

**Embassy of India  
Yerevan  
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**Opening Remarks at Armenia – Engineering Week 2024**

**[Yerevan, 01 October 2024]**

- H.E. Mr. Gevorg Mantashyan, Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry of Armenia,
- Excellencies,
- Ladies & Gentlemen,

Namaskar! Good afternoon! I would like to warmly thank the organizers of Armenia – Engineering Week 2024 especially Mr. Aram Salatian, Chairman of the Engineering Association and Mr. Bagrat Yengibaryan, Director of the Enterprise Incubator Foundation for inviting me to this annual prestigious event and giving me this opportunity to deliver my opening remarks. For the high-tech sector, this week promises to be a very exciting one starting with Engineering Week today followed by DigiTec and WCIT on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October respectively.

I think everyone present here knows how warm and deep-rooted relations are between India and Armenia. Armenians came to India as traders and merchants and flourished through the centuries. The millennia-old historical and civilizational links between our countries have provided a solid bedrock for the development of our multi-faceted bilateral ties which are characterized by a high degree of trust and understanding. During a side event of the Yerevan Dialogue held last month entitled “Armenia in India, India in Armenia – Celebrating Four Centuries of Familiarity and Friendship”, I was

pleasantly surprised to learn that India was not only the place where the first Armenian Proto-Constitution, “*Vorogayt Parats*” was written in 1773 and the first Armenian journal “*Azdarar*” was published in 1794, but that it was also the place where the first Armenian national anthem was composed in 1820, the first Armenian play published in 1821, the first Armenian historical novel in 1846 and the first treatise on women’s education was written in 1847.

The warm political relations between India and Armenia are witnessing a sustained momentum. There are visits between our countries practically every month. We share common democratic values, common culture, traditions and even mindset. In the changing geo-political scenario, we are happy that there is today another dimension to our ties which is that of our burgeoning defence cooperation. This has given an even more solid base to our relations. Armenia has been steadfast and consistent in its support to India in all international fora. The presence of a large number of Indian medical students and workers in Armenia act as a living bridge between our two peoples.

Today, India is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world and the fastest growing major economy third year running. At our current rate of growth of 7% or more, we will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy in the next few years. India is perhaps the only major economy to have emerged from the Covid pandemic without high inflation due to our prudent fiscal policies and management. Today, India has the world’s 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Startup ecosystem with over 100 unicorns. India is climbing rapidly on WIPO’s Global Innovation Index and is currently ranked 39. Going forward, India is among the most significant players both for global economic growth, for de-risking of supply chains and for talent

pool of researchers, engineers and professionals. India's uniquely open Digital Public Infrastructure and AI are catalyzing innovation in Financial & Commercial services, Healthcare, Education & Agriculture. India is a prime example of how Technology and Digital solutions are being leveraged to make development interventions at scale and speed. India stands ready to help Armenia develop the digital tools required for making the fruits of development reach the common man.

In March this year, our Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, participated in 'India's Techade: Chips for Viksit Bharat or Developed India' programme and laid the foundation stone for three semiconductor projects worth about USD 15 billion. I am happy to announce that some of these facilities are well on their way to becoming functional. This is the kind of life-changing transformation unfolding in India at a rapid pace and scale. India and Armenia can establish mutually beneficial cooperation in nearly every sphere of the economy, but especially in high-tech and IT. I was privileged to be present at the opening of Armenia's first supercomputer centre, named after the legendary singer Charles Aznavour, at the Engineering City on 31<sup>st</sup> May. This made me recall that the India-Armenia Centre of Excellence in ICT with PARAM supercomputer was set up in Yerevan way back in March 2015. This Centre is being run successfully and training Armenian youth in IT. On 26 September, our Prime Minister, while launching three PARAM Rudra supercomputers in Pune, Delhi and Kolkata, developed indigenously under the National Supercomputing Mission, said that "*Science for self-reliance is our mission*". He also inaugurated the USD 101 million High-Performance Computing system tailored for weather and climate research. It is heartening to note that right after the opening session, we have Mr. Ram Divedi, Co-Founder of Pravaig Dynamics who will

speak at length about Armenia as a Deep-Tech Hub and the possibilities of collaboration with India.

I wish the organizers the very best for fruitful deliberations during the Engineering Week, WCIT and DigiTec which hopefully result in some cross-country collaborations as win-win initiatives for the stakeholders and the world.

Thank you!