

Uzbekistan Hope To Restore Air Connectivity With India To Promote Tourism

The Deputy Minister of Uzbekistan is leading a delegation to India, which includes the Central Asian nation's deputy minister of Abdulla Azizov and Temurjon Komilov, Deputy Minister of Public Education, Republic of Uzbekistan.



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Amid the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and scare of Omicron variant, Uzbekistan is hopeful of restoring air connectivity with India to promote two-way flow of tourists, which was affected during the pandemic, said Laziz Kudratov, First Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, of the Central Asian country, on Thursday.

"I hope the early revival of the hospitality industry will promote two-way flow of tourists, which saw huge decline in the aftermath of the pandemic. The air connectivity between Uzbekistan and India will be restored soon" the minister said at an interactive meeting with members of Indian industry organised jointly by the Embassy of Uzbekistan in India, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries.

In future, both the countries will work towards improving ease of doing business and liberalizing visa regime to facilitate cooperation in tourism and other sectors of mutual interest, Kudratov said.

The Deputy Minister of Uzbekistan is leading a delegation to India, which includes the Central Asian nation's deputy minister of Abdulla Azizov and Temurjon Komilov, Deputy Minister of Public Education, Republic of Uzbekistan.

The two countries have strong trade and investment relations in cotton, textile, pharmaceuticals and tourism sectors and Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev will be the Guest of Honour at India's Republic Day Celebration next month on January 26.

In September, India's aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia at an industry conclave had indicated about building air connectivity between India and the Commonwealth of Independent States including Uzbekistan as the world recovers from the pandemic.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Consul General of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Mumbai and Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai said, "The two-way trade between India and Uzbekistan stands at USD 443 million, which is below the true potential. Presently, bilateral trade is largely concentrated in pharmaceuticals, machinery, chemicals, textile and agro-products."

In future, we can diversify this trade basket to other products such as articles of plastics, glassware, footwear, electronics and other consumer goods, Dr Kalantri said.