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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIA'S ROLE IN KAZAKHSTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

Introduction

India occupies an important place in the multi-vector foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. India was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It also supported our country during the process of joining the UN. India demonstrated its generosity and willingness to help Kazakhstan throughout. And that is not a random phenomenon. It is not only because India has long been advocating the freedom and peaceful cooperation with all countries. The root of our ties and friendship lies in the distant past centuries. Since BC and the first AD centuries people in Central Asia and India established trade and spiritual relationships.

India's role in the global community

Kazakhstan's interest in India is determined by the place and role of this country in the modern world. India has always played a constructive role in the international stage. Currently India is one of the rising and the most dynamic economies in the world, also being one of the main global centers of influence. India presents itself as a global player.

The Republic of India continues to pay particular attention to further enhance its role in South Asia considering its national security and the need to strengthen the position in the region according to its relevant political weight in the world community.

The policy of non-alignment and peaceful coexistence of India has earned the highest moral authority in the world in the 20th century and fits into the new philosophy of the international relations of 21st century. Kazakhstan highly appreciates India's foreign policy strategy based on the ideas of non-violence by Nehru and the need for cooperation with all countries of the world [1].

Most Indian politicians hold views set by the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi whose activities revealed the embodiment of the humanism as the universal principle of unity between the man and the world. His method of non-destructive conflict resolution involving the disperse of the conflict situation instead of the disperse of the enemy is highly regarded by many.

The provision of the peace and national security, defense of the sovereignty and territorial integrity were and still are the main tasks of modern India. Implementation of these tasks requires the participation of a wide range of cooperative countries.

Kazakhstan welcomes the current military and political alliance of China, India and Russia. It is important that such alliance is not directed against anyone. Only such politics has the future in the ever-changing world. In this changing world there is a sprout of peace and security getting grown through the joint efforts of Kazakhstan and India.

There is no doubt that "this power has its own geopolitical interests in the region determined by several factors. These include: the partnership with Russia; the Chinese presence in Central Asia; India's rapprochement with the West and the United States; the rivalry with Pakistan; the threat of the militant Islamism; India's transport, energy, trade and economic interests in Central Asia and other neighboring regions".[2] .

India is interested in Kazakhstan and Central Asia within the "New Silk Road of India's foreign policy" aimed at securing and further enhancing in our geopolitically important region full of strategic resources.

The main stages of cooperation

As noted the Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Kazakhstan in India D. Kuanyshhev "Over the past 21 years Kazakh-Indian cooperation develops dynamically in all areas of political, economic and cultural life" [3]. The dynamic development of the bilateral equal partnership based on the mutual respect and understanding suggests an unified approach, the views and positions of the two countries in various fields of cooperation.

Since 1992 when the Declaration of Principles and Directions of Co-operation between Kazakhstan and India was signed [4] there have been no fundamental disagreements on the key issues of international relations between two countries.

The first stage of our cooperation can be defined within 90-s when the legal basis had been shaped.

The next stage can be characterized by a surge of India's geopolitical interests in Central Asia in 2002-2003 after the anti-terrorist operation in Afghanistan brought the change to the entire geopolitical situation in the region. India's interests can be divided into two groups: the geopolitical which include competition with China and India and the partnership with Russia, and the economic ones which include primarily energy as well as economic and trade interests [5].

In 2009 Kazakhstan and India entered a new third stage of the bilateral relations by signing the Strategic Partnership Agreement [6] during the visit of the President Nursultan Nazarbayev to India.

At this stage it should be noted that the relations between India and Kazakhstan were filled with specific content within bilateral political, economic, scientific, technical and cultural ties.

Thus during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Kazakhstan in 2011 the "Road Map" about the development of the strategic partnership was signed [7]. The visit gave a new impetus to the development of the bilateral cooperation: 2011-2014 Strategic Partnership development plan was adopted and the seven agreements signed in such fields as energy, cyber security, outer space exploration, education, high-tech development and others.

During the visit of the Kazakh Minister of Foreign Affairs Erlan Idrissov to India on 3-5 March 2013 parties confirmed their willingness to build a constructive dialogue on the issues of regional and global security, reconstruction of Afghanistan and interaction within the multilateral bodies such as the UN, the CICA and the SCO.

During the visits the exchange of the views on key issues of the international agenda, the state and perspectives of the bilateral cooperation occur. Growing intensity and the content of the official visits prove the dynamic development of the bilateral cooperation.

Main areas of cooperation

The predominant areas of cooperation between Kazakhstan and India are trade and economic cooperation, sustainable socio-economic development, political stability and the strengthening of the security in the region.

There are no tensions or contradictions in the political dimension between Kazakhstan and India. The regular meetings are held at the inter-governmental and inter-state levels.

Also the inter-parliamentary ties developed successfully between the two countries. The Indian Parliamentary Friendship Group with Kazakhstan had been created in October 2011.

Cultural ties develop more actively than economic. There are exchanges of musicians and actors, mutual yoga interest, the visits of interesting people take place. On May 2011 New Delhi successfully hosted the Days of Kazakhstan Culture in India. The scientific and academic contacts between the analytical communities of both countries became regular as well. Tourism flourishes. «Kazakhstan-India Tourism and Travel Fair» is held annually since 2005.

Kazakh-Indian relations are based not only on the cultural-historical and political aspects, but also on the economic. Kazakhstan is the largest trading partner of India in Central Asia.

One should take into account the fact that the fast developing Indian economy requires more energy resources. No surprise that India keeps making the attempts to enter and consolidate its positions in Kazakhstan's carbohydrate market. Production and consumption of energy sources are one of the main directions of economic cooperation between Kazakhstan and India.

The points of contact between India and Kazakhstan are not limited to cooperation in financial, economic, energy and transport sectors.

India places an importance to meet the needs of its nuclear industry. Kazakhstan and India signed the Cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy [8]. The agreement to supply more than 2000 tons of Kazakh uranium by 2014 to India may not be sufficient already.

Leaders of two nations also discussed the joint construction of a nuclear reactor that is a priority for Kazakhstan who aspires to become the major global supplier of nuclear fuel and reactors as it seeks nuclear cooperation with Russia, Japan, China and India.

The plans of India and Kazakhstan on cooperation in the outer space are also very significant. Leaders of the countries agreed to boost the cooperation in this area. However Kazakhstan lacks the technological expertise and resources for the development of its space industry. The Indian space program is strong and can provide Kazakhstan with the necessary technologies. Recently India has become one of the most promising global leaders in the space industry where the lead are taken by the United States, Russia and China.

Kazakhstan on the other hand badly requires the technological Know-How to build an innovative economy. Countries had signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian and Kazakh Computer Security Incident Response Teams [9].

Kazakhstan attaches the priority to enhance the cooperation in the field of defense and security. Since 1995 both countries maintain relations in the military field. The Memorandum of military-technical cooperation between two governments was signed in 2002 [10]. Since 2011 Cooperation plans between the Ministries of Defence of Kazakhstan and India are annually signed enabling the defence cooperation to reach higher and more system level.

As noted deputy minister of foreign affairs of India N. Ravi “Kazakhstan and India both being the countries with the multinational and multireligious societies share the common values and the common approaches about the key international issues, including regional security” [11]. Both sides actively oppose international terrorism, drug trafficking and aggressive fundamentalism.

Kazakhstan actively cooperates with India in multilateral fora, international and regional organizations, such as the UN, CICA, SCO. India has been very supportive about the CICA since the initiative was launched by the President Nazarbayev on October 1992.

India also supports Kazakhstan's initiative about holding the Congress of the World and Traditional Religions in Astana and actively takes part in the work of the Congress. Kazakhstan in turn supports India's goal to become a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council in all bilateral and multilateral meetings and negotiations.

Constraints on bilateral cooperation

Despite the external positive facets the relations between Kazakhstan and India develops slowly.

If the level of cooperation with neighboring Russia and China is already quite high, one cannot say the same about India, who has the fourth economy in the world and is the second most populous country. However there is a window of opportunity to change things for the better.

According to Kazakh experts there are several factors complicating the development of Kazakh-Indian relations. These are objective and subjective reasons, mainly being the transport and communications, as India does not border with Kazakhstan or any other country in the region [12].

Another factor is a lack of information on the perspectives and the most current trends in the development of our states within the expert and the public minds of the two countries [13].

India is still seen as "latecomer" in Central Asia. Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy can contribute to the further "awakening" of India in the region. First of all, one must consider the importance of strengthening the Asian side in Kazakhstan's foreign policy in general and India in particular.

Perspectives of bilateral relations

What expectations the countries of Central Asia such as Kazakhstan can have for further development of relations with India? There are few recommendations.

Further development of cooperation should be developed on the grounds of the tier-sectoral approach. Namely the existing cooperation mechanisms, such as bridges, working groups, dialogues should be diversified by the levels.

It is important to advertise the public image of India as rapidly developing country. In the post Soviet public mind of CA countries India remains as a country with rich cultural traditions, Bollywood movies and developed textile industry. Hence one can explain the poor ties at the level of small and medium-sized businesses.

Kazakhstan wants to attract the Indian companies in the industrial sector of Kazakhstan as well as in establishing the joint ventures in the field of pharmacology.

Cooperation in the field of cyber security might become an important aspect of cooperation in the near future. Therefore it is required to further expand cooperation in the field of informational technologies, particularly in the field of cyber security and the training of personnel.

Cooperation in the field of education has great potential too. Targeted educational programs should be developed to train the certain area specialists that Kazakhstan requires.

The scientific cooperation between the expert communities despite the significant progress has a limited character. The long-term comprehensive studies should mark the beginning of the medium-term research.

For Kazakhstan might be useful to study the extensive Indian experience in developing its domestic tourism.

Also it is suggested to expand the cooperation within the multilateral frameworks and to study the rich experience of India to develop the links for the joint fight against terrorism and drug trafficking.

Conclusion

In recent years India is interested in Kazakhstan and Central Asia within "New Silk Road" Initiative. India has a certain potential to expand its economic, military, strategic and geopolitical presence in Central Asia, including Kazakhstan. It will depend upon the number of factors both objective and geopolitical as well as the implementation of the major communication and energy projects.

India is not strongly influential economically and militaryly in Central Asia, and partly relies on its technological capabilities. Recent bilateral deals and enhanced cooperation with Kazakhstan in technology, energy and space issues set a platform for India to expand its strategic presence and contribute to its goal of becoming one of the leading powers in the changing geo-political and economic landscape of Central Asia.

The common interests and goals between the two countries in the field of security and maintaining the stability as well as the similar views on the root causes of the emerging threats to the world present the significant incentives for the development of Kazakh-Indian relations [14].

India as a rising global player is already becoming a force to be taken seriously. Kazakhstan being a dominant player in Central Asia has a certain say in the general configuration of the balance of power in the region too [15].

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