

**Embassy of India  
Ashgabat**

**Press Release**

**Indian Film Festival in Ashgabat, 20-24 January 2026**

Embassy of India in Ashgabat, in association with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting of India and the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan, organized an “Indian Film Festival” from 20-24 January 2026 in Ashgabat. Ambassador Bandaru Wilsonbabu and Deputy Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Nursakhet Shirimov jointly inaugurated the Film Festival at “Ashgabat Cinema Theatre” on 20 January 2026.

2. In his speech, Ambassador recalled the longstanding bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Turkmenistan and reaffirmed India’s readiness to share its developmental experience and expertise with Turkmenistan, including in the fields of arts and culture. He thanked the Government of Turkmenistan for its support for promotion of Indian Culture, Yoga, Ayurveda, Hindi Language, Indian Films etc in Turkmenistan. Deputy Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Nursakhet Shirimov spoke positively about the contribution of Indian Films in further deepening the understanding and cultural cooperation between the peoples of India and Turkmenistan.

3. As part of the Film Festival, the following 8 Indian movies, covering different eras and diverse genres were screened on a non-commercial basis: RRR, Seeta Aur Geeta, 12<sup>th</sup> Fail, Disco Dancer, 83, Raksha Bandhan, Sholay and English-Vinglish. India considers Turkmenistan as a close friend and partner in its “Extended Neighborhood” and the organization of the Indian Film Festival in Ashgabat was a vivid reflection of the vibrant friendship and people-to-people linkages between the two countries.

Ashgabat  
27 January 2026

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