

Embassy of India

Ashgabat

Press Release

Indian Film Festival in Ashgabat, 14–16 August 2026

In the context of the 80th Independence Day of India, an “Indian Film Festival” was organized in Ashgabat from 14-16 August 2026 by the Embassy of India, in association with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting of India and the Ministry of Culture of Turkmenistan. Ambassador Bandaru Wilsonbabu and the Deputy Minister of Culture of Turkmenistan Mr. Nursahet Shirimov took part in the inauguration of the Film Festival at the “Ashgabat Cinema Theatre” on 14 August 2026.

2. In his remarks, Ambassador thanked the Government and the people of Turkmenistan for their strong support for Indian Culture, Films, Yoga, Ayurveda, Hindi language etc. He noted that in addition to the Bollywood, India boasts of several other vibrant film industries such as Tollywood, Kollywood, Mollywood etc. Ambassador reaffirmed that as the world’s fastest growing major economy and a fellow developing country, India will continue to share its developmental experience and expertise with Turkmenistan, without any ulterior motive. Deputy Minister of Culture Mr. Nursahet Shirimov spoke about the longstanding bonds of friendship between India and Turkmenistan and hoped that the Film Festival will further deepen the mutual understanding and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

3. Three popular Bollywood films, namely “Dangal”, “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge” and “Chak De! India,” were screened on a non-commercial basis, as part of the Film Festival. India considers Turkmenistan as a close friend and partner in its “Extended Neighbourhood”, with which it shares ancient civilizational and people-to-people linkages. The Indian Film Festival in Ashgabat has contributed towards further strengthening of the traditionally close partnership between India and Turkmenistan.

Ashgabat
17 August 2026
