answers to our questions.

–Thank you.





A festive ceremony dedicated to the national holiday of Navruz was held at Yangi Uzbekistan Park. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev attended the event and delivered a speech.

Emphasizing that this year Navruz is being celebrated alongside the holy Ramadan Hayit, the Head of State noted that these blessed days, symbolizing the awakening of nature and spiritual renewal, embody the values of kindness, unity, and prosperity for all our people. Warm congratulations and sincere wishes were also extended to compatriots living, working, and studying both near and far.

The President noted that increased attention is being paid to ensuring a dignified life for every compatriot, regardless of nationality, language, or religion. It was emphasized that a clear reflection of this commitment is this year's celebration being held under the motto: "To glorify Navruz is to glorify humanity!"

It was stressed at the ceremony that extensive work has begun to bring the spirit of New Uzbekistan to all regions, villages, auls, and mahallas. Important steps are being taken to create new jobs, reduce poverty, and strengthen social protection. New enterprises, communication networks, comfortable housing, and facilities in education, healthcare, culture, and sports are being built. It was noted that the scale of this work will expand further in the future.

The Head of State expressed deep respect for dehkans and farmers. Noting their noble work in ensuring abundance in people's homes, it was emphasized that the state and society will always support them.

NAVRUZ IN NEW UZBEKISTAN – A TIME OF GROWTH AND PROGRESS

It was especially noted that New Uzbekistan is becoming an arena of great achievements and major successes for our youth. Today, new names and new heroes are emerging in the fields of education, science, culture and art, sports, IT, and business. Our entire nation is rightly proud of such an educated and energetic young generation that is constantly striving.

Addressing the youth, the Head of State noted that they have been granted the great honor of becoming the creators of the Third Renaissance. The President urged young men and women to value today's peaceful life, the opportunities created, and the efforts of their parents, teachers, and mentors, and to study diligently, work on self-development, expand their knowledge, and improve their skills. It was emphasized that all necessary conditions will be created for the country's youth.

At the ceremony, special attention was paid to the role of the mahalla system in public life. It was noted that large-scale programs and plans are being implemented in the Year of Mahalla Development and Social Prosperity. Confidence was expressed that representatives of the older generation, members of the mahalla seven, and active citizens will take direct part in this work to strengthen the atmosphere of peace, mutual respect and kindness in families and society, address social issues at the local level, and affirm the ideas of humanism and justice in practice.



Taking the opportunity, the President sincerely congratulated the chairpersons and activists of local self-government bodies, and all our compatriots on the Day of Mahalla System Workers, which is celebrated tomorrow, and wished them continued successes.

together, even more united, we will create a new life, a new history, a new future!"

As emphasized, the ideas of peace, friendship, and cooperation embodied in Navruz, which have served as a spiritual bridge among nations for millennia, are becoming increasingly relevant in these turbulent times. Representatives of more than 130 nations and nationalities living in our country celebrate this holiday as one large family, in a spirit of joy. It was noted that such friendship, mutual respect, and unity are the most reliable guarantee for building New Uzbekistan.

Navruz in New Uzbekistan – a time of growth and progress

The President stressed that all efforts and resources are being mobilized to further strengthen interethnic and interfaith harmony in our society. It was also noted that, in cooperation with neighboring fraternal countries, priority will be given to enhancing Central Asia's role as a region of peace, brotherhood, and cooperation.

The Head of State sincerely congratulated the ambassadors of

foreign states and representatives of international organizations attending the event on the International Day of Navruz, and wished their countries and peoples peace and prosperity.

Addressing the nation once again, the President said: ***"By continuing our ancient traditions, planting trees, cultivating gardens, and beautifying our homes and mahallas, we will make our lives even more beautiful and prosperous!"***

Let us reaffirm that we are a people striving to reach great heights based on good-neighborliness, the spirit of friendship, and our noble achievements!

Together, even more united, we will create a new life, a new history, a new future!"

The celebration continued with a grand concert program, featuring performances by folklore and ethnographic ensembles, artists, as well as national games and askiya, bringing joy and lasting impressions to all attendees. The event was attended by representatives of state and public organizations, members of parliament and government, guests from various regions, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps.





President Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the Pavilion of National Cultural Centers in Yakkasaray district of Tashkent. In the country, representatives of more than 130 nations and ethnic groups live as one united family, and 157 national cultural centers operate. This diversity is a unique social phenomenon that has emerged over centuries of historical development.

In Uzbekistan, continuous attention is paid, as a priority area of state policy, to the development of national cultures, the preservation and strengthening of interethnic harmony, and the education of the younger generation in the spirit of tolerance and solidarity.

A vivid confirmation of such attention is the pavilion built in the Dustlik Park on the square adjacent to the building of the Committee on Interethnic Relations and

THE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES LIVING IN UZBEKISTAN

Friendly Ties with Foreign Countries. Its architectural design reflects the distinctive features of twenty-two nations. The site features Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, and Bashkir yurts, as well as two-story Houses of Friendship representing the Korean, Belarusian, Ukrainian, Greek, German, Dungan, Polish, Jewish, Georgian, Armenian, Tatar, Crimean Tatar, Uyghur, Turkish, Tajik, Chinese, Russian, and Azerbaijani peoples.

The interiors are designed in accordance with the national traditions of each people represented here. The exhibition includes national costumes, musical instruments, examples of decorative and applied arts, historical models, and numerous exhibits reflecting cultural heritage.

Today, the pavilion is filled with the festive spirit of Navruz, a holiday that embodies noble ideals such as friendship and harmony.

The Head of State became familiar with the activities of each house and held a sincere conversation with the participants. During the meetings, special attention was paid to the role of national cultural c



enters in organizing nationwide celebrations at a high level. Appreciation was expressed to our compatriots of various nationalities who, through their strong patriotism and dedicated work, make a worthy contribution to strengthening the country's socio-economic potential.

The Head of State watched the artistic program organized for the pavilion's guests and took photos with representatives of the national cultural centers.





A safe destination in today's world

Discover Uzbekistan – Where History, Culture & the Silk Road Come Alive

Step into a land where history comes alive, where majestic architecture, rich culture, and warm hospitality await you. From the timeless beauty of Samarkand to the spiritual serenity of Bukhara and the vibrant life of Tashkent, Uzbekistan offers an unforgettable journey for every traveler.

- ✦ Explore ancient mosques, мавзолеумы and UNESCO World Heritage sites
- ✦ Experience Ziyarat tourism at sacred Islamic destinations
- ✦ Enjoy authentic Uzbek cuisine and traditional culture
- ✦ Safe, affordable, and visa-friendly destination



WE PROVIDE:

- VISA ASSISTANCE & INVITATION LETTERS
- CUSTOMIZED TOUR PACKAGES (ZIYARAT, CULTURAL, LEISURE & BUSINESS TOURS)
- HOTEL BOOKINGS & TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS
- COMPLETE TRAVEL SUPPORT FROM PAKISTAN TO UZBEKISTAN

Contact us today and plan your journey to Uzbekistan!

Let us take you on a journey through time, culture, and spirituality

+92 300 9745458, +92 300 9745456 tic.uzbek@gamil.com www.uztic.com

Thanks to



Embassy of the
Republic of Uzbekistan
Islamabad



NATIONAL
PR CENTER

OUR TEAM

HAMID MAHMOOD
Editor

ABIHA HAMID
Business Manager

WAQAS KHAN
Assistant Manager

MUHAMMAD HARIS
Digital Creator

ZAINAB HAMID
Administration



Tourist Information Centre Pakistan

55, Civic Center, Phase 4, Bahria
Town Islamabad.

Tel +92 300 9745458,

+92 300 9745456

www.uztic.com,

Email: tic.uzbek@gmail.com

COPY RIGHT BY
UZBEKISTAN TOURIST INFORMATION
CENTER PAKISTAN.

DND

www.dnd.com.pk

THE NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

Hi-Mark Voyages

BRIDGING CULTURES,
CREATING MEMORIES

+998 940165217

himrkvoyages@gmail.com

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN UZBEKISTAN



