Embassy of India
Yerevan
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Speech on the occasion of ITEC Day 2026

(Armenia Marriott Hotel, 12 March 2026)

- 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!

Namaskar, good evening! Bari yereko bolorine! We, at the Embassy, look forward to the celebration of the ITEC day every year since it gives us an opportunity to interact with our ITEC alumni, people who we consider to be a part of the larger Indian family! To quote our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, *"India is a country which has always played a constructive role on the world stage. Our offer of development aid, our development model is not based on 'give and take' but is guided by the developmental requirements of partner countries. Our focus has always been on Capacity Building and Resource Development. We have always strived for collective team work at all forums of our developmental partnerships".* This probably sums up best both India's philosophy and approach to development cooperation and capacity building.

2. First and foremost, allow me 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.

3. Over the years, the ITEC scheme has not only become a visible tool of India's bilateral diplomacy but has also become a recognized name in the global capacity-building landscape. With a rich training landscape, the ITEC Programme has been able to offer courses ranging from conventional development subjects like agriculture and entrepreneurship to advanced technology-oriented subjects like AI, biotechnology and cyber. Given India's track record of implanting population-scale solutions and championing their cause on global platforms, there has been strong interest in courses pertaining to good governance, data for development and digital public infrastructure.

4. Apart from civilian training, defence-related training for Friendly Foreign Countries (FFC) is also provided under the Defence-ITEC programme. The Defence ITEC Courses for Armenia commenced in 2023. So far, 52 Armenian defence personnel have availed of Defence ITEC courses in India. This is over and above the 40 civilian ITEC slots allotted to Armenia each year. I am very happy to announce that during the Financial Year ending in March 2026, we were able to utilize 37 out of the 40 slots. We would have achieved 100% utilization had it not been for the outbreak of the war in the Middle-East. Cumulatively, 433 Armenian nationals, including all of you, have undergone training under the ITEC Programme in India. For this, I would like to acknowledge the hard work put in by my team members and by the cooperation given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other agencies.

5. I would like to highlight that like last year, we were able to organize a tailor-made course for 15 officials of the Investigative Committee and 10 officials of the State Revenue Committee on *"Advanced Methods of Financial Crime Investigation and Digital Intelligence"* at the National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat last month. In addition, there was participation from Armenia for two ITEC Executive Programmes which are exclusive programmes designed for policy makers, senior level functionaries and professionals.

6. The ITEC Programme is constantly sought to be upgraded. As a part of the ongoing improvement process, several innovations were implemented in the online portal which enabled full-cycle automation from participants' registration to billing by the concerned Institutes. An app has been developed to enable the three key ITEC stakeholders - the participants, the training institutions and the ITEC coordinators in the Indian Embassies - to seamlessly interact with each other and ensure ease of implementation of the programme. The ITEC website has been upgraded with a live dashboard which graphically displays the performance of the scheme.

7. In accordance with our ITEC Day tradition, we will shortly be listening to four of our ITEC alumni from the current year who will be sharing their experiences. They are Ms. Lianna Ananyan, Expert of Market Surveillance Inspection Body; Mr. Mikayel Khachatryan, Senior Professor and Academic Director of Health Law Master Programme at the Russian-Armenian University, Ms. Tatevik Danielyan from State Revenue Committee; Mr. Tigran Sahakyan and Mr. Davit Saroyan from Investigative Committee.

8. We will also be regaled by a rendition of India's National Song, "Vande Mataram" by the innocent voices of kids from "Lyu-Si Childhood Planet" Kindergarten. This year, we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of this patriotic song which inspired India's Independence Movement.

Thank you all once again! Long live the ITEC Programme! Jai Hind!

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