

**Embassy of India
Yerevan**

Speech on the occasion of ITEC Day 2025

(Armenia Marriott Hotel, 12 March 2025)

- H. E. Mr. Artur Martirosyan, Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Culture & Sports of the Republic of Armenia,
- Senior Officers of the Government of Armenia,
- ITEC Alumni gathered here today,
- My colleagues from the Embassy,
- Dear Friends!

Bari yereko, Namaskar, good evening! Vokchuine bolorine! I am delighted to welcome you all here today for the celebration of our Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme Day, also known as ITEC Day 2025. The ITEC Programme was instituted on 15 September 1964. Last year marked the completion of 60 years of this Programme. Each year, the organization of the ITEC Day provides an opportunity of engagement between us at the Embassy and our ITEC alumni, an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening our ties and to commemorate the impact it has had on the capacity development landscape of Armenia.

2. The evolution and expansion of the ITEC Programme since its inception strongly confirms India's belief that human resource development and capacity building are valuable assets contributing to a country's growth. We are very proud to have this Programme which has been a pillar of our friendship with friendly countries like Armenia

as we believe in sharing our knowledge and expertise. Apart from our regular calendar-based training programmes, India also responds to country-specific requests for training in specific areas by organizing customized training programmes which are designed and delivered by the leading institutions in India. Thanks to this component, we were able to offer a customized training programme for 18 State Revenue Committee Officials last month. This was specially curated for the needs of the SRC.

3. In addition to the courses which are much appreciated, I would like to focus on our institutes as they are the backbone of the ITEC Programme. In addition to public and private sector institutes and Universities, there are institutes of technical excellence like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc) etc. which conduct nearly 400 courses in wide and diverse range of areas.

4. As I mentioned earlier, development cooperation has been a major component of our ties with Armenia. I am delighted to inform you that so far, around 388 Armenians have undergone training under the ITEC Programme, including all of you. This year, we also had Armenian participation in two ITEC Executive Programmes which are exclusive programmes designed for policy makers, senior level functionaries and senior professionals. Through extensive outreach to all Ministries, Departments, Universities and other agencies, we were able to ensure that there was optimum utilization of ITEC slots this year. By the end of this Financial Year which ends on 31st March, we would have utilized between 36 to 38 slots out of the 40 allocated to Armenia. Next year, we

hope to achieve 100% utilization! For this amazing performance, I would especially like to thank Counsellor, Ms. Raj Bala and Assistant Attaché, Mr. Abhishek for their tireless efforts. Let's give them a round of applause!

5. As per our ITEC Day tradition, we will shortly be listening to three of our ITEC alumni from the current year who will be sharing their experiences in India. They are Mr. Mikayel Avertisyan, Advisor to the Secretary of Security Council, Ms. Voskehat Grigoryan, Head of the Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity Policy and one of the participants from the SRC who underwent the specially curated programme on Digital Forensics.

6. I would like to thank the Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Science & Sports, Mr. Martirosyan, for joining us today as Chief Guest. I would also like to thank each and every one of you for joining us this evening.

Thank you! Long live the ITEC Programme! Jai Hind!
