

Embassy of India
Ashgabat

Ambassador's Remarks at the Diwali Celebrations

(Ashgabat, 19 October 2025)

Director General of Asia-Pacific Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Mr. Gurbandurdy Saparov,

Members of the local Indian Community and Friends of India in Turkmenistan,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaste, Agshamynyz Hayirly, Dobriy Vecher! Warm greetings and felicitations to you all on the occasion of Diwali, the traditional Indian festival of lights. I have arrived in the beautiful “city of love” (Ashgabat) last week as the Ambassador-designate of India to Turkmenistan and would like to express my deep gratitude to the Government and the people of Turkmenistan for their warm welcome and hospitality. I am also thankful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Director General of Asia-Pacific Department for their support to today’s event!

2. Diwali or Deepawali in Sankrit language means a “row of lights” and it signifies the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Diwali is celebrated by the people across India in autumn every year by lighting of lamps, decoration of homes, display of fireworks etc. It is also celebrated by the people of Indian origin living across the world highlighting the message of peace and harmony in today’s world filled with the challenges of war, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, extremism etc.

3. India and Turkmenistan enjoy ancient civilizational ties, longstanding bonds of friendship and people-to-people linkages. I am glad to note that Indian culture, Yoga, Ayurveda, Indian dance, music and Bollywood films are quite popular among the people of Turkmenistan. As you are aware, the Prime Minister of

India H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi and the President of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Serdar Berdimuhamedov interacted with each other on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Tianjin (China) in August this year while the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers & Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Rashid Meredov met the External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the 4th India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi in June 2025. India considers Turkmenistan as a key partner of its “extended neighbourhood” policy and rejoices in the remarkable progress achieved by Turkmenistan in recent years. I would like to affirm that as a fellow developing country and the world’s 4th largest economy as well as the fastest growing major economy, India stands ready to share its developmental experience and expertise as per the needs and priorities of Turkmenistan, especially in the fields of trade and investment, oil & gas, chemicals & fertilizers, digital public infrastructure, education, health, capacity building etc. I am confident that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister of India H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi and the President of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Serdar Berdimuhamedov, India-Turkmenistan partnership will scale greater heights in the coming days. Once again, I would like to thank you all for joining in today’s special event and wish you all a very happy Diwali! Kop Sagbolun!
