

**PROTOCOL OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE INDIA-TURKMENISTAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON TRADE, ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION**

The Sixth meeting of the India-Turkmenistan Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) was held in New Delhi on 14 August 2017. The Turkmen side was led by His Excellency Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Indian side was led by Her Excellency Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of India. The composition of the delegations of Turkmenistan and India (hereinafter referred as Sides) are at Annexes I & II.

The Commission reviewed developments in bilateral relations since the fifth Commission meeting held in April 2015 in Ashgabat. Both sides noted with satisfaction that eight documents were signed during Honourable Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi's visit to Ashgabat on 11-12 July 2015. Both sides expressed satisfaction at current state of cooperation between the two countries and underlined the importance of continued engagement at various levels aimed at deepening and expanding mutually-beneficial cooperation.

The heads of delegations noting the high level of implementation of decisions taken at previous meetings of the Commission confirmed that the work of current meeting of the Commission was aimed at fulfilment of agreements reached in the course of negotiations between the President of Turkmenistan and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India held on 11-12 July 2015 in Ashgabat.

Within the framework of the meeting of the Commission that took place in the atmosphere of mutual understanding and openness both sides noted that during 25 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations the cooperation and mutually-beneficial partnership between Turkmenistan and India had reached a high level. The sides underlined that the basis of these achievements is traditionally friendly ties between peoples of the two countries originating from the old times and also personal attention and close contacts of heads of the two states. Both sides



confirmed commitment of Governments of the both countries to further strengthening of relations of comprehensive friendly cooperation.

Both sides agreed upon on the agenda of the meeting of the Commission (Annex III).

Both sides noted that the previous five meetings of the Commission had reviewed achieved results and identified new areas of cooperation between Turkmenistan and India. The Commission expressed confidence that decisions taken in the sixth meeting of the Commission would result in further strengthening of bilateral cooperation.

The Indian side expressed appreciation to the Turkmen side for organizing His Excellency Mr. R.Meredov's visit to India in December 2016 for participation in the Conference "Heart of Asia".

The Commission noted with satisfaction the holding of Foreign Office Consultations at the level of Deputy Foreign Ministers in New Delhi on 17 March 2016.

The Turkmen side expressed gratitude to the Government of the Republic of India for organizing the visits to Turkmenistan of Vice-President of India H.E.Mohammad Hamid Ansari on 13 December 2015 for participation in celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of neutrality of Turkmenistan and ground-breaking ceremony for laying the gas pipeline project "Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India" (TAPI) and Minister of State for Road Transport and Shipping of India Mr. Pon Radhakrishnan for participation in the first Global Conference on Sustainable Transport on 26-27 November 2016.

Both sides agreed to strengthen interparliamentary cooperation between Mejlis of Turkmenistan and Parliament of India.

The Indian side extended its warm felicitations to the Government of Turkmenistan for its significant achievements, especially in the last decade, under the leadership of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and the re-election of President in the elections held on February 12, 2017. Both sides agreed to further enhance their bilateral exchanges at the political level. In this context, the Indian side would welcome an early visit at the



highest level from Turkmenistan to India on mutually convenient dates.

Both sides reviewed the following bilateral developments since the last session of the Commission:

a) TAPI project – India reiterated the importance of TAPI not only for meeting its energy requirements but also for establishing peace in Afghanistan. The Indian side highly appreciated the initiative of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in expediting the implementation of TAPI gas pipeline including the ground-breaking ceremony held in December 2015.

The Indian side welcomed the decision of the Government of Turkmenistan concerning the leading of the consortium by State Concern “Türkmengaz” and noted that four member countries had signed the Share Holding Agreement. Both sides welcomed progress with regard to implementation of contracts signed as a result of consultations, detailed route survey, engineering and design works of TAPI pipeline project in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Both sides also noted the efficiency of the meetings between the State Concern “Türkmengaz” and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India regarding the “Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India” project and noted the necessity of conducting meetings on regular basis in order to consider organizational, financial, economic, technical and other issues related with the project.

b) The Turkmen side invited guests, athletes and tourists from India to take active participation in the forthcoming V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games to be conducted in Ashgabat during 17 to 27 September 2017.

The Indian side conveyed that it would be represented at an appropriate level at the opening ceremony of the V Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games scheduled to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and wished success to the Turkmen side in holding this important event. The Indian side also mentioned that an Indian delegation visited Turkmenistan and offered its assistance in holding the games as per the provisions of the Agreement between the State Committee for Sports of Turkmenistan and the Ministry of Youth



Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India on cooperation in the field of sports.

Both sides agreed to establish direct contacts and strengthen cooperation between National Olympic Committees, sport organizations and national federations of the two countries.

c) The Indian side congratulated Turkmenistan on its assumption of the chairmanship at the Conference on Energy Charter. The Turkmen side noting the importance of cooperation in the field of energy invited the Indian side to participate in the Conference on Energy Charter to be held in Ashgabat on 27-29 November 2017. The Indian side appreciated the invitation and conveyed it would respond through diplomatic channels about its participation.

d) The Indian side agreed to participate at an appropriate level at the seventh Regional Conference on Economic Cooperation on Afghanistan scheduled to be held on 14-15 November 2017 in Ashgabat.

e) The Turkmen side expressed its gratitude on India's assistance for the up-gradation of Turkmen-India Industrial Training Centre, for which Memorandum of mutual understanding between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of India for improvement and modernization of the Turkmen-Indian training and industrial centre in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, was signed during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission. Both sides expressed satisfaction on the successful completion of the phase I, as a result of which a space had been allocated at the Turkmen State Institute of Architecture and Construction for the mentioned Centre. The Indian side reiterated its commitment for implementation of phase II of the project. The Turkmen side noted that the state of art equipment supplied under the programme was beneficial to train engineering students.

f) Capacity building: The Turkmen side expressed its appreciation for the training opportunities provided to Turkmen students under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme and the scholarships offered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relationship and under Cultural Exchange Programme. The Indian side underlined its continuing commitment to support the efforts of the Turkmen side in capacity-building measures in various sectors.



## **I. Trade & Economic Cooperation**

Both sides noted that while there had been a modest rise in bilateral trade, it is way below potential and agreed to undertake joint efforts for enhancement and diversification of trade. Towards this end, the sides decided to set up Joint Business Council.

Commission welcomed that the two sides have since agreed on the draft of the Protocol amending the Convention between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of India for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital signed on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1997 and underlined their desire to conclude it an early date.

Both sides agreed to expand cooperation in financial sphere including for development of financial markets and insurance and jointly work on a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Finance of Turkmenistan and the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Republic of India concerning cooperation in exchange of intelligence related to money laundering, terrorism financing and related crimes.

Both sides agreed to commence negotiations on draft Agreement between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of India on mutual promotion and protection of investments.

The Indian side agreed to consider possibility of purchasing high quality Turkmen textile goods, handmade carpets and carpet products and also indigenous sheep wool from Turkmenistan.

Both sides agreed to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation including through joint ventures and joint projects.

The Turkmen side appreciated active participation of Indian companies in exhibitions held in Turkmenistan.

Both sides agreed to assist business circles of the two countries in participation in exhibitions, fairs, forums and conferences held on the territories of their states.

The Turkmen side proposed to hold India specific exhibition in Turkmenistan; the Indian side appreciated and welcomed the proposal.



### **Pharmaceuticals:**

The Turkmen side noted Indian strength in the field of pharmaceuticals and supply of quality pharmaceutical products. It appreciated the participation of Indian pharmaceutical companies in the exhibition "Health-2017" held on 20-22 July 2017.

### **Agriculture:**

Both sides underlined the importance of cooperation in the sphere of agriculture and agreed to interact, exchange information and experience in the following fields from agriculture:

- state of art technologies and advanced methods of practicing agriculture and cultivation;
- development of cooperation between scientific & research institutes and scientific centres of the two countries in the field of agriculture;
- phytosanitary and veterinary control of agricultural production as well as safety and diagnostics of food products of vegetable and animal origin;
- diagnostics, prophylactics and treatment of animal and poultry diseases;
- integrated eco-friendly biological pest management, disease and weed control.

## **II. Transport and Communications**

The Indian side thanked the Turkmen side for the invitation to join the Agreement on the Establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sultanate of Oman, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan (Ashgabat Agreement) during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Turkmenistan in July 2015. The Turkmen side in their capacity as the depository state agreed to put efforts on expediting India's accession to this Agreement.

The Indian side appreciated the efforts of the Government of Turkmenistan in organising the Global Conference on Sustainable Transport in November 2016 under the auspices of the UN.

The Turkmen side informed of its consent to the India proposal for Turkmenistan to participate in INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor).



The Indian side informed about the Chabahar port project in Iran that would help to provide connectivity through Afghanistan to Central Asia. Turkmen side agreed that Chabahar port is a main element for providing connectivity in the region and supported India's initiative in this regard.

Both sides consider that the potential of direct flight connectivity between the two countries could be better utilised for the purpose of export promotion of products, such as fresh fruits/vegetables and readymade food items from India to Turkmenistan and from Turkmenistan to India, and agreed to consider possibility to facilitate air cargo.

### **III. Oil and Gas and Chemical Sectors**

The Indian side appreciated the efforts made by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov for expeditious implementation of the TAPI gas pipeline project. Both sides noted that the ground-breaking ceremony for laying of the pipeline organized on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015 was indicator for progress in the implementation of TAPI project. Both sides reaffirmed their strong commitment to the TAPI project and agreed to put efforts on expeditious solution of pending issues including the issues of financing and security.

Commission reiterated that gas pipeline "Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India" is an important long-term energy project providing vital political and socio-economic benefit for the member countries and for entire region. In this connection, both sides noted importance of completion of construction of gas pipeline within the time frame.

Taking into account the importance and topicality of the project of gas pipeline TAPI and as per the discussions in the last meeting of the member parties, the Government of India consents to holding the next Steering Committee meeting on "Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India" in New Delhi.

Commission recommended to the State Concern "Türkmengaz" and oil & gas companies of India to explore possibility of procurement of liquefied gas, currently produced by the State Concern "Türkmengaz", as well as sulfur obtained as a result of processing of natural gas and gas chemical products (polyethylene,



propylene and others), which are planned to be manufactured from 2018.

Both sides took note of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on Supply of Chemical Products between the State Concern "Türkmenhimiya" and the "Indian Public Sector Undertaking "Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF)" signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Ashgabat in July 2015. Both sides agreed to continue consultations to take this forward.

The Indian side reiterated its offer to organize and conduct training courses for experts and technical personnel of oil & gas sector of Turkmenistan in institutions run by ONGC and GAIL and in this regard requested concrete proposals from the Turkmen side.

As regards the joint venture for production of urea, the Indian side requested for a model of joint venture acceptable to Turkmenistan. The Turkmen side agreed to send an appropriate model to Indian partners shortly.

#### **IV. Cultural and Humanitarian Cooperation**

Both sides underlined the successful conduct of several events in cultural and humanitarian sphere of the two countries from April 2015 to August 2017 both in Turkmenistan and India.

Both sides commended the holding of Cultural Week of India in Ashgabat in May 2017 on the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkmenistan and India. The celebrations included exhibition of Indian textile "Vastram", concert of group "Dance Era" from Bollywood, screening of Indian films as well as Indian Food Festival.

The Commission agreed to recommend to their postal authorities release of a joint postal stamp on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

Both sides noted with satisfaction screening of Indian films on regular basis in various cities of Turkmenistan and underlined the need for continuation of arranging such functions.

Both sides welcomed readiness to sign a draft of Memorandum of Understanding between the Youth Organisation of Turkmenistan named after Magtymguly and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Republic of India on cooperation in the field of youth development.



Both sides welcomed that the draft of Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on Broadcasting between State Committee of Turkmenistan for Television, Radio Broadcasting & Cinematography and Prasar Bharti, New Delhi, India was agreed upon and was ready for signature.

Commission highly appreciated the support extended by the Government of Turkmenistan to the Yoga & Traditional Medicine Centre inaugurated during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Ashgabat in July 2015, noting that the centre is receiving ever larger number of visitors every year. The Indian side also thanked the Government of Turkmenistan for their assistance in organising the International Day of Yoga on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

The Indian side informed the Turkmen side that deployment of an Ayurveda expert to Ashgabat would assist successful functioning of the Yoga and Traditional Medicine Centre.

Both sides agreed to consider a bilateral Youth Exchange Programme for a period of 10-12 days annually with the participation of 20 youth for closer acquaintance with culture, values and heritage of the two countries.

Both sides agreed that they would make an effort to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of culture, including by holding cultural days alternately in both countries.

#### **V.Cooperation in the field of information technology**

The Turkmen side informed about the expanding use of automation equipment of services in banking sphere in Turkmenistan and for serving flight passengers. India offered to share its knowledge and experience in this field.

The Turkmen side, while expressing its appreciation for the establishment of India-Turkmen Information Technology Centre at the Turkmen State University named after Magtymguly, requested for two IT teachers for training Turkmen students for at least one year. The Indian side agreed to explore the possibility of providing teachers.

#### **VI.Chancery Buildings**

Both sides shared updates on process of allotment of land for building of the Embassies and agreed to exchange the terms and conditions in order to prepare its proposals.



## **VII. Cooperation in the field of science and education**

Taking into account that Turkmenistan and India had sufficient capacity for scientific and technical cooperation in the area of mutual interest, Commission recommended the sides to promote Turkmen-Indian cooperation in the field of science and technology.

Both sides noted that chemical technology, seismology, eco-friendly renewable energy sources, biotechnology, information technology and pharmaceuticals could be priority areas of bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology.

With a view to discussing issues on the development of cooperation in above mentioned areas and the development of specific agreed activities, under the Programme of Cooperation in science and technology between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of India for the period of 2015-2017, signed on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015 the Parties consider it is advisable to send a delegation of Turkmen scientists to India in November-December 2017.

In recognition of the archaeological findings by Turkmenistan in Altyn-Depe, that has revealed contacts between the cities of Indus Valley civilization and the Bronze Age settlements in the South of Turkmenistan, the Commission recommended to study the possibility of organizing mutual visits to further explore these historic linkages.

## **VIII. Human Resources Development**

Commission welcomed signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

Both sides emphasized the importance of training offered to citizens of Turkmenistan under Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme and scholarships of Indian Council for Cultural Relationship.

The Turkmen side expressed gratitude for providing Hindi teacher from August 2017 and reiterated their request for two English teachers from India for one year to be posted at the



Turkmen National Institute of World Languages named after Dovletmamet Azadi in Ashgabat. The Indian side also informed about, and the Turkmen side welcomed, the decision to organize study tour of Hindi students from Turkmenistan to India.

### **IX. Cooperation in Security**

Both sides underscored the importance of cooperation in the field of security and agreed to further strengthen this partnership through regular consultations.

Both sides noted importance of agreeing upon the draft of Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Turkmenistan and the Government of the Republic of India on cooperation in the field of disaster management.



### **X.Next IGC meeting**

It was decided that the next meeting of the Commission would be held in Ashgabat in 2019, dates of which would be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Done in New Delhi on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in two originals, each in Turkmen, English and Russian languages, all texts being equally authentic.

**Co-Chairperson  
from the Indian side**



**Sushma Swaraj**

**Co-Chairperson  
from the Turkmen side**



**Rashid Meredov**



**Delegation of Turkmenistan**

1.	R.Meredov	Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, Minister of Foreign Affairs (co-chairperson of the Commission from the Turkmen side)
2.	M.Archayev	Acting State Minister – Chairman of the State Concern “Türkmengaz”
3.	Sh.Meretliyev	Acting Chairman of the State Concern “Türkmenhimiya”
4.	B.Gylyjov	Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkmenistan
5.	P.Durdyev	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan to the Republic of India (New Delhi)
6.	B.Abdiyeva	Deputy Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan
7.	T.Siliyev	Deputy Minister of Healthcare and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan
8.	A.Atabayeva	Deputy Minister of Education of Turkmenistan
9.	Sh.Babanazarov	Deputy Minister of Defence of Turkmenistan
10.	Y.Ymamberdiyev	Deputy Chairman of the Service “Türkmenhowayollary”



11.	O.Vasov	Head of the Department of foreign economic relations of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan
12.	S.Shihiev	First secretary of the Department of countries of the Asia-Pacific Region of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (responsible secretary of the Commission from the Turkmen side)



**Delegation of India**

1.	Sushma Swaraj	Minister of External Affairs
2.	Ruchi Ghanashyam	Secretary(West), Ministry of External Affairs
3.	Rashmi Verma	Secretary, Ministry of Culture
4.	Ashok Kumar Gupta	Secretary (Defence Production), Ministry of Defence
5.	Sunil Kumar	Additional Secretary (FT-CIS), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
6.	Sukhbir Singh Sandhu	Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development
7.	G.V. Srinivas	Joint Secretary (Eurasia), Ministry of External Affairs
8.	Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad	Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan
9.	Sunjay Sudhir	Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
10.	Sushil Kumar Lohani	Joint Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
11.	Raveesh Kumar	Joint Secretary(XP) and Spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs



12.	Nagaraj Naidu	Joint Secretary(Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs
13.	R.K. Maheshwari	Advisor, M/o Civil Aviation
14.	Dr. S.K Varshney	Scientist 'G' Department of Science and Technology
15.	Apoorva Srivastava	Director, Office of External Affairs Minister
16.	Satish Chander Gupta	PS to External Affairs Minister
17.	Sipra Ghosh	First Secretary/Interpreter, Embassy of India, Tashkent
18.	Pooja Tillu	Under Secretary (Eurasia), Ministry of External Affairs



## **Agenda**

### **Opening Remarks**

#### **First Session**

- 1.1 Trade and economic cooperation;
- 1.2 Energy;
- 1.3 Connectivity;
- 1.4 Agro-industrial complex;

#### **Second Session** (humanitarian links)

- 2.1 Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals;
- 2.2 Sport and tourism;
- 2.3 Science and Education, Information and Technical Cooperation;
- 2.4 Culture.

### **Concluding Remarks**