Embassy of India
Ashgabat
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Ambassador's Remarks at the Diwali Celebrations
(Ashgabat, 7 November 2026)

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Mrs. Myahri Byashimova,
Representative of UNICEF in Turkmenistan Ms. Jalpa Ratna,
Members of the Indian Community and Friends of India in Turkmenistan,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaste, Agshamyňyz haýyrly bolsun! It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the the celebrations of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, in the beautiful city of Ashgabat. I would like to convey my special gratitude to the Deputy Foreign Minister and the UNICEF Representative for their gracious presence in today's event.

2. You might be aware that Diwali or Deepawali in Sanskrit language means "a row of lights". This joyful and vibrant festival is celebrated for millennia in India every autumn, usually in the month of October or November, with the lighting of *diyas (earthen lamps),* decorations of *rangoli (floor art),* displays of firework etc. Apart from India, Diwali is also celebrated in several countries, which are home to the people of Indian origin. In today's world filled with the challenges of war, terrorism, ethnic conflicts etc, Diwali brings together families, communities and cultures across the world, with its message of "inner light" for peace and harmony. It also symbolizes the ultimate victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

3. I would like to conclude by reaffirming that India considers Turkmenistan as a close friend and partner in its "Extended Neighbourhood", with which India shares civilizational and people-to-people linkages. As a fellow developing country and in line with its ancient philosophy of *"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (World is One Family)"*, India will continue to share its developmental experience and expertise, as per the needs and priorities of Turkmenistan. I am confident that under the able guidance of Prime Minister of India H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi and the President of Turkmenistan as well as the National Leader of the Turkmen People, the India-Turkmenistan partnership will go from strength to strength in the coming days, for the mutual benefit of our peoples. Once again, I would like to thank you all for joining in today's event and wish you a very happy and prosperous Diwali! Sag bolun!

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