Embassy of India

[Yerevan]

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Greeting Speech at Graduation Ceremony

[Young Leaders School, Etchmiadzin, 08 July 2026]

- Mr. Argishti Mekhakyan, Head of Vagharshapat Community,
- My dear friend and Founder of Leadership School Armenia, Mr. Samvel Movsisyan,
- Ms. Ani Hovhannisyan, Founder of Young Leaders School and President of "DiasporaArm" NGO,
- Dear Friends,

Barev dzez and Namaskar! Vokchuine bolorine!

I am delighted to be present here today at the Graduation Ceremony of Young Leaders School, Etchmiadzin. I would like to thank Ani for remembering me and extending this very kind invitation. I have been associated with the Leadership School in Yerevan and the Young Leaders School here for the past few years. It is always an enriching experience to interact with your students and see their evolution as the year progresses. I was interacting with the students as I came in today and was very touched to learn that some of them have decided to take up International Relations as their course of study in University and pursue a career in the diplomatic service after my session on Diplomacy earlier in the year. I have always tried to share some aspects from my professional journey with the students with the hope that it resonates with them in some way. I have also

shared the immensely rich developmental journey of India – a country of 1.46 billion people and 970 million voters!

2. I am deeply aware of the contribution that you are making to equip the young people of Vagharshapat Community and its environs to the outer world and more conscious of the challenges and opportunities awaiting them. The fact that the Young Leaders School builds essential capacity of high-school students, is a big gift to this Community and beyond. You, the students, are not only building your own future but that of the community and the country. You are the future leaders of Armenia as it assumes an even more important role in the comity of nations.

3. Dear students, as you step out of school to University, I would just like to wish you the very best in life. Whole new avenues of opportunities are opening up for you which did not exist for your parents. Make the very best use of these opportunities - learn foreign languages, travel outside Armenia if possible, widen your horizons, read voraciously and listen to all viewpoints. This is, of course, easier said than done. But you must keep trying and not let setbacks bog you down.

4. With these words, once again let me wish you heartiest congratulations – to you and your families!

Thank you! Namaskar! Shnorakalutyun!

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