

**Embassy of India
Ashgabat**

**Subject: Ambassador's Remarks at the Inauguration of the
Indian Film Festival**

(Mary, 20 February 2026)

Deputy Hakim of Mary Region H.E. Mrs. Chemen Akyyeva,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaste, Good Afternoon, Gunungiz Hayyrly Bolsun!

It is my pleasure to take part in the inauguration of an "Indian Film Festival" in the beautiful oasis city of Mary. I would like to convey my special thanks to the Deputy Hakim of Mary Region for her gracious presence in today's event. I also thank the friendly people of Mary for their enthusiastic support for this Film Festival, which is a clear reflection the long-standing friendship and people-to-people linkages between India and Turkmenistan.

2. You might be aware that India produces more than 1000 films every year and in addition to the Hindi film industry "Bollywood", there are other vibrant film industries like the Tollywood of Telugu Language, Kollywood of Tamil Language, Mollywood of Malayalam Language etc. I am glad to note that as part of the Film Festival, the audience in Mary will be able to appreciate a mixture of both old and new Indian films over the next 4 days. I hope that the Film Festival will bring the peoples of our two countries closer by promoting the universal values of empathy, love, compassion, peace, and harmony.

3. In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that India sees Turkmenistan as a close partner, with which it shares ancient cultural and people-to-people linkages. As a fellow developing country and the world's 4th largest economy, India stands ready to to share its developmental experience and expertise, including in the fields of arts, culture and restoration of ancient cultural heritage sites in Turkmenistan. Once again, thank you all for joining in today's inauguration of the "Indian Film Festival". Thank you, Sag Bolunz!
