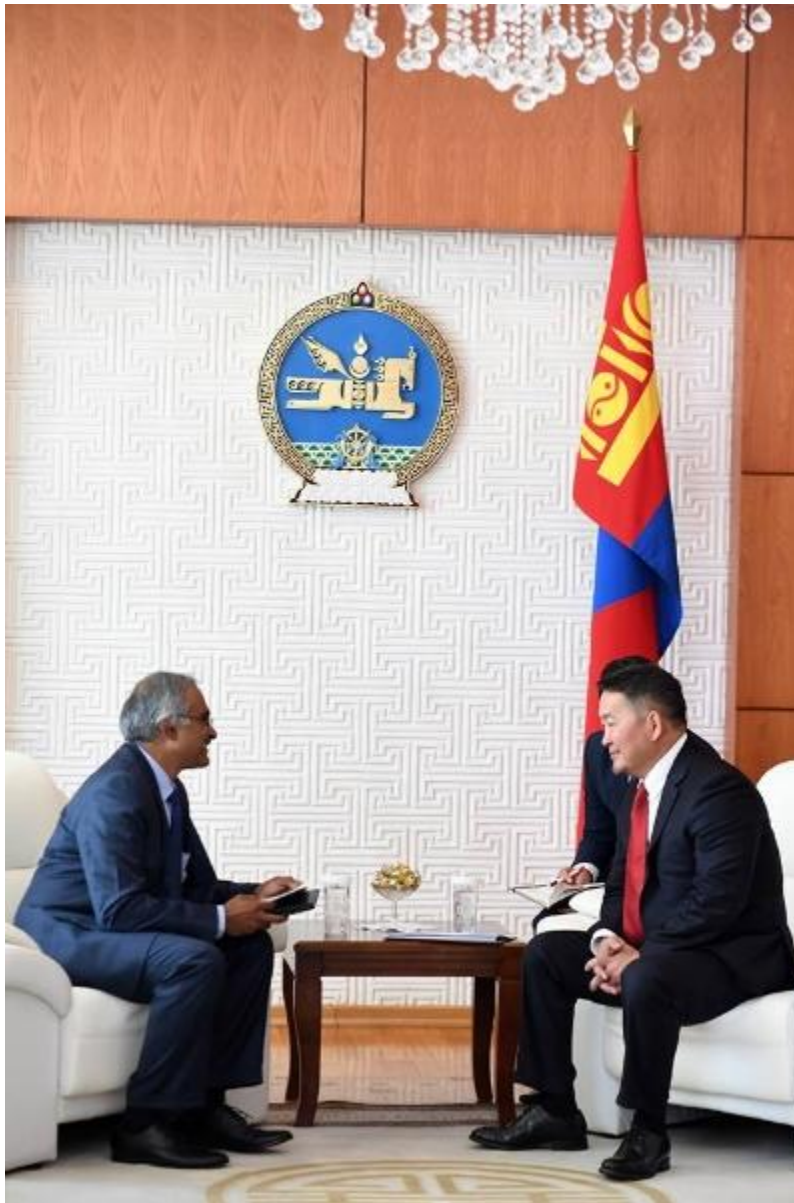


Indian Ambassador pays courtesy call on President Kh.Battulga



Ulaanbaatar /MONTSAME/ Today, 20 July, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to Mongolia Suresh Babu paid a courtesy call on President of Mongolia Kh.Battulga. At the beginning of the meeting, Ambassador Suresh Babu handed over the letter sent by the President of India Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to President Kh.Battulga.

The parties underlined that Mongolia and India have had religious and cultural ties from time immemorial and in recent years, the two countries have expanded the relationship in the fields of defense, security, education and information technology. President of Mongolia Kh.Battulga emphasized that the development of the information technology sector is strategically significant

as Mongolia is a landlocked country and he plans to take a leadership role in the issue as the head of the country.

During the first visit by the preceding President of Mongolia to India 8 years ago, India pledged to give loan of USD20 million and the resolution of the issue is going very slowly. President Kh.Battulga said it would be beneficial to spend the loan for the development of information technology and training personnel. He has a proposal to establish a branch of the Indian Institute of Technology in Ulaanbaatar and he requested the Ambassador to convey his proposal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his readiness to implement the project under the President's auspices. The Indian Institute of Technology is one of the world's leading institutes of information and technology. Currently, more than 60,000 students are studying at the institute.

The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi visited Mongolia in 2015 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and India. During the visit, the two sides agreed to establish a Mongolian and Indian joint school of information technology. Works are underway to realize the agreement jointly with the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Mongolia and the Ulaanbaatar Mayor's Office, noted Ambassador Suresh Babu. The heads of the two countries can work together in this direction as the President of India chairs the IT Steering Committee, mentioned Ambassador Suresh Babu, also emphasizing the importance of collaboration in cyber-security issues.

Even though the two countries have long traditional relations, the economic and trade turnover has been at insufficient level, marked the President, putting his proposal to establish an Indian trade center in Ulaanbaatar, which would lead to the economic and trade turnover increase. President of Mongolia Kh.Battulga stressed that joining the proposal of India to open a direct flight between Ulaanbaatar-Deli with the proposal of the President of Mongolia to establish an Indian trade center in Ulaanbaatar would bring good results.

(Source: Montsame News, B.Ooluun)