

Ambassador's Remarks on the 77th Foundation Day of ICCR

(Ashgabat, 9 April 2026)

*Distinguished Alumni of ICCR Scholarships,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Namaste, Good Afternoon, Gununiz hayyrly bolsun! It is my pleasure to welcome you all to today's celebrations of the 77th Foundation Day of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in Ashgabat.

2. You might be aware that ICCR is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of External Affairs of India, with a mandate to promote cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between India and rest of the world. In addition to its efforts to promote Indian culture, ICCR also provides about 4000 scholarships every year to foreign students. It is heartening to note that more than 200 Turkmen nationals have so far undergone higher education in India under the ICCR scholarships. I take this opportunity to encourage the students from Turkmenistan to register themselves for ICCR scholarships for the forthcoming Academic Year by 15 April 2026.

3. As the Alumni of ICCR Scholarships, many of you have experienced first-hand, India's rich cultural heritage, its traditional hospitality and its ongoing economic transformation under the leadership of Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi. Despite the global uncertainties due to prolonged wars, ethnic conflicts, terrorism, extremism, economic protectionism etc, India remains the world's fastest growing major economy which is poised to become its 3rd largest economy in a few years. In recent years, India has also established itself as a global leader in the fields of Space, Renewable Energy, Startups, Real-time Digital Payments, Information Technology, Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, Education etc.

4. India and Turkmenistan are bound by traditionally close bonds of friendship and people-to-people linkages. I am glad to witness the growing popularity of Yoga, Ayurveda, Hindi Language, Indian Films etc among the people of Turkmenistan. It is also heartening to note the inaugurations of a “Hindi Corner” and an “Ayurveda Chamber” in Ashgabat earlier this year. I would like to encourage the people of Ashgabat to take advantage of the Yoga classes conducted daily at the “Yoga and Traditional Medicine Centre”, which was inaugurated during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Ashgabat in 2015.

5. In conclusion, I would like to affirm that in line with its “Extended Neighborhood” Policy and the ancient Indian philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (*Whole World is One Family*), India stands ready to share its developmental experience as per the needs and requirements of Turkmenistan. I am confident that the Alumni of ICCR Scholarships will play a significant role in further strengthening the India-Turkmenistan partnership in the coming days. Once again, warm greetings to all of you, on the occasion of 77th Foundation Day of ICCR. Sag bolun!
