

**Embassy of India
Santiago

**Concluding remarks of Ambassador Abhilasha Joshi for the 80th Independence Day
celebrations on 15th August 2026**

Friends,

It is an honour to share the President's remarks with you all on this joyous occasion of our 80th Independence Day!

The Indian diaspora in Chile is one of our greatest strengths and a cherished extension of India's national family. On this historic occasion, I express my sincere appreciation for your unwavering support in strengthening the bonds of friendship between India and Chile and for being proud ambassadors of India's values, culture and achievements.

We are indeed proud of the accomplishments of our diaspora around the world, who contribute to India's image abroad through their outstanding accomplishments across diverse fields. The small but vibrant diaspora in Chile is no exception to the success and achievements of global Indians. Many of you are successful businessmen/women, and work in diverse areas of trade, science & technology, academia, entrepreneurship, public service and culture and cuisine and even the creative arts and cinema.

Your success, dedication and contributions not only enrich Chilean society but also reinforce the enduring goodwill and friendship between our two countries.

As your Embassy, our foremost commitment is to provide timely, transparent and compassionate consular services. We continue to enhance **citizen-centric assistance** through efficient passport, visa and **Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)** services, attestation and documentation, while extending support through the **Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF)** to fellow Indians whenever required. We have also strengthened our engagement with students, professionals, entrepreneurs and families, ensuring that the Embassy remains accessible, responsive and connected with every member of our community.

Some recent developments regarding consular services may be of interest to all of you-

I hope that you all have noted that the Government of India recently launched the **electronic OCI (e-OCI)** card system. Under this system, all new OCI applications are processed exclusively in a secure digital format rather than as a physical booklet. One can access and manage his/her credentials via the official OCI services portal. Physical re-issuance of the card at multiple age intervals has been suspended. Now details need to be digitally verified only once, after receiving the first adult passport at the age of 20.

Online updation of passport details can be done in the eOCI portal on gratis basis within 3 months of receipt of the new passport.

Physical presence of the applicant is required for submission of new OCI application. We need to collect **biometric data** (fingerprints and photo) from the applicants for processing the applications. In view of this, *postal applications are not being accepted any more.*

Fee for passport and related services has been revised with effect from 1st July, 2026 and is mentioned on our website.

While Indian diaspora members in Chile are welcome to meet consular officials on any working day, the Mission has designated **every Thursday** as ‘**Open House**’ when any member of diaspora community can visit the Embassy without appointment for addressing his/her consular issues. However, it is in the interest of all, that details about your case should be shared with the Consular Officer in advance.

I am particularly pleased to note that the Government of India has expanded the “**Know India Programme**”, which now welcomes eligible young members of the Indian diaspora, including **NRIs**, **OCIs** and **Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)**. This flagship initiative provides a unique opportunity to reconnect with India's rich heritage, witness its remarkable transformation, and participate in its journey towards **Viksit Bharat @2047**. I warmly encourage our young diaspora in Chile to take advantage of this programme and become enduring partners in India's progress.

I would also like to draw the attention of our accomplished researchers, scientists and professionals of Indian origin in Chile to the recently launched **Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC)** Scheme. This flagship initiative of the Government of India seeks to connect global Indian talent with India's rapidly expanding research and innovation ecosystem by enabling distinguished experts based abroad to undertake cutting-edge research, teaching and mentorship at premier Indian institutions and

national laboratories. Covering strategic and emerging areas ranging from advanced computing, artificial intelligence and quantum technologies to semiconductors, biotechnology, healthcare, clean energy and space, the Scheme offers a valuable platform for our diaspora to contribute their expertise to India's scientific advancement. I warmly encourage eligible members of our community in Chile to explore this opportunity and strengthen their engagement with India's knowledge and innovation journey.

I also invite all members of our community to actively participate in the Embassy's cultural, educational, business and outreach initiatives throughout the year. Together, let us continue to preserve our shared heritage, strengthen our people to people ties and serve as a vibrant bridge between India and Chile.

Let us once again rededicate ourselves to the service of the Nation!
Jai Hind!