

Ambassador's Speech on the Republic Day-2026

(Ashgabat, 26 January 2026)

Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Rashid Meredov,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaste, Good Afternoon, Gunungiz Hayyrly Bolsun!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the celebrations of the Republic Day of India, to mark the entry into force of the Constitution of India on this very day 76 years ago, which transformed India into a sovereign and democratic republic. I also express my special gratitude to His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan and other dignitaries for their gracious presence in today's event.

2. On this festive occasion, I recall with gratitude the sacrifices of innumerable heroes of India's non-violent struggle for independence, which inspired several countries across the world to rid themselves of the yoke of colonialism. This is also an opportune moment to take stock of the developmental progress achieved by the Republic of India, over the past 76 years. As you are aware, India has come a long way to become the world's 4th largest economy and its fastest growing major economy. India is home to the world's 3rd largest start-up ecosystem and is a global leader in the fields of information technology, real time digital payments, renewable energy, health, pharmaceuticals etc. During the Covid-19 pandemic, India had not only administered 2.2 bn doses of vaccine to its own nationals but also supplied 300 mn doses to about 100 countries across the world. In recent years, India has also emerged as a major space power, with its achievements such as the successful docking of two of its satellites in the near-earth orbit, placement of "Aditya L1" spacecraft into a halo orbit to observe the Sun and the soft landing of "Chandrayaan-3" near the Moon's South Pole. Under the leadership of Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi, India is confidently marching towards the goal of "Viksit Bharat (Developed India)" by 2047, when India will be celebrating 100 years of its independence.

3. It is heartening to note that the longstanding and friendly relations between India and Turkmenistan have grown steadily in recent years and our countries continue to cooperate closely under the frameworks of the United Nations and the India-Central Asia Dialogue. Both India and Turkmenistan are interested in promoting and peace and stability in the region and fight against the threats of terrorism, extremism, radicalization, drug trafficking, cyber-crime etc. As the land of Buddha and Gandhi, and in line with its ancient philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (*World is One Family*)” India remains firmly on the side of peace, in today’s world filled with the challenges of war, ethnic conflicts, economic protectionism etc. However, when the very existence of humanity is threatened by senseless acts of terrorism, India will not refrain from taking strong steps to safeguard its people. India’s last year’s limited military campaign “*Operation Sindoor (Vermillion)*” was a vivid display of India’s strategic clarity and calculated force in the fight against the scourge of terrorism. It sent an unambiguous message to the perpetrators and sponsors of terrorism that India will not tolerate their nuclear blackmail but will respond in a swift, fitting, balanced and proportionate manner. In this context, I would like to convey my deep gratitude to the Government and the people of Turkmenistan for their strong support and solidarity with the people of India in the fight against terrorism.

4. In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that India considers Turkmenistan as a close friend and partner, with which it shares millenia old bonds of friendship and people-to-people linkages. As a fellow developing country and in line with its policy of “Extended Neighborhood”, India will continue to share its developmental experience and expertise with Turkmenistan, especially in the fields of Defence and Security, Oil & Gas, Chemicals & Fertilizers, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Digital Public Infrastructure, 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, my warm greetings to you all on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of the Republic Day of India. Long live India-Turkmenistan Friendship! Sag Bolun!