

**HC Speech for ITEC Day  
26 February 2026**

Your Excellency Mercy Wanjau, Secretary to the Cabinet of Hon'ble President of Kenya

Mr Wambua, Secretary, Human Resource Development, State Department for Public Service & Human Capital Development

Representative of Chief of Defence Forces

Distinguished ITEC Alumni from various Ministries, counties and parastatals from Kenya

ICCR Alumni

Members of Bharatwallah Association

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening! Namaste! Jambo!

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the ITEC Day Celebration 2026. Today, we gather not merely to commemorate a programme, but to celebrate a partnership — a partnership that continues to grow stronger with each passing year between India and Kenya.

The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, popularly known as ITEC, was launched in 1964 as a flagship capacity-building initiative of the Government of India. Conceived in the true spirit of South-South cooperation, ITEC reflects India's firm belief that development is most meaningful when it is shared. It is built on the principles of mutual respect, partnership, and shared progress.

Over the decades, ITEC has evolved into a truly global initiative, benefiting participants from more than 160 partner countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Pacific. Through training, knowledge exchange, and institutional collaboration, it has empowered thousands of professionals to contribute more effectively to their nations' development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As many of you as beneficiaries of this programme would know, ITEC is a fully sponsored programme covering tuition fees, accommodation, living allowance, return airfare, and study visits. For Kenya, over 400 training slots are allocated every year — a

clear indication of the importance India attaches to its partnership with Kenya and to human capital development in this great country.

ITEC has been a remarkable success story in Kenya. I am proud to tell you that thousands of Kenyan officials have benefited from various ITEC training programmes in diverse fields such as public administration, finance, audit, agriculture, ICT, renewable energy, entrepreneurship, disaster management, and governance. These areas are central to nation-building and sustainable development.

The alumni gathered here today represent the living strength of this partnership. Among the distinguished beneficiaries are high-ranking Government of Kenya officials, including the Hon'ble Attorney General of Kenya, Dorcas Oduor, senior officials across various Ministries, senior County Government officials including Deputy Governors, some of whom are present with us this evening, Your achievements stand as testimony to the impact of this programme.

Beyond civilian cooperation, ITEC has also contributed significantly to defence collaboration. Senior officers including the Chief of Defence Forces of Kenya and members of the Kenya Defence Forces have undergone specialized training in India, further deepening our strategic partnership and strengthening professional ties between our institutions.

In addition to short-term professional training, I would also like to highlight the scholarship opportunities offered by the Government of India through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, popularly known as ICCR scholarships. This programme provides fully funded opportunities for Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and PhD studies in various disciplines at premier Indian institutions. For Kenya, in view of our excellent and long-standing friendship, Govt of India has increased annual scholarship slots for Kenyan students from **80 to 100** from this Academic Year. The admission opportunities are now open for this academic year and details are available on our social media handles.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As members of the extended High Commission of India family, your role in strengthening India–Kenya relations is invaluable. You are ambassadors of goodwill, bridges between our institutions, and living symbols of our enduring partnership. The knowledge and experience you have gained in India create lasting bonds between our peoples.

We would like you to be associated with us through our programmes, events and initiatives. One such forthcoming event is an India Day celebration titled “**Bharat**

**Mela,”** on 8 March 2026 in Sikh Council grounds in Nairobi. The event will showcase the richness and diversity of Indian culture through cuisine, cultural performances, art, and exhibitions. It is an open event with free entry. I invite you, your families and friends and acquaintances to join us and experience the vibrant tapestry of India.

Let me conclude by reaffirming India’s steadfast commitment to partner with Kenya in its developmental journey. To this end, education and capacity-building will continue to play a vital role. Through ITEC, ICCR, and other collaborative initiatives, we will continue to stand together — as trusted partners, as close friends, working towards shared prosperity. I will also request all of you to join our ITEC alumni whatsapp group, follow the high commission of India on our social media handles and also the Bharatwallah association to keep you updated on various developments, events as well as opportunities.

I thank you all once again for your presence, particularly the Chief Guest, Secretary to the Cabinet for agreeing to be here at a short notice. I am told that the alumni will present some cultural performances and narrate some of their experiences in India as well. I look forward to it. And, please make sure to enjoy the Indian food that I am sure you would now be knowing well!

Asante sana!!