

**Embassy of India
Ashgabat**

**Ambassador's Remarks at the Inauguration of the
Indian Film Festival (Ashgabat, 14 August 2026)**

Deputy Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Nursahet Shirimov,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaste, Agshamynyzy Hayyrlý Bolsun!

It is my pleasure to take part in the inauguration of the “Indian Film Festival” in the beautiful white marble city of Ashgabat. I would like to convey my deep gratitude to the Deputy Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan for his strong support for today’s event. I am also glad to witness the popularity of Indian Films, Yoga, Ayurveda, Hindi language etc. among the people of Turkmenistan, which is a vivid reflection of the longstanding bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Turkmenistan.

2. You might be aware that Indian film industry has come a long way since the first Indian silent film was released in 1913. India is now home to the world’s largest film industry, producing more than 1500 films every year. The world’s largest film studio complex (*Ramoji Film City*) is located in the city of Hyderabad in India. In addition to the “Bollywood” of Hindi language, India boasts of several vibrant regional language film industries like Tollywood, Kollywood, Mollywood etc. I am glad to note that the first film to be screened as part of the Festival (*Dangal*) is an inspiring sports drama portraying the journey of a determined father to transform his daughters into world-class wrestlers. The people of Ashgabat will also have the opportunity to witness the screening of popular films “*Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*” and “*Chak de! India*” over the next two days. I hope that the Indian Film Festival will help the people of Turkmenistan, especially the younger generation to appreciate India’s rich cultural heritage and to further build upon the bridges of understanding between India and Turkmenistan.

3. I would like to conclude by reaffirming that India considers Turkmenistan as a close friend and partner in its “Extended Neighborhood”, with which India shares ancient civilizational and people-to-people linkages. As the world’s fastest growing major economy and a fellow member of the Global South, India stands ready to share its developmental experience and expertise as per the needs and priorities of Turkmenistan, without any ulterior motive. I am confident that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of Turkmenistan as well as the National Leader of the Turkmen People, India-Turkmenistan partnership will scale greater heights in the coming days. Once again, thank you all for your strong support for the “Indian Film Festival”. Dhanyavaad! Sag Bolunz!
