© 2026 Arabian International Conference on Science,Technology and Innovation. All rights reserved.

CONSTRUCTION OF CARAVANSERAIS AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DURING THE SHAYBANID PERIOD

Aziza Bahodirovna Rezvonova
Researcher, Faculty of History, National University of Uzbekistan
rezvonovaaziza@gmail.com

Abstract: During the Shaybanid period (16th century), the construction of caravanserais and roadside infrastructure in Central Asia and Movarounnahr played an important role in economic development and strengthening interregional trade relations. These structures provided caravans and merchants with safe movement, storage of goods, and rest opportunities, while hydraulic installations in desert and steppe regions ensured water supply. The development of road and roadside infrastructure strengthened interregional trade relations, contributed to the development of cities, enhanced cultural and scientific exchange, and ensured the stability of both domestic and foreign trade. The study of this historical infrastructure helps to better understand medieval trade networks, transport systems, and economic policy in Central Asia.

Keywords: Shaybanid period, trade routes, caravanserai, rabat, sardoba, bridge, Movarounnahr, economic development, medieval transport infrastructure.

Introduction. The construction of caravanserais and roadside infrastructure during the Shaybanid period contributed not only to economic development but also to strengthening interregional trade relations, encouraging cultural and scientific exchange, and accelerating urban integration processes. This topic remains relevant today in terms of studying historical infrastructure, transport systems, and economic policy, as it helps to understand the formation of regional integration and trade systems in medieval Central Asia. Caravanserais and roadside structures served not only merchants and caravans but also played a key role in developing regional economic relations, activating cities and craft centers, and ensuring the stability of both internal and external trade. Today, studying Shaybanid roadside infrastructure is important for analyzing historical and archaeological sources and understanding the formation of trade and transport systems as well as regional economic and cultural integration. Several studies on this period have been analyzed. Sharopov (2025) examines the role of caravanserais and roadside structures in strengthening internal and external trade in the Bukhara Emirate. The author emphasizes that these structures provided accommodation, storage, and trade opportunities and contributed to regional economic relations and urban integration [1]. The source History and Culture of Central Asia highlights the cultural role of caravanserais along trade routes, showing that they functioned not only economically but also as centers of cultural and scientific exchange [2]. Mukhiddinov (2026) analyzes Silk Road trade networks in Uzbekistan, highlighting the economic and cultural importance of caravanserais and bazaars in Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, and their role in regional integration [3]. The UNESCO report Trading Premises: Caravanserais and Bazaars analyzes the importance of caravanserais in the international trade system of Central Asia and their role in developing trade relations and economic cooperation [4]. Soucek (2020) provides a broad overview of the political and economic activities of the Shaybanid dynasty, including the development of roadside infrastructure and trade relations [5]. Overall, these sources show that caravanserais, rabats, sardobas, and bridges played not only an economic but also a cultural and social role in the Shaybanid period. Their study is important for understanding medieval trade networks, transport systems, and regional integration in Central Asia.

Research Results. The research shows that during the Shaybanid period (16th century), the construction of caravanserais and roadside infrastructure was one of the priority directions of state

© 2026 Arabian International Conference on Science,Technology and Innovation. All rights reserved.

policy. These structures contributed not only to economic development and the expansion of trade relations but also to strengthening interregional economic ties, encouraging cultural and scientific exchange, and accelerating urban integration. Caravanserais, rabats, and sardobas built during this period provided safe movement, storage facilities, and rest opportunities for caravans and merchants during long-distance trade journeys. They played a key role in strengthening regional economic relations, activating cities and craft centers, and ensuring the stability of internal and external trade. Roadside infrastructure also helps to better understand the formation of medieval trade and transport systems in Central Asia. These structures are valuable historical sources for studying the economic and cultural significance of trade infrastructure. Furthermore, caravanserais, rabats, and sardobas significantly contributed to the efficiency of urban transport and trade systems. They strengthened interregional economic cooperation and cultural integration. The development of roadside infrastructure also improved the functioning of markets and trade centers, strengthened intercity trade relations, and supported social and economic development. Thus, the study of Shaybanid roadside infrastructure is important for understanding medieval economic systems, interregional trade, and cultural integration processes.

Conclusion. The research shows that during the Shaybanid period, the development of caravanserais and roadside infrastructure played an important role in ensuring economic growth and the stability of trade relations. These structures facilitated caravan movement and provided accommodation and storage facilities for merchants. Sardobas improved water supply and ensured safe long-distance travel in desert and steppe regions. Bridges ensured the continuity of transport routes. As a result, intercity and interregional trade relations strengthened, market exchange expanded, craft centers developed, and both internal and external trade grew. Roadside infrastructure also encouraged cultural exchange and urban integration. Therefore, the scientific study of Shaybanid infrastructure is a relevant and valuable field for understanding medieval trade and transport systems as well as regional economic and cultural integration.

References.

1. Sharopov, D. (2025). The Role of Caravanserais in the Internal and External Trade of the Bukhara Emirate. Journal of Learning on History and Social Sciences, pp. 260–265.
2. History and Culture of Central Asia (PDF) – Cultural significance of trade routes and caravanserais.
3. Mukhiddinov, Y. (2026). Silk Road History: Uzbekistan’s Trading Legacy. Samarkand.
4. UNESCO. Trading Premises: Caravanserais and Bazaars. UNESCO Publishing, 2019, pp. 12–38.
5. Soucek, S. The Shaybanids. A History of Inner Asia. Cambridge University Press, 2020, pp. 145–178.