

Uzbekistan – India

studying of the history of cultural relations

In pursuance of the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated of September 19, 2018, The Center for Research of Uzbekistan's Cultural Wealth Located Overseas under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Center) R. Bahodirov, on the eve of the State visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Republic of India, from September 22 to September 27, 2018, participated in the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan in New Delhi.

During the visit as part of events dedicated to the State visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to India, he took part in the media event «Uzbekistan-India: Dialogue of Cultures», which was held at the National Museum of India. At the same time, he participated in scientific conferences at the National University «Jamia Millia Islamia», the National Museum of India and the Jawaharlal Nehru University, in the scientific dialogue at the Islamic Cultural Center of India as chairman and co-chairman of meetings. At the conferences, R. Bahodirov made a report on the topic: «Uzbekistan - India: Studying of the History of Cultural Relations», which was accompanied by a presentation.

On the report he pointed, that after independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, cultural relations got a new character. A special impulse to these relations was given by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev «On the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan», which sets out a strategy for action in the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021.

According to this Decree, one of the priority directions was identified as the area of security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, as well as the implementation of a balanced, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy. In the framework of the implementation of this direction, a number of

important political, economic, trade, cultural and humanitarian events with India are being held. On September 13-14, 2018, the fifth India-Central Asia Dialogue meeting was held in Samarkand, organized by the Information and Analytical Center under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan in conjunction with the Indian Council on International Affairs. In India, the Uzbek Culture Days were held with great success.

A huge number of materials have been discovered and studied, which testify that the roots of cooperation between our peoples go back centuries and originate from the first centuries of our era, the Buddhist monasteries in Kara-Tepa (near Termez, Uzbekistan) are clear evidence of this.

Considering the history of Indian culture in the early Middle Ages, based on the available written sources, it should be noted that the tradition of studying India in the works of Central Asian scientists dated back to the first half of the ninth century. Information about the achievements of Indian scientists in the field of exact sciences were given in the works of the great medieval scholar Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi, whose works in today's days are still great importance in the development of scientific knowledge. It is believed that the next author, who turned to the Indian subjects was the great thinker Abu Rayhan al-Biruni. Indeed, he possesses great services in the study of the history and culture of India. However, between Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi and Abu Rayhan al-Biruni we can point to the name of one more Central Asian encyclopedic scholar who contributed to the history of the study of India. It is a scholar Abu Abdullah al-Khwarizmi (d. in 997).

Abu Abdullah al-Khwarizmi was one of the first Indologists of Uzbekistan who considered the social class (the Hindu community in India and gives information about castes in the seventh chapter of his work «Mafatih al-ulum» (Keys of Sciences).

The famous scholar and encyclopedist Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, the author of essays on all branches of science of his time, among which his famous encyclopedic work occupies a special place – “The book confirming what

pertains to India, whether rational or despicable”. This work, known in the scientific community as “India”, was written in Arabic in 1030 and consists of eighty chapters, which explains all the information available to the scientist, which he scrupulously collected. The creation of Abu Rayhan Biruni of such a masterpiece of scientific thought of the medieval East helped him master the Sanskrit language when he was about forty. This work is translated into Uzbek and Russian languages.

Abu Rayhan Biruni, when he lived in India, conducted research and at the same time engaged in the translation of ancient manuscripts such as «Sakhya», «Patanjali», «Laghuzhataka», etc. from Sanskrit into Arabic.

The XVI-XVIII centuries, the period of Baburids' rule in India, is marked by the development of culture: literature, history, painting, architecture, a vivid example is the Taj Mahal, which built by Shah Jahan. This magnificent monument of architecture in 1983 included into a list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and was named as «the pearl of Muslim art, in India, one of the universally recognized heritage masterpieces that is admired throughout the world».

In recent years, Uzbek and Indian scholars have published a number of papers on the relationship between the peoples of Central Asia, particularly, Uzbekistan and India. A special place among these works is taken by the translation and study of a collection of instructive stories widespread in the East - Kalila and Dimna. The literary relations of Uzbekistan and India, the manuscripts of Bedil's works and his philosophical views reflected in them are thoroughly and comprehensively studied. The works on the history of India were studied: «Babur-name», «Tarikh-i Rashidi», «Humayun-name», «Akbar-name», «Jahangir-name», «Tarikh-i Ferishta» and many others.

It should be noted that there was an exchange of books between our countries, which intensified after the beginning of printing the books in northern India. The largest centers for the supply of books were Mumbai, Lucknow, Lahore, and others, which contributed to the appearance of books and

manuscripts from India in Central Asia. This factor and all the other mentioned studies on history and culture are an example of an integrated approach to studying the history of relations between the peoples of our countries.

Cultural relations of Uzbekistan and India continued in modern times. International scientific conferences, which dedicated to the research of the scientific relations between Uzbekistan and India, Cultural Days, different exhibitions were organized, made films by common activity.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev pays special attention to the study of the cultural heritage of our people and over the past year adopted a number of Decrees in this area. One of the such kind of President's Decrees dated of June 20, 2017 is «The Center for Research of Uzbekistan's Cultural Wealth Located Overseas under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan».

The Functions of the Center:

- to create a comprehensive list of countries, and their respective museums, scientific and research institutions, archives, libraries, funds, and private collections where Uzbekistan's cultural wealth is kept;

- to create the database and the classification of cultural wealth kept in the aforementioned organizations in accordance with the national and international standards by utilizing the benefits Information and communication technologies;

- to establish bilateral cultural relations with foreign museums, scientific and research institutions, archives, libraries, funds, and private collections;

- to repatriate the original or reproduced copies, photo and video illustrations of cultural wealth located overseas back to Uzbekistan in accordance with the National and International legislation, International agreements, resolutions and norms;

- to prepare high-quality bibliographic collections, catalogues, albums, and other publications, which bring back to our country and to publicize the results of the research projects;

- to organize different events and conferences overseas and to utilize Internet to globally publicize (in Uzbek, English, Russian, etc.) and widespread the results of the research on cultural wealth brought to our country;

- to broadcast the results of the research projects of Uzbekistan's cultural wealth brought to our country in cooperation with foreign scientists, to organize the exhibitions to abroad and to take part in different events and conferences overseas.

According to the results of research in this area from the day of the organization to the present, the center has identified the names of about 3000 cultural values of Uzbekistan, stored in more than 40 countries of the world, including India. All this information was obtained from written sources, publications of the NAEMM, which contain information about the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan, as well as websites, museums, libraries and other institutions.

Speaking of India, it should be noted that by now we have entered into the register more than 20 items of values relating to the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan, which are both manuscripts and handicraft items. But we believe that this is only the beginning of the study of what is available in the cultural institutions of India. We propose to establish scientific ties with cultural institutions located in Delhi, Hyderabad, Patna, Rampur and other cities.

It should be emphasized that the Center has signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation with the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies, the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) and the Federal State Budgetary Institution of Culture «Russian Museum of Ethnography» (Russia).

In India, most of the cultural values stored in the culture of Uzbekistan are manuscripts that are in the Indian National Museum, in the Khudobakhsh and Rampur Raza libraries.

The director of the Center has been invited to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation. The proposed cooperation will include joint research and development works on identifying cultural values of Uzbekistan,

compiling the register and its publication, preparing and publishing catalogs, books of albums, facsimile publications and scientific commentary translations in Uzbek, English and Russian. This will contribute to the dissemination of this information among scientists from Uzbekistan and India, as well as from other countries whose scientists conduct research in the field of Eastern culture, as well as all those interested in this.

Conducting joint scientific research and familiarizing the people of Uzbekistan and India with their results will contribute to a deep mutual understanding and further strengthening of bilateral relations in the field of culture. It will also enable the world community to get acquainted with the cultural values of Uzbekistan, stored in India.