

**Embassy of India
Tashkent**

Press Release

Celebration of the 73rd Republic Day of India on 26 January 2022

Embassy of India in Tashkent celebrated with great enthusiasm the 73rd Republic Day of India on 26 January. It is on this day in 1950 that the independent India put into effect its Constitution and became a proud democratic Republic with its emphasis on justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

In the solemn ceremony held in the Embassy, the Indian flag was unfurled by H.E. Mr. Manish Prabhat, Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan. The national anthem of India written by the great poet, philosopher and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore was sung and the message of the President of India H.E. Mr. Ram Nath Kovind given to the nation on the eve of the Republic Day was read out by the Ambassador. Officials of the Embassy of India, members of the Indian diaspora living in Uzbekistan and Uzbek friends of India participated in the ceremony.

Congratulating the citizens of India on the occasion of the Republic Day, the President of India said in his message that notwithstanding the difficult times of pandemic, India has been able to achieve large scale rapid vaccination of its citizens and has even supplied vaccines and much needed medicines to many foreign countries. The nation has been able to come together as one family in times of the crisis. Economic growth is being restored and India has become one of the top 50 innovation economies in the world. The President also welcomed the induction of women with permanent commission in the Indian armed forces. He also called for each citizen's contribution personally to improve the world around us following the advice which Mahatma Gandhi gave to everybody.

In New Delhi, the Indian armed forces and other paramilitary and security forces marched in an impressive parade which is held traditionally to commemorate the occasion. Tableaus of various states of India and government departments showcasing history, culture and economic development of various parts of India were also displayed. India's military might and latest defence platforms were demonstrated to showcase the strength of India's defence.

India is at present celebrating '*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*' (Grand Celebration of Independence) both in India and abroad on the occasion of 75 years of India's independence. Hundreds of cultural events, exhibitions on history, culture, science and technology, the Indian diaspora in the world are being presented. In Uzbekistan too, the Embassy of India and the Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture are presenting several programmes under the framework of "*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*" (AKAM). A special AKAM week is planned to be celebrated in Tashkent and other cities of Uzbekistan on 22-26 March 2022 in which Indian cultural troupes would be performing, several talks and presentations will be held and Yoga and other demonstrations would take place. The cultural troupes will be sent by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi.

India and Uzbekistan, as strategic partners and traditional friends continue their cooperation in various fields related to trade, investment, economy, cultural and humanitarian cooperation, youth and educational exchanges. India and Uzbekistan are also close partners in the region. The two countries together started the India – Central Asia Dialogue at the level of Foreign Ministers of all the Central Asia countries and India which was first held in Samarkand in 2019. It is owing to the success of this Dialogue that the first India – Central Asia Summit is being held in the online format on 27 January hosted by Prime Minister of India, H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi. H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and leaders of other Central Asian countries will participate in the Summit. The leaders are expected to discuss ways to take India – Central Asia relations to greater heights. The event will also mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Central Asian countries.

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