Embassy of India
Ashgabat
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Ambassador's Remarks at the Celebrations of the National Unity Day

(Ashgabat, 30 October 2026)
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Members of the Indian Diaspora and Friends of India in Turkmenistan,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaste, Gununiz hayyrly bolsun!

Warm greetings and felicitations to you all on the eve of the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel!

2. At the outset, I would like to recall with gratitude, the immense contributions made by Sardar Patel towards India's nation building, first as a prominent leader of the non-violent struggle for India's independence and later as the Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of the independent India. Fondly remembered as the "Iron Man of India", Sardar Patel was instrumental in integrating more than 560 princely states into India. He is also known as the "Father of Indian Civil Services" for his pioneering role in establishing the All-India Services, as the "Steel Frame" of modern India. As you know, Sardar Patel's birthday i.e., 31 October, is being celebrated as the National Unity Day in India since 2014 and his 182 m tall Statue of Unity, which is the world's tallest statue, was inaugurated by Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi in Kevadia (Gujarat) in 2018. Thanks to the strong foundations of national unity and integrity laid by Sardar Patel and other leaders, India has now become a global leader in the fields of Information Technology, Real Time Digital Payments, Renewable Energy, Space, Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals etc. It is the world's fastest growing economy and is poised to become its third largest in a few years. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is marching confidently on its path to become "Viksit Bharat (Developed India)" by 2047, i.e., the 100th year of its independence.

3. I would like to conclude by reaffirming that India considers Turkmenistan, as a longstanding friend and partner in its "Extended Neighborhood". India rejoices in the socio-economic achievements of Turkmenistan in recent years under the able guidance of the President of Turkmenistan and the National Leader of the Turkmen People. 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 requirements of Turkmenistan, without any ulterior motive. I am confident that India-Turkmenistan partnership will scale greater heights in the coming days, for the mutual benefit of our two peoples. Once again, I would like to extend my warm wishes to you all on the National Unity Day of India and the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel! Sag bolun!

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