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Uzbekistan – India: Development of Cooperative Relations

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Abstract:

This article speaks of cooperation between Uzbekistan and India in the cultural field, identifying the main trends and prospects for further mutual cooperation.

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The Uzbek and Indian peoples are connected by historical and cultural commonality, and at the same time there is a solid basis for the development of strategic partnership and further intensification of mutually beneficial cooperation in many areas. National spirituality, culture as a historical phenomenon is not perfectly formed in a day, a year, or even a century. The beginnings of the spiritual and cultural history of the peoples of Central Asia are steeped in the depths of centuries, and it is quite a difficult task today to determine whether they have traversed the steps of spiritual maturity for thousands of years.

Relying on its main foreign economic activities, during the years of independence, Uzbekistan actively began to bring together the peoples of different countries and enrich their spiritual values, which contributed to the flourishing of world culture. In this regard, developing bilateral and multilateral cooperation with foreign countries, our republic pays special attention to the implementation of multifaceted forms of cultural ties. This process can be clearly seen in the example of cooperation between Uzbekistan and India.

It is known that the rich spiritual world of the Uzbek and Indian peoples, their identity dates back to

centuries of history. But at the same time, there is a commonality between them, determined by the proximity of historical ties, language, cultural traditions and art. In this regard, if we look at the spiritual world of the past, today we can say with confidence that the ties of friendship that connect the peoples of Uzbekistan and India and go back centuries have stood the test of time. Therefore, at the present stage of interstate relations, it can be said that historical sentiments, such as the desire of the two peoples for each other, serve as a solid basis for the more rapid development of mutually beneficial Uzbek-Indian cooperation in the multifaceted cultural sphere. [1]. It must be said that cultural cooperation between Uzbekistan and India has reached a new level on the basis of interstate agreements reached during official meetings of heads of state. In the first years of our country's independence, such cooperation was carried out by the governments of Uzbekistan and India on the basis of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science, Tourism, Sports and the Media, signed on August 17, 1991. . The "Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Art and Education", signed between the governments of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of India on January 5, 1991 in New Delhi, gave impetus to the further development of mutually beneficial cultural and educational ties between our peoples. These agreements, concluded on the basis of the principles of equality and mutual interest, provide for the development of multifaceted cooperation in the fields of culture, science and education between the peoples of the two countries. Based on these agreements, as well as taking into account the aspirations of the Uzbek and Indian peoples, who want to further expand cultural cooperation, the leadership of the two countries began to take appropriate measures. At the same time, cultural institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan played a major role in the implementation of the conditions provided for by interstate agreements on cultural cooperation. [2].

Discussion and results

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan occupies a central position in the implementation of cooperation between the Uzbek people and foreign countries and the mutual exchange of cultural achievements. This government department, engaged in planning and implementing the country's development in the field of culture, also coordinates international cooperation of Uzbekistan in this area. According to international agreements on cooperation in the field of culture, art, science and education, signed by Uzbekistan and India during official meetings, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan together with the Department of Culture of the Republic of India developed a Cultural Cooperation Program for 1992-1994 signed on October 12, 1992 in Tashkent . According to this Program, the parties pledged to develop broad exchanges in the field of musical and theatrical arts, organize exhibitions of fine arts, hold events dedicated to important dates in the history of the two peoples, and also hold various meetings with cultural figures.

Such a program was signed between the cultural authorities of Uzbekistan and India in 1995. Considering the effectiveness of the activities that are carried out in the field of culture and contribute to the rapprochement of our peoples, the need to continue cultural cooperation in 1995-1997 was noted. Subsequently, in order to continue and further expand the forms and methods of cultural exchange, two programs were developed and adopted between the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of the Republic of India. One of them is designed for 1997-1999 and was signed on February 7, 1997 in Tashkent, the second is designed for 2000-2002 and adopted on May 2, 2000 in Delhi. [3].

After the development and adoption of the Program for Cultural Cooperation with the Republic of India, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan initiated various events. Organizing and

holding meetings with cultural figures of Uzbekistan and India plays a very important role in the mutual spiritual enrichment of our peoples.

Speaking about cultural cooperation between the two peoples, it should be said that the musical and theatrical achievements of the Indian people are highly valued in Uzbekistan, and its attractiveness lies in its national identity. Considering the great interest of the Uzbek people in this type of Indian art, meetings with Indian creative groups have been held in our republic several times. For example, in 1993, the international festival "Theatre: East - West" was organized in Tashkent. Among representatives of the theatrical art of many countries, the Indian theater group "Chandagarha" attracted attention with its composition. At the festival, he staged a play based on Girish Karnada's story "Naga Mandla". Specialists and spectators of the theatrical art of our republic had the opportunity to closely familiarize themselves with the performances of Indian artists and give them an appropriate assessment. [4].

In the spring of 1994, a seven-member musical group led by the famous Indian singer Gautama Roychowhari visited Uzbekistan with a large concert program. During the tour, Indian artists gave their concerts in the cities of Tashkent, Andijan and Khanabad. Representatives of the diplomatic corps of other countries attended the concert program of the capital's Turkestan Palace along with employees of the Indian Embassy. At the beginning of the concert, the Ambassador of India and the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan spoke. [5]. They noted that this event and many other similar events are a direct result of the mutual interest of the peoples of the two countries in expanding cultural cooperation. At the same time, they expressed confidence that such meetings will help deepen understanding of the spiritual world of fraternal peoples and will play an important role in strengthening interstate relations.

The international music festival "Sharq Taronalari" plays an important role in the spiritual rapprochement of peoples in the field of theatrical art. This festival was established in 1997 on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov and is held annually in the ancient city of Samarkand. The main goal of the festival is to penetrate into the spiritual atmosphere of the musical art of the peoples of the East, as well as strengthen friendship between them.

Among the regular participants of the Sharq Taronalari festival are also representatives of Indian musical art. For example, in 1997, at the first Songs of the East festival, millions of lovers of Eastern, especially Indian music, enjoyed songs performed by the famous Indian singer Shalesh Srivastava. In his songs, the singer was able to express the uniqueness of the music of the Indian people, which combines music and art.

Representatives from different countries followed the progress of the festival and its significance in strengthening friendship and solidarity between different countries. Among them was Professor Kamar Rais, director of the Center for Indian Culture in Tashkent. He noted that the "Oriental Songs" festival gives a powerful impetus to the global process in the field of art, which is aimed at enhancing mutual enrichment and interaction of cultures, strengthening cooperation of peoples in the spiritual sphere, showing the richness and depth of our culture, aesthetic qualities, historical experience and aspirations of our peoples

Similar events are often held in India, where masters of music and theatrical art of our republic are directly involved. For example, in January 1999, the second International Folk Dance Festival

“Mahotsav-99” was held in Gujarat-Ahmedabad, the capital of the Indian state. [6]. It was attended by solo dancers and creative groups from five continents. Our republic was represented by the folk dance ensemble “Khorezm Gullari”, the Khorezm regional branch of the national dance association “Uzbekkraks” under the leadership of the Honored Artist of Uzbekistan Gavkhar Matekubova.

Performances by masters of Uzbek folk dance, which took place in different parts of Ahmedabad during the festival, attracted thousands of Indian art lovers every day. In addition to the usual concert programs, members of the Flowers of Khorezm troupe were able to present colorful theatrical performances, including wedding ceremonies, harvest festivals, national songs and dances performed at the Navruz holiday in Khorezm, and jokes. These performances by Uzbek artists allowed Indian music and folk art lovers to obtain more detailed information about the unique national art of Uzbekistan. It is also worth noting that during the festival, many articles about this event were published in the Indian press. One of them talks about Uzbek artists, in particular it says: “Girls in national Khorezm costumes performed a miracle. They are true professionals.” [7].

In addition, the Indian Cultural Center named after Lal Bahadur Shastri in the city of Tashkent conducts classes in Indian classical dance “Kathak”, yoga and the Hindi language. Indian language is taught at the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies. The institute also operates the Mahatma Gandhi Center for Indian Studies. Uzbek language classes are held at Jamia National University in Delhi.

Conclusion

It is worth noting that India is achieving good results in the field of education; in terms of the quality of education, it is significantly ahead of some countries in South and East Asia. The most popular majors in Indian universities are information technology, management and pharmacology. In this regard, higher educational institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan have established cooperation with more than 10 Indian universities and research centers. [8]. Public diplomacy between Uzbekistan and India is also developing rapidly. Since 1991, the Uzbekistan-India Friendship Society has been operating in Tashkent, which contributes to the expansion of bilateral cultural ties. As a result of ongoing cultural and educational contacts, citizens of the two countries receive extensive information about each other in various fields.

All this will help expand ties between our peoples, especially the younger generation of the two countries.

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