

Deputy Prime Minister Le Minh Khai met Indian Ambassador

On December 1, Deputy Prime Minister Le Minh Khai met Indian Ambassador Sandeep Arya. He highly appreciated Ambassador's active contribution in the organizing of the 18th Meeting of the Joint Committee on Economic, Trade, Science and Technology Cooperation and the 5th Session of the Joint Subcommittee on Trade with many substantive results, contributing to strengthening the Vietnam - India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that India is a traditional friend of Vietnam with a very important role and position in Vietnam's foreign relations. The relations between our two countries was founded by the great leaders of the two peoples, President Ho Chi Minh and Mahatma Gandhi. Historically, the two countries always stood side by side in the struggle for independence, protecting and building our countries.

Vietnam puts high values on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with India, supports India's "Act East" Policy and hopes India will continue to pay attention and devote more resources to implementing the Policy in Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular.

According to Deputy Prime Minister Le Minh Khai, in the context of the unfavorable world economic situation, India has quickly recovered economically after the pandemic, and is forecast to be in the group of countries with the highest GDP growth rates in the world this year. He expressed his impression and congratulations on India's recent successes in the field of science and technology, especially space technology. To further strengthen the Vietnam - India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Deputy Prime Minister Le Minh Khai asked the Ambassador to pay attention to promoting political, economic, trade, and investment cooperation.

Accordingly, in terms of politics, the Deputy Prime Minister proposed that the two countries continue to promote high-level visits and contacts, focusing on the official visit to India by Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. He requests the Ambassador and relevant ministries to prepare well for the visit.

Regarding economic, trade and investment cooperation, the Deputy Prime Minister said that Vietnam and India are two economies in the region with high growth rates. Both sides have many complementary advantages in terms of market and structure of sectors. The clearest evidence is that the bilateral trade turnover is growing rapidly in the context of the world economy being affected by war, epidemics, and supply chain disruptions. Bilateral trade turnover reached more than 15 billion USD in 2022 and approximately 11 billion USD in the first 9 months of 2023.

The Deputy Prime Minister welcomes the recent meetings of the Joint Subcommittee on Trade and the 18th Joint Committee in which both sides agreed to reduce the application of trade barriers and open the markets for agricultural products of the two countries. These will pave the way for bilateral tradeturnover to reach 20 billion USD.

Deputy Prime Minister Le Minh Khai expressed his hope that large Indian corporations will come to Vietnam to invest in strategic fields such as energy, oil and gas, infrastructure, seaports etc.

At the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Le Minh Khai and the Indian Ambassador discussed topics related to promoting cooperation between the two countries in the fields of: Culture, restoration of historical relics; people-to-people exchanges; oil exploring; tourism development; payment services; deploying credit programs; cooperation in education and defense training; promote trade activities related to agricultural products, pharmaceuticals, textiles and garments, steel...

Indian Ambassador Sandeep Arya emphasized that the traditional relationship between Vietnam and India was built on solidarity, friendship, and mutual trust. This is a very important foundation for both sides to continue promoting cooperative relations in the future.