

GROWTH POINTS FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION

In the capital, at the Hyatt Regency hotel, a traditional meeting of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to the Republic of Uzbekistan Manish Prabhat with journalists was held, dedicated to the development of mutually beneficial Indian-Uzbek relations and promising projects that are planned to be implemented in various fields.

The centuries-old ties between our two countries have been tested by time. In his speech, the Ambassador noted that relations between Uzbekistan and India were further strengthened after the visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tashkent in July 2015 and June 2016 and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to India in autumn 2018 and January 2019.

It was stressed that despite the situation related to the coronavirus pandemic, the two sides continued high-level meetings, including the Virtual Summit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2020. It should be noted that the mutual trade turnover between India and Uzbekistan in a difficult year for the whole world in 2020 increased by 25 percent and amounted to \$ 440 million. Indian investments in Uzbekistan increased by 12%, especially in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, healthcare, construction, chemical industry, amusement parks, automotive components, and hotel business in different regions of our country.

To date, a number of major projects are being implemented through grant assistance from India. In particular, these are the Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Information Technology at the Tashkent University of Information Technology, the Indian-Uzbek Center for Entrepreneurship Development in Tashkent, the "India Room" in higher educational institutions of Uzbekistan, and others.

Speaking about relations in the field of education, the Ambassador said that within the framework of the Indian Program of Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), more than 2,400 Uzbek specialists were trained in leading institutions in India. Every year, more than 170 specialists participate in various courses.

The journalists were informed about the Indian-Uzbek relations within the framework of international organizations. India views the SCO as an important regional group for developing cooperation based on generally accepted international norms.

"We share a common geographical space, which for thousands of years has contributed to the continuous exchange of people, ideas and goods in both directions and has left an indelible imprint on our customs, traditions and languages," said Manish Prabhat. - India strives to take our cooperation within the SCO to new heights by playing an active, positive and constructive role in the organization.

It was noted that the Embassy actively cooperates with the Indian diaspora in Uzbekistan for the further development of bilateral trade, investment and cultural relations. The Tashkent Indian Club, which is a very active social platform, makes a great contribution to the well-being of society.

During the conversation, the participants received answers to all their questions.

Sergey Mutin
Photo by Rashida Galieva