

**Embassy of India
Ashgabat**

Press Release

Celebrations of the 77th Foundation Day of ICCR

The 77th Foundation Day of ICCR (*Indian Council for Cultural Relations*) was celebrated enthusiastically at the Embassy of India in Ashgabat on 9 April 2026. It was attended by the Alumni of ICCR Scholarships, Members of the local Indian Diaspora and Friends of India in Turkmenistan.

2. In his speech, Ambassador Bandaru Wilsonbabu highlighted that in addition to the promotion of Indian culture, ICCR also provides about 4000 scholarships every year to foreign students. Recalling that more than 200 Turkmen nationals have so far undergone higher education in India under the ICCR Scholarships, Ambassador encouraged the students from Turkmenistan to apply online for ICCR Scholarships for the forthcoming Academic Year, before 15 April 2026. He hoped that the Alumni of ICCR Scholarships will play a significant role in further strengthening the India-Turkmenistan partnership in the coming years.

3. The event witnessed vibrant Indian dance and musical performances as well as experience sharing by prominent ICCR Alumni. A special Yoga demonstration by ICCR's local Yoga Teacher was also organized on the occasion. The celebrations concluded with the tasting of Indian cuisine.

4. India considers Turkmenistan as a fellow developing country in its "Extended Neighborhood", with which it shares traditionally close bonds of friendship and people-to-people linkages. The popularity of Yoga, Ayurveda, Hindi Language, Indian Films etc among the people of Turkmenistan as well as the inauguration of a "Hindi Corner" and an "Ayurveda Chamber" in Ashgabat earlier this year reflect the deep-rooted cultural cooperation between the two countries. In line with the ancient Indian philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (*Whole World is One Family*), India stands ready to share its developmental experience and expertise with Turkmenistan.

Ashgabat
10 April 2026





