

O'zbekiston - Hindiston sammiti: strategik sheriklikni rivojlantirish sur'ati mustahkamlanadi



Coordination

Uzbekistan, India to further consolidate relationship

by Sanjar Valiev

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL CLOSENESS, THE COINCIDENCE of long-term interests and the complementary nature of the economies of Uzbekistan and India, combined with the desire of both sides to jointly develop multifaceted cooperation, make it natural to transform the centuries-old Uzbek-Indian friendship into a format of strategic partnership. Such strengthening of interstate relations is especially favored by the fact that the leaders of the two countries attach particular importance to the issues of bringing the Uzbek-Indian cooperation to a qualitatively new level. This was confirmed by the virtual summit of the leaders of Uzbekistan and India on December 11, 2020, which was held against the background of the current difficult situation in the world in connection with the global epidemiological crisis and its economic consequences. This meeting allowed President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the end of the year to sum up the results of cooperation, exchange views on the situation around the coronavirus pandemic, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest. Moreover, new plans and further steps have been outlined to bring the strategic partnership between India and Uzbekistan to a new, even higher level. The virtual meeting, traditionally held in a confidential atmosphere, can be regarded as another significant event that has created a new starting point in Uzbek-Indian relations. This is evidenced by a solid package of agreements reached at the end of the summit: the leaders adopted a joint statement and interdepartmental agreements and memoranda.

Moreover, the online meeting held during the pandemic became evidence that the Uzbek-Indian relations not only passed the test of strength, but also demonstrated multi-level strategic interaction. Thus, the search continues for opportunities to expand the interaction of the economies of the two countries by speeding up the process of transport connections and speeding up the issue of concluding an Agreement on Preferential Trade, which together will intensify trade ties and bring their

volume to \$1 billion and above. Investment cooperation has become another important area. In particular, the prospects of using the potential of free economic zones of the two countries, including in the Uzbek-Indian free pharmaceutical zone in Andijan region, were discussed at the talks. At the same time, an important agreement was the instruction to the responsible persons of the two countries to accelerate work on the conclusion of a bilateral investment agreement, which will contribute to the promotion and protection of investments. In this regard, Shavkat Mirziyoyev welcomed the attraction of India's potential for investment and production within the framework of the flagship program of the Government of India "Make in India". In turn, Narendra Modi confirmed the approval of a credit line in the amount of \$448 million, which will



▲ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest at India-Uzbekistan Virtual Summit.

be provided for four development projects in Uzbekistan in the field of road construction, wastewater treatment and information technology. All this indicates that by the time the pandemic crisis ends, Uzbekistan and India have created a solid base for building up multifaceted cooperation in practical areas that are mutually beneficial. First, the bilateral cooperation agenda is rapidly expanding, and new drivers are emerging. Among them, innovation

is considered to be a particularly promising and promising area. Thanks to the conclusion at the current summit of memoranda of cooperation in the field of renewable energy, digital technologies, cybersecurity, Uzbekistan will have the opportunity to widely use the technological and innovative potential of India, which claims to be one of the world leaders in this area.

In recent years, India has secured a dominant position in the global IT services and programming market. It is no coincidence that the Indian IT industry operates almost exclusively for export, which accounts for about 75% of the IT industry's revenues. At the same time, the annual total revenues of this industry in the country are estimated at more than \$175 billion. The established stable start-up ecosystem in India deserves special attention, which is rapidly moving to the fore in terms of the number of technology startups in the world (38,700 officially registered startups). In this context, it is obvious that strengthening cooperation in this area clearly fits into Uzbekistan's strategic plans to develop information technologies in the country, including increasing the share of the digital economy in the country's GDP by 2 times by 2023 and the volume of services in this area by 3 times. In achieving these goals, India, expressing its willingness to share its best practices, can become a reliable partner, especially within the framework of the program developed at the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to train "a million domestic programmers" by 2025.

Secondly, the fact that the leaders of both countries have activated contacts on the development of transport communications can strengthen the North-South project, which in the future will connect Uzbekistan with India through the Gulf of Oman and facilitate the delivery of Uzbek goods to the South Asian region. Not only two countries will benefit from the prospects of connecting transport and logistics hubs between the regions of Central and South Asia. In this context, it is necessary to keep in mind Afghanistan, through whose territory transport and communication arteries will pass, ensuring its involvement in the interregional trade system. This will undoubtedly contribute to the settlement of the Afghan conflict, creating the socio-economic basis for the process

of achieving long-term and sustainable peace in the neighboring country. Ultimately, a wide window of opportunity will open for all countries in the region to take advantage of the transit potential, strengthen their positions in the emerging new model of global supply chains and ensure the deep integration of their own economies into the world economic system.

Third, the both sides do not confine themselves to giving new dynamics to exclusively Uzbek-Indian relations. Uzbekistan acts as a reliable conductor of the interests of the entire Central Asian region. A striking confirmation of this is the initiation by the Uzbek side of the Central Asia-India dialogue format, which is supported by all participants and receives high marks. The activities of this platform have created favorable preconditions for the active interaction of New Delhi with all the Central Asian

of Central Asian countries, are coming to the fore in order to gain a foothold in their traditional niches, such as information technology and software, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, textiles, leather goods, etc. The demand for the implementation of these tasks is closely linked with India's foreign economic priorities to strengthen its position in the world as a major trade and industrial power of Asia. In this context, it should be emphasized that New Delhi is already among the top ten trade partners of the region. The Indian side has achieved a noticeable economic presence in the region in the pharmaceutical sector. India accounts for about 30% of imports of pharmaceutical products from the Central Asian states. In general, thanks to the personal efforts of the leaders of the two countries, qualitative shifts are taking place in the Uzbek-Indian relations towards rap-



▲ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking during the India-Uzbekistan Virtual Summit.

capitals. At the same time, there is an opinion in Indian political and expert circles that thanks to the new regional course of Uzbekistan, a predictable situation has reigned in the region, ensuring overall stability and prosperity. In these conditions, New Delhi is trying to take advantage of new opportunities emerging in Central Asia. The goals of Indian companies gaining free access to markets for goods and services, as well as promising sectors of the economies

prerogative, as well as ensuring the interconnection and complementarities of economies. Such development of partnership between Uzbekistan and India, obviously will become a solid foundation for long-term interaction of Central and South Asia with the integration of Afghanistan into the system of regional interconnection. (The author is Deputy Director of the Institute of Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan)

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Hindiston ommaviy axborot vositalari keng jamoatchilikni O'zbekiston - Hindiston hamkorligi natijalari va istiqbollari to'g'risida xabardor qilishda davom etmoqda

Yuqoridagi sarlavha ostida batafsil maqola har oylik "Business Central Asia" jurnalining navbatdagi sonida chop yetildi.

O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti huzuridagi strategik va mintaqalararo tadqiqotlar instituti direktori o'rinbosari Sanjar Valiyev muallifligidagi ushbu materialda ikki davlat o'rtasidagi hamkorlikning bugungi holati va istiqbollari mufassal ochib berilgan.

Ta'kidlash joizki, "Business Central Asia" jurnali Dehlida nashr etiladi va Hindistonning rasmiy va ishbilarmon doiralari, diplomatik va xalqaro vakolatxonalarini o'rtasida tarqatiladi.

O'zbekiston va Hindistonning madaniy-tarixiy jihatdan yaqinligi, uzoq muddatli manfaatlar va mamlakatlar iqtisodiyotining bir-birini to'ldiruvchi xususiyat kasb etishining mos kelishi hamda ikkala tomonning keng qirrali hamkorlikni birga rivojlantirishga intilishi ko'p asrlik O'zbekiston - Hindiston do'stligining strategik sheriklik formatiga aylanishini tabiiy holga keltirmoqda, - deb yozadi Sanjar Valiyev.

- Ayniqsa, O'zbekiston - Hindiston hamkorligini sifat jihatdan yangi bosqichga olib chiqish masalalariga bevosita ikki mamlakat rahbarlarining alohida e'tibor qaratishayotgani davlatlararo munosabatlarning bunday mustahkamlanishini osonlashtirmoqda. Ushbu uchrashuv Prezident Shavkat Mirziyoyev va Hindiston Bosh vaziri Narendra Modiga yil oxirida hamkorlik natijalarini sarhisob qilish, koronavirus pandemiyasi atrofidagi vaziyat hamda tomonlarni qiziqtirgan mintaqaviy va global masalalar bo'yicha fikr almashish imkonini berdi.

Ishonch muhitida bo'lib o'tgan onlayn-uchrashuvni O'zbekiston-Hindiston munosabatlarida yangi boshlang'ich nuqtani yaratgan yana bir muhim voqea, deb baholash mumkin. Sammit yakunida erishilgan qator kelishuvlar to'plami ham bundan dalolat beradi: davlatlar yetakchilari qo'shma bayonotni qabul qildilar hamda 9 ta hukumatlararo va idoralararo bitimlar va memorandumlar kabul qilinishini ma'qulladilar.

Shu bilan birga, pandemiya davrida bo'lib o'tgan onlayn-uchrashuv O'zbekiston-Hindiston munosabatlari nafaqat sinovdan o'tganligini, balki ko'p bosqichli strategik hamkorlikni namoyish etganining ham daliliga aylandi.

Bosh vazir Narendra Modi va Prezident Shavkat Mirziyoyev Hindiston-O'zbekiston strategik sherikligini yangi va yuqori bosqichga olib chiqishga sodiq ekanliklarini bildirdilar. Ikki davlat rahbarlari o'rtasida bo'lib o'tgan virtual sammitdan so'ng e'lon qilingan Qo'shma bayonotga binoan, ular iqtisodiy va savdo hamkorligini yanada takomillashtirish uchun investitsiyalarni ilgari surish va himoya qilishni rag'batlantirish uchun ikki tomonlama investitsiya shartnomasini tezroq tuzish ustida ishlashga kelishib oldilar.

O'z navbatida, Narendra Modi umumiy hajmi 448 million dollarlik kredit ma'qullanganini tasdiqladi. Ushbu mablag' O'zbekistonda yo'l qurilishi, oqava suvlarni tozalash va axborot texnologiyalar sohasidagi to'rtta loyihani rivojlantirish uchun taqdim etiladi. Bularning barchasi pandemiya inqirozi tugaguniga qadar O'zbekiston va Hindiston tomonidan o'zaro manfaatli bo'lgan amaliy yo'nalishlar bo'yicha ko'p qirrali hamkorlikni rivojlantirishda mustahkam asos yaratilishini ko'rsatadi. Tomonlar faqat O'zbekiston - Hindiston munosabatlariga yangi dinamika bag'ishlash bilan cheklanib qolmaydi. Bizning davlatimiz butun Markaziy Osiyo mintaqasi manfaatlarini ishonchli ilgari suradigan mamlakat sifatida chiqmoqda. Buning yorqin namunasi sifatida O'zbekiston tomonidan "Markaziy Osiyo - Hindiston" formatidagi muloqotni o'tkazish tashabbusini ko'rish mumkin.

Uni barcha ishtirokchilar qo'llab va yuqori baho berib kelmoqda. Ushbu maydon faoliyati Nyu-Delining Markaziy Osiyo poytaxtlari bilan faol hamkorlik olib borishi uchun qulay sharoitlar yaratdi.

Hindiston siyosiy va ekspert doiralarida O'zbekistonning mintaqadagi yangi kursi tufayli Markaziy Osiyoda barqarorlik va rivojlanishni ta'minlovchi vaziyat yuzaga keldi degan fikr ilgari surilmoqda.

Bunday sharoitda Nyu-Deli Markaziy Osiyoda yuzaga kelayotgan yangi imkoniyatlardan foydalanib qolmoqchi bo'lmoqda. Hindiston kompaniyalari tomonidan birinchi planga tovar va xizmatlar bozorlariga erkin kirib borish, shuningdek, mintaqa mamlakatlari iqtisodiyotining istiqbolli tarmoqlari o'zlari uchun an'anaviy hisoblanib kelgan axborot texnologiyalari va dasturiy ta'minot, farmatsevtika va tibbiy jihozlar, to'qimachilik, charm mahsulotlari hamda boshqa sohalarga kirib borish va o'z joyini egallab olish maqsadlari chiqib kelmoqda.

Hindiston tomoni mintaqada farmatsevtika sohasida sezilarli qatnashib kelmoqda. Hindistonga Markaziy Osiyo mamlakatlari dori-darmon mahsulotlari importi ulushining 30 foizi to'g'ri kelmoqda.

Umuman olganda, ikki mamlakat rahbarlarining shaxsiy sa'y-harakatlari tufayli, O'zbekiston-Hindiston munosabatlarida yaqinlashish tomoniga, shuningdek, iqtisodiyotda bir-birlarini to'ldirish va o'zaro bog'langanligini ta'minlash tomoniga sifat jihatdan siljish bo'lmoqda. O'zbekiston va Hindiston o'rtasidagi bunday sheriklikning rivojlanib borishi Afg'onistonni mintaqaviy o'zaro bog'liqlik tizimiga integratsiya qilib, Markaziy va Janubiy Osiyo o'rtasida uzoq muddatli hamkorlikning mustahkam poydevori bo'lib xizmat qiladi.

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