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### **Ukraine-India humanitarian ties:**

#### **History and the present**

*The article considers the present state, problems and main directions of the development of ties between Ukraine and India in humanitarian field, as well as short historical review of Ukraine-India ties in the field of science, education and culture is being provided.*

*Key words: Ukraine, India, humanitarian ties, science, education, culture.*

One of the most important trends of modern international relations is internationalization, including the process of deepening international cooperation in the sphere of science, education, culture, expansion of the scale of scientific and technical revolution, modification of the role of mass media and communications.

At the same time the axis of international relations gradually moves from so called “bipolarity” and rivalry to the advantages of the principles of multi-polarity and inter-civilization mutual influence. A change in approaches to international relations, and fundamentally new role played by Asian countries in it, first of all India and China, urges to deepen cooperation with this part of the world.

Considering the geopolitical and geoeconomic changes in the world, and a significant rise of an “Asian vector” in international relations, the research of relations between Ukraine and India seems to be expedient, especially given the fact that they have deep historical roots and very vivid examples of fruitful cooperation.

The source base of this article are international documents: bilateral agreements, protocols, in the first place – Protocol of establishment of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and India (17.01.1992); Agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of India on cooperation in the field of culture, arts, education, tourism, sport and mass media (27.03.1992); Договір про дружбу і співробітництво між Україною та Індією (27.03.1992) тощо [1, с. 302–306; 2, с. 441–443]. Partially archive materials and materials of current archives of relevant ministries and authorities of Ukraine and India were used in this article, as well as information from relevant Internet-resources [3–4].

In the foreign scientific literature on the topic, in particular Indian, there are certain materials of official authorities – in reports and annual collections of documents. Relations between India and Ukraine are partially mentioned in the context of cooperation with CIS-states, in particular with Russia – in statistical data of official authorities of India on science, education, culture and international relations, as well as in a number of Russian monographs [5].

A historiography on the Ukrainian-Indian relations has emerged and significantly expanded over the last two decades in Ukraine. Relations in scientific, educational and cultural spheres between Ukraine and India were considered mostly by Ukrainian researchers in such research works, as dissertations, monographs, research articles, abstracts and materials of scientific conferences. Among them, first of all, Ukrainian professional Indologists' research is worth noting (historians, political scientists, linguists, philosophers).

In particular, works of historian Olga Lukash – one of the first authors of numerous scholarly works on the Ukraine-India relations, chairman of the Ukrainian Association of indologists, one of the leading initiators and organizers of the Institute of Oriental Studies of A. Krymsky of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, responsible scientific editor of Ukraine's first collection of scientific papers on problems of indology – “India: antiquity and modernity” [6–7].

Significant contribution to the study of Ukraine-India relations was made by Ukrainian indologist and historian - Karyna Rubel, who carefully researched this topic in a number of research articles and prepared a thesis, dedicated to cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of India in science, education and culture during 80-90s of last century [8].

Further, this topic was researched by Ukrainian indologist, historian, political scientist Olena Bordilovska, author of several articles, where Ukraine-India humanitarian cooperation was reviewed. She also played a big role in the development of indology in Ukraine through the many prepared and published scientific papers, including monograph, and successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on the problems of the evolution of India's foreign policy [9].

The famous philologist, orientalist, indologist and translator from Hindi and Urdu, author of many publications on India, the study of Indo-Ukrainian-Slavic mythological, ethnographic, folkloric, historical and linguistic ties – Stepan Nalyvayko – made his contribution to the study and deep research of the Ukraine-India historical, philological, cultural contacts and mutual influences between the two countries, as well as in teaching Hindi and dissemination of knowledge about the great Indian civilization at Kyiv national T.Shevchenko University, and in Ukraine altogether [10].

Among the leading scholars and philosophers who have successfully researched the Ukraine-India humanitarian cooperation, it is necessary to mention Yuriy Zavgorodniy - philosopher, indologist, author of interesting scientific works devoted to analysis of ancient Indian works in translations of famous Ukrainian writers and poets and are of great scientific value, due to important comments and notes; he is also the author of scientific researches on ancient Indian philosophy and religion, the head of the seminar of researchers of eastern philosophies, in course of which philosophy and religion of ancient India and its impact on Ukrainian literature, poetry, consciousness is being learnt [11].

Arrange, supplement and enter into scientific circulation new materials and factual data, more fully describe the directions, specifics and particularities of development of Ukraine-India humanitarian ties at the present stage, identify and focus on the most important results, and problems in developing this aspect of international activity of Ukraine – are the objectives and purpose of the authors of this article.

Referring to the history of the issue, it should be noted that relations between our countries have traditionally been friendly and characterized by common views and historical humanitarian cooperation between Ukraine and India most effectively developed in three directions, namely: science, education and culture.

Undoubtedly, an important role here played an event that is associated with the opening, in the late nineteenth century, of the first steamer line between Odessa and Bombay, which gave the opportunity to establish and intensify not only commercial but also scientific, educational and cultural relations with India. The historical event took place on February 12, 1871, when the first steamship “Nakhimov” started its journey from Odessa to Bombay [12, c. 32].

A unique example of the historical ties in science is an outstanding Ukrainian scientist, researcher of plague and cholera Vladimir Khavkin. It is in India, he received worldwide fame and recognition as a prominent bacteriologist and epidemiologist, laying the foundation for further humanitarian Ukraine-India relations. In 1893 V. Khavkin was appointed state bacteriologist of the Indian government. The result of his research activities, which lasted almost 25 years, were thousands of lives of Indians saved. Recognition and a living monument to V. Khavkin in India was the renaming of Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory (organization and the work of which he initiated and led) onto the Institute of V.A. Khavkin [7].

At the same time another famous Ukrainian microbiologist and epidemiologist Danylo Zabolotny was included into Russian expedition to India to study the plague. Meeting and conversations with Khavkin called in Zabolotny the interest of research

of plague and cholera, and had their important implications in the context of humanitarian ties between the two countries.

Among the research areas that are directly related to India and play a critical role in the development of bilateral humanitarian relations, it is necessary to outline indology. The development of indology in Ukraine was launched in the first half of the nineteenth century and the special role in it played the Kharkiv University, where in 1830-33 famous orientalist in the field of philology B.A. Dorn taught Sanskrit and published the first major work “On the affinity of Slavic language and Sanskrit” [13].

Another direction of research of Kharkiv scientists became the history of ancient India, as well as literature, economics and culture. V.I. Schultz, head of comparative linguistics department, had been first in the Russian Empire to publish a book on Sanskrit grammar (1873). A significant contribution to modern indology was made by D.M. Ovsjanyko-Kulykovsky – prominent literary critic and linguist, who analyzed hymns of Veda and studied the process of religious and social consciousness of the ancient Aryans [13].

But, certainly, one of the greatest figures in Ukrainian indology is Pavlo Ritter – a graduate of Kyiv University, renowned orientalist, indologist, sanskritologist and translator of many Indian literature works. In 1926, P. Ritter was one of the founders of the Ukrainian Scientific Association of Oriental Studies, in which Indian section operated very successfully. Unique translations of P. Ritter included the hymns of “Rigveda” and “Atharvaveda”, fragments of classical epics “Mahabharata”, “Ramayana” and many others [11].

An extremely important contribution to indology was made by the Ukrainian indologist, also a graduate of the University of Kyiv, talented philologist, academician Alexei Barannikov. He initiated the study and research of modern languages of India - Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Bengali, Punjabi in the Soviet Union, opened a branch of study of these languages in Leningrad and played a prominent

role in development of the Soviet school of indology, which certainly influenced and spread knowledge of studies on India in Ukraine.

Considering the complicated path of development of indology in Ukraine, which plays a vital role as a leading scientific direction in the development and proliferation of humanitarian relations with India, it is necessary to note the following. Due to pre-war repressions, World War II (1939 - 1945) and other political reasons orientalism and indology, in particular in Ukraine, were practically destroyed.

In the postwar years, the main indology centers were located in Russia, and in Ukraine this scientific field hardly developed. Only during 60-70s and especially in the late 80's - early 90-ies in Kyiv and some other cities of Ukraine some experts emerged and researched on certain problems of India.

This process intensified since Ukraine became independent. For example, in the 90-ies more than 10 dissertations on indology were defended, quite a few scientific and popular science publications were published. Interest in India, its history, philosophy, religion, literature has much spread among the general population.

Thus, objective conditions of the revival of scientific school of indology in Ukraine have evolved. Scientific conferences, methodological seminars on indology, teaching of languages, history and philosophy of India in the universities of Ukraine and the publication of scientific and popular works on India - is an important and necessary step towards the revival of old traditions and the formation of modern Ukrainian school of Indian studies.

Extremely important role in this process, undoubtedly, played the First All-Ukrainian Scientific Conference of Indologists, devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Republic of India (January 24, 2000). This conference was a peculiar and a unique phenomenon in the academic and social life of Ukraine, since in the process of its preparation and holding the first attempt was made to collect all Ukrainian specialists engaged in research of various fields of indology (see "Eastern World", 2000, № 1, p. 167-168).

Systematization and analysis presented at the conference's scientific reports have shown that such directions are three: 1) history (from ancient times to present day), 2) religion and philosophy, 3) language and literature. Interesting is the fact that all these areas rather uniformly presented by researchers - conference participants.

The most important practical result of the conference was the creation of the All-Ukrainian Association of Indologists (VUAI) and its head was elected the initiator of the association, known indologist, historian O.I. Lukash. Official opening of VUAI was held in June 2000 with the active facilitation from the side of the Embassy of India in Ukraine, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of India in Ukraine V.B. Soni. The main purpose and objectives of the association were to organize and exchange views of Ukrainian scientists researching various problems of Indian society from the ancient period to the present day (systematically hold conferences, seminars and consultations for that purpose); promote scientific knowledge in Ukraine and general information about India as one of the leading countries of Asia and the modern world as a whole, begin publication of scientific indology literature: collections of scientific works, monographs, articles; prepare qualified scientific personnel (candidates and doctors) in the field of indology. The most important task put by VUAI is setting up and proliferation of various humanitarian ties with India, first of all in the field of science, and promotion of comprehensive relations in education and culture.

Since its inception VUAI has made great efforts towards practical implementation of the outlined tasks: conducted many scientific seminars, conferences, "round tables" with participation of leading Ukrainian and Indian scientists (the latter often had the opportunity to come to Ukraine to participate in these activities and exchange scientific information and ideas). In turn, the Ukrainian indologists – members of VUAI repeatedly visited India to participate in international conferences and lectures in leading Indian universities: University of J. Nehru, Delhi and Bombay universities and research institutes such as the Indian Council for

International Affairs (ICWA). Over the years, cooperation between Ukrainian and Indian scientists in the humanities has developed friendly and creative relationship. As of now, we shall expect development and preparation of joint research works for publication: articles, conference proceedings, monographs.

But on the way of this great work, there are many difficulties, namely: lack of special funding, lack of regular donors, inert position of most government agencies and research institutes. Some breakthrough was made in 2008, when supported by management of the Institute of world economy and international relations of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine an additional funding from the Presidium of NAS of Ukraine was received, which enabled to implement the first Ukrainian-Indian humanitarian project. Delegation of Ukrainian scientists and experts, members of VUAI - representatives of different scientific fields (historians, linguists, international affairs experts, economists, journalists) were in India under the leadership of the head of VUAI O.I. Lukash for a series of events – “round tables”, seminars, interviews, with the purpose to acquaint Indian scientists-colleagues with a wide range of scientific research on Indian studies in Ukraine, internal political and economic situation of our country, the expediency of distributing economic and humanitarian relations between the two countries .

Within the project, VUAI received leading Indian scientists in Kyiv - professors of the University of J. Nehru and the Indian Council for International Affairs (ICWA), familiarized them with the main areas of humanities research in Ukraine, provided an opportunity to give scientific lectures in institutes of NAS of Ukraine and Kyiv T.Shevchenko University. Such measures act as a forum for debate. They create a solid foundation for government agencies within the research base for analysis and prognostics of relations between countries.

Describing the major milestones of humanitarian relations between Ukraine and India in major area - education, we must first of all, note achievements of Ukrainian specialists-indologists in teaching and learning Indian languages, in particular Hindi.



It is worth mentioning that Ukraine has quite a solid base for learning Hindi, especially in Kyiv Gymnasium of Oriental Languages No 1 (the associated school of UNESCO). Since 1992, school students have the opportunity to learn Hindi language, and since 1995, teachers and high-school students are trained in educational institutions in India. Quite successfully Hindi is taught at the Kiev International University, Kyiv University “Oriental world”.

Strong base for the study of Hindi language is set up in Kyiv University of T.Shavchenko (since 1992). Significant event towards the expansion and improvement of teaching this language was opening in May 2007 of the first in Ukraine Center of Hindi language and Indian literature at the Institute of Philology of Kyiv University of T.Shavchenko. With a help of such center new opportunities opened for the research and study of Indian languages and literature. Director of the Hindi Center Motrichenko Olena is the author of dissertation on the problem of functional-semantic features of culturally-marked vocabulary of Hindi, the textbook “Culture-oriented linguistics of India” and many articles on language and its study.

Kyiv National Linguistic University also has great possibilities for the introduction and improvement of education in the sphere of Indian philology. In 2007, with the help of the Embassy of India in Ukraine it introduced Hindi, and created the Center of Hindi language and Indian culture. The level of humanitarian ties in education and teaching of Indian languages is certified by the fact that an official partner of the Faculty of Oriental Studies of the University is a Central Institute of Hindi in India.

Cooperation in education has been and remains a significant and established element of cooperation between Ukraine and India. Being a part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine had been actively involved in the development of higher education in India. This included supply of methodological and documentary framework for higher education, training highly qualified specialists, training qualified scientific and technical personnel who were so much in demand by the Indian economy of those

times. A striking example of this cooperation was the establishment through UNESCO projects a number of engineering colleges in India (so-called Warangal project) and a leading technological university of India - Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay [7].

Cooperation in education continues today. Analyzing the latest statistics, we see that in 2010/11 academic year in Ukraine higher education gained more than 48,000 students from 134 countries around the world. Most foreign students were from China - 6 thousand, Turkmenistan represented 5.5 thousand students, Russia - 4 thousand, India - 3 thousand [14]. The majority of Indian students come to Ukraine for medical specialties. Only in the Luhansk State Medical University there are approximately one thousand Indians involved in medical specialties.

Training of foreign students in Ukraine not only promotes its international image, but also brings significant revenues to the state budget. However, it should be noted that there are some problems which foreign students may face in Ukraine. Firstly - language problem and the problem of adaptation to life, culture and traditions of Ukraine. The language problem is being solved quite successfully for many years through the establishment of preparatory departments that operate under several leading universities of Ukraine. On the other hand, the Embassy of India in Ukraine annually provides scholarships from Government of India for free education for Ukrainian students in higher educational institutions of India in various specialties and Hindi learning courses.

Speaking about cultural relations of today, it should be noted that with the facilitation of the Embassy of India in Ukraine, "Indian Council of Cultural Relations" (ICCR) and Indian community (India Club) in Ukraine, various cultural events on culture and traditions of India are being held.

For many years, from the Ukrainian side a substantial work in the direction of humanitarian ties is being done by the "Ukraine-India" Society, which acquired legal status already in 1991. The Society unites a wide circle of Ukrainian public and has

its departments almost in all regions of Ukraine. The purpose of the Society is an active promotion to socio-economic and cultural development of Ukraine and India, development and strengthening of friendship, mutual understanding, trust, and multifaceted cooperation between representatives of the public of both countries. During the years of its existence the Society has significantly facilitated widening of Ukraine-India professional ties, held unique festivals of Indian dances, organized concerts, exhibitions, charitable events, cinema festivals, months, decades, weeks of friendship between countries.

The most active part of the Society – student and school youths, who seek the opportunity to know Indian culture not in an abstract way, but through personal feelings. Youth has special interest in dance culture of India – many cities of Ukraine have clubs and studios of Indian dance. Pioneers in the development of culture of Indian dance in Ukraine were Poltava based center of Ukraine-India friendship “Shanti” (head – Svitlana Grytsai), Kyiv club “Sarasvati” (head – Olena Ryzhei). Poltava center became an initiator of holding of the first All-Ukrainian festival of Indian dance “Rhythms of happiness” in 1994, which had been held periodically. Representatives not only from Ukraine, but also from eight foreign states took part in the XI festival in Kyiv, which became an international event, example of high level of international humanitarian cooperation.

Great traditions in the development of Indian classical dance in Ukraine (Kyiv) have been carried on by schools “Vasanta” (head – Svitlana Vradaska), school and theatre of Indian dance “Nakshatra” (head – Anna Smirnova). All seriousness and profound attitude of Ukrainians to Indian classical dance is confirmed by the fact that Anna Smirnova publish a book on the history and choreographic peculiarities of Indian classical dance [15].

The most impressive recent cultural events were international festivals of Indian classical dance and music “Nrityanjali 2005-2006”, art exhibition devoted to prominent Indian artist Amrita Shergil (2009), celebration of the Independence Day

of India in 2012 at Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Kyiv, recitals of performers of Indian classical dance – Mykhailo Kryvchuk (first teacher of Indian dances in Ukraine), Olena Ryzhei – head of the All-Ukrainian federation of Indian dances etc.

A decent response to the challenges of globalization should be a thorough and comprehensive cooperation between countries in the development of humanitarian cooperation in science, education, culture as a unifying factor and important components of social and economic development of today. Immediate goal in relations between Ukraine and India should become a strong and multifaceted partnership that in future may become an effective tool to influence the development of international relations and mutual support in addressing global issues. Such cooperation should become the cornerstone in building strong inter-civilization contacts between our distinctive nations. Expansion and development of scientific and technical potential, cooperation in cultural and educational areas, the study of common history are prerequisites for building bridges of friendship and mutual understanding in the twenty first century. For further development of fruitful cooperation between Ukraine and India it is required to prepare an appropriate up-to-date agreement on cooperation in science, culture and education, new inter-agency memorandums, protocols, agreements. Such steps should include the application of practical measures, including proper coordination and funding of programs and projects in promising sectors, given the realities of today.

Rapid restoration of relations at the beginning of the first decade of the XXI century began to subside, so it is necessary to resume dialogue at all levels and give rise to the next meeting of the intergovernmental commission and the committee on scientific and technical cooperation. This year (January 17, 2012) marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of official diplomatic relations between Ukraine and India. During a visit to India in November 2011 of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, it was agreed to hold in 2012 “Days of Ukraine in India” and, accordingly, “Days of India in Ukraine” to celebrate the anniversary [4]. These measures together

with the exchange of visits and review of the current legal framework can significantly help identify and develop mutually beneficial relations in subsequent years.

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