

**Ambassador's Remarks on the 157th Birth Anniversary of
Mahatma Gandhi**

(Ashgabat, 2 October 2026)

*Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Ahmet
Gurbanov,
Resident Coordinator of the United Nations,
Excellencies, Ambassadors and Representatives of Diplomatic
Missions in Ashgabat,
Members of Indian Community,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Namaste, Good Morning. Ertiriniz hayyrly bolsun!

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the celebrations of the 157th Birth Anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, fondly revered by the people of India as the *Mahatma (Great Soul)* and *Bapu (Father of the Nation)*, in this beautiful city of Ashgabat. I would also like to convey my deep gratitude to the Deputy Foreign Minister, UN Resident Coordinator, Ambassadors and Representatives of the Diplomatic Missions in Ashgabat for their gracious presence in today's event.

2. Although, Mahatma Gandhi is often remembered as the leader of the Indian independence movement, his legacy and influence extend far beyond India's borders. Gandhiji's concepts of *Satyagraha (Force of Truth)*, *Ahimsa (Non-violence)* and *Sarvodaya (Development for All)* had inspired several public figures like Martin Luther King Jr and Nelson Mandela, in their respective struggles for justice. For Gandhiji, there was no separation between the means and the ends and the right ends could only be achieved through the right means. His ideals of truth, persuasion, compassion, peaceful coexistence etc. are particularly relevant in today's world filled with the challenges of

war, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, extremism, climate change etc. Thus, it is quite fitting that in 2007, the United Nations General Assembly had to observe Gandhiji's birthday (2 October) every year as the International Day of Non-Violence. I am also glad that the bust of Mahatma Gandhi stands here in Ashgabat as a symbol of the long-standing India-Turkmenistan friendship and also of our collective commitment to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and harmony.

3. As the land of Buddha and Gandhi, India remains firmly on the side of peace. India has also consistently maintained that dialogue and diplomacy are the best means to achieve lasting peace. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently said, *"The humanity must move away from endless wars to the end of war"*. At the same time, we must acknowledge that terrorism remains one of the gravest threats to global peace and security and the worst violation of human rights. In this regard, it is heartening to recall India's last year's military campaign "Operation Sindoor (Vermillion)", which displayed India's resolve to defend its people, when the very existence of humanity is threatened by senseless acts of terrorism.

4. In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that in line with its policy of "Extended Neighborhood" and the ancient Indian philosophy of *"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The whole world is a family)"*, India will continue to share its developmental experience and expertise, as per the needs and priorities of Turkmenistan. I am confident that the India-Turkmenistan partnership will go from strength to strength in the coming days, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the President of Turkmenistan and the National Leader of the Turkmen People. Once again, warm greetings to all of you, on the occasion of 157th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Sag bolun!
