



India and CIS Countries: Cooperation in STI and Role of Science Diplomacy



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Introduction

Science and technologies are not only a source of economic growth of countries, but also the basis for the realization of the idea of universal prosperity. This explains the desire of many countries to develop science and technology in all possible ways, including international cooperation. The leaders of India recognized the importance of science at the very beginning of the emergence of a new independent power. India had quite productive relations with the USSR in the past, so it is not surprising that after the collapse of the USSR in 1991 the cooperation between India and the post-soviet countries was established and still tends to strengthen it.

Given the worsening international political situation and the narrowing of opportunities for deepening economic cooperation between Russia and the West, a quantitative assessment of the current state and the study of the growth potential of mutual investments of the “four” CIS countries (primarily members of the Customs Union) and South Asian countries are becoming particularly relevant.

India-CIS Countries Cooperation in STI

India and the CIS countries face similar problems in STI ecosystem: firstly, the training of qualified personnel for work in high-tech industries and, at the same time, the problem of brain drain, and secondly, the creation of a research infrastructure that meets all modern requirements.

Russia

As partners in many fields, in the sphere of science and technology India also maintains the closest cooperation with Russia. Cooperation between India and Russia intensified in recent years. Russia can help India not only to re-equip the army and navy, and begin to create their own effective military-industrial complex. It was noted, that over the past few years, India has concluded a number of agreements with Russia for the supply of high military technology, as well as the supply

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of oil and gas energy. The legal basis of Russian-Indian cooperation in science diplomacy is the intergovernmental Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation of June 30, 1994. In December 2002, the Joint Declaration on strengthening and building up economic, scientific and technical cooperation and the intergovernmental protocol on the protection and use of intellectual property rights, which is the legal basis for enhancing the process of commercialisation and transfer of high technologies¹. There's an Agreement between the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Indian National Academy of Sciences (2003). Many joint research centers have been established. So, in June 2010, the Russian-Indian Science and Technology Center was opened in Moscow as a structure for effective innovative interaction. Its main goal is the practical embodiment of the results of scientific research. In April 2012, the official opening of the branch of Russian-Indian Scientific & Technological Center in Delhi took place².

Russia and India have a long history of relations, but their potential is far from exhausted, especially in the field of science and technology. Thanks to the support of the governments of both countries, there are good prospects to bring scientific and educational cooperation to a new level, providing not only world leadership in modern industries, but also improving the quality of life of people both in India and in Russia.

Belarus

India and Belarus open a new stage of cooperation now. The focus is on scientific and technical cooperation, innovative and new technologies, where Belarus has gained considerable experience on a number of issues. The possibility of creating a demonstration technology center in India is being considered. Another side is the partnership between India and Belarus in the field of skills development, vocational education. Belarus is an active participant in the Indian program of technical and economic cooperation³.

Central Asia

In June 2012, the Indian leadership announced the beginning of the implementation of a new political project aimed at strengthening the position of India in Central Asia and received the name "Connect Central Asia". The new course involves

the development of political relations with Central Asian states; strengthening strategic and military-political interaction and consultations on Afghan issues; active cooperation in the energy sector; increased interaction in the field of medicine and pharmacology, tourism, construction, banking; expansion of cooperation in the field education, providing for the development of academic exchanges, distance education, opening Central Asian University in Bishkek; creation of a Central Asian electronic network; development transport links, including air traffic and the International Transport Corridor "North-South"⁴.

On April 1, 2016, the Protocol on Scientific and Technical Cooperation was signed between the Department of Science and Technology of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and the State Committee for Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia. The protocol is aimed at strengthening the cooperation established by the agreement on cooperation in the field of science and technology between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of India, signed on March 25, 1994 in New Delhi. This protocol will help strengthen existing friendly relations between the two states, as well as deepen cooperation between scientific institutions, universities and research groups of the two states. In accordance with the protocol, the Parties welcome the implementation of joint projects of mutual interest and express their readiness to coordinate bilateral funding of joint research projects in such areas as disaster management, astrophysics, nuclear medicine, high-energy physics and pharmaceuticals.

Gradually moving towards establishing cooperation with Uzbekistan. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Narendra Modi agreed on cooperation in various fields, including the development of outer space for peaceful purposes. During this meeting 20 documents were signed. A decision was made to cooperate in the field of military education, agriculture, science and technology, health and medical science, and to jointly combat illicit drug trafficking⁵.

Conclusion

The insufficient development of cooperation between India and the CIS countries is due to the fact that the CIS

countries gained their independence after the collapse of the USSR in 1991 and despite such a short period of independent self-government, many agreements have already been reached in various fields. That is why India and Russia have the most developed relations. Compilation of the categorical apparatus is an important and very difficult task, understand each other by scientists as well. The non-proliferation of English in the CIS countries also creates a number of obstacles to the development of scientific diplomacy between countries.

Endnotes

¹ Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India of 2002 - URL: <http://kremlin.ru/supplement/3548>

² Tarkinsky, Y.R. 2016. The Development of Russian-Indian Relations in the Field of Science and Technology in the XXI Century // Bulletin of Russian International Academy for Tourism. Pp.27-29.

³ Lukashenko: Belarus and India open a new stage of cooperation // Belta, 12 September 2017. URL: <https://www.belta.by/president/view/lukashenko-belarus-i-indija-otkryvajut-novyj-etap-sotrudnichestva-266222-2017/>

⁴ Troitsky, E.F. Politics of India in Central Asia (2001-2012). 2013. // Bulletin of Tomsk State University, №3. Pp. 106-108.

⁵ Indian visit / Review.Uz Economic Review Magazine, 24 September 2018. URL: <https://review.uz/ru/post/staty/trendi/indijskij-vizit>