

Ambassador's Remarks on the occasion of ITEC Day-2026

(Ashgabat, 24 March 2026)

*Distinguished Alumni of ITEC and ICCR scholarships,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Namaste, Good Afternoon, Gununiz hayyrly bolsun!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the celebrations of ITEC Day-2026 in this beautiful city of Ashgabat.

2. As you are aware, the ITEC (*Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation*) Program established in 1964, is the flagship platform of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, for sharing India's experience in capacity building with the fellow developing countries. Till date, more than 225,000 government officials from 160 countries across the world have undergone professional training programs, in more than 120 leading institutions of India. In the spirit of the South-South cooperation, ITEC is demand driven and is offered without any ulterior motive or pre-condition, while taking into account the needs and priorities of the partner countries. It is heartening to note that more than 500 officials and about 100 defence personnel from Turkmenistan have so far undergone ITEC training courses in India, symbolizing the close bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Turkmenistan, especially in the field of capacity building.

3. You might also be aware of India's rich tradition of knowledge sharing, going back to the ancient times. At its zenith, the ancient Nalanda University, which was the first residential university in the world, had 10000 students and 2000 teachers on its campus. Nearly 800 years after its destruction, the Nalanda University has been

revived as an “institution of national importance” by the Government of India in 2010. As the Alumni of ITEC and ICCR scholarships, many of you have witnessed first-hand, the rapid economic transformation underway in India under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi. India is currently the world’s 4th largest economy and its fastest growing major economy, which is poised to become the world’s 3rd largest economy in a few years. It is also a global leader in the fields of space, renewable energy, startups, real-time digital payments, information technology, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, education, capacity building etc. India is home to more than 1300 universities and 50000 colleges and is increasingly becoming a preferred destination for higher education of foreign students. I am glad to note that more than 200 students from Turkmenistan have so far availed themselves of ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) Scholarships for higher education in India while around 100 students from Turkmenistan are getting admitted each year into the Indian universities on a self-financing basis. I take this opportunity to encourage the students of Turkmenistan to take advantage of the opportunities for quality and affordable higher education in India.

4. In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that in line with the ancient Indian philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (*Whole World is One Family*) and its policy of “Extended Neighborhood”, India will continue to share its developmental experience and expertise with Turkmenistan in the fields of Oil & Gas, Chemicals & Fertilizers, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Banking, Digital Public Infrastructure etc. I am confident that the Alumni of ITEC and ICCR Scholarships will play a significant role in further strengthening the partnership between India and Turkmenistan, in the coming days. Once again, warm greetings to all of you, on the occasion of ITEC Day-2026. Sag bolun!

