

**Embassy of India  
Ashgabat**

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**Ambassador's Remarks at the Inauguration of the Indian Film Festival (Ashgabat, 20 January 2026)**

*Deputy Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Nursakhet Shirimov,*

*Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Namaste, Good Evening, Agshamyngyz Hayyrly Bolsun!*

It is my pleasure to take part in the inauguration of the "Indian Film Festival" today in the beautiful white marble city of Ashgabat. I would like to convey my special gratitude to the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan for its strong support for this Film Festival. I also thank the enthusiastic audience of Ashgabat for their enduring love for India and the Indian cinema, which reflects the close bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

2. As you know, India is home to the world's largest film industry that produces more than 1000 films every year in multiple languages. You might also be aware that the world's largest film studio complex "Ramoji Film City" is located in Hyderabad in India. In addition to the Hindi film industry known as "Bollywood", India boasts of several other vibrant film industries including the Tollywood in Telugu language, Kollywood in Tamil, Mollywood in Malayalam etc. I am glad to note that the first film to be screened today as part of the Film Festival is the Telugu language action drama "RRR", which had won the Oscar award in 2023 for its catchy song "Naatu Naatu". Over the next 4 days, the people of Ashgabat will have the opportunity to witness the screening of popular Indian movies like Seeta Aur Geeta, Disco Dancer, Sholay, 12<sup>th</sup> Fail, 83, Raksha Bandhan and English-Vinglish. I hope that the Film Festival will promote the universal values of love and compassion, especially in today's

world filled with the challenges of war, ethnic conflicts, economic protectionism, terrorism, extremism etc.

3. In conclusion, I would like to affirm that India considers Turkmenistan as a close friend and partner in its extended neighborhood, with which it shares ancient cultural and people-to-people linkages. As a fellow developing country and the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy as well as its fastest growing major economy, India will continue to share its developmental experience and expertise, including in the field of arts and culture, as per the needs and requirements of Turkmenistan. 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 go from strength to strength in the coming years. Once again, thank you all for joining in today's inauguration of the "Indian Film Festival". Thank you, Sag Bolunz!

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