

Embassy of India
Santiago

Ambassador's speech on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day
Reception
14th August 2026

Excellency Chancellor Sr **Francisco Pérez Mackenna**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile,
H.E. **Sr. Patricio Torres**, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs,
H.E. **Sra. Paula Estévez**, Undersecretary of Subrei
Ambassador Señor **Eduardo Frei**
Parliamentarians and Officials of the Govt of Chile
Excellencies Ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Friends from Chambers of Commerce, cultural organizations, media,
Members of the Indian diaspora, Fellow Indian citizens, Friends and colleagues

Namaste! Muy buenas tardes,

On behalf of Team Indian Embassy Santiago, it is my great honour and privilege to welcome you all to the celebration of the **80th Independence Day** of India. I would like to thank each one of you for joining us today and a special thanks to Minister Mackenna for his gracious presence! I also thank the PDI band for their melodious performance of the national anthems of India and Chile.

Friends, after two years in Chile, I feel that I must make an attempt to read my speech in Spanish. So please bear with me for any errors and my pronunciation, which is more Portunol than Espanol!

On this solemn and joyous occasion, we humbly remember in gratitude, the generations of women and men whose courage secured India's freedom. Our country was fortunate to have stalwarts like **Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Rabindranath Tagore, Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, Sarojini Naidu, Bhagwan Birsa Munda** and countless known and unknown freedom fighters, who sacrificed their liberty, and in many cases, their lives, so that future generations could live with dignity. This year we are also celebrating 150 years of Vande Mataram- India's national song; an ode to our motherland.

From the ancient living civilization, emerged a democratic Republic that embraced **universal voting rights from its very inception, for both men and women**, placing unwavering faith in Unity in Diversity.

The day that dawns tomorrow, 15 August 2026, marks 80 years in our country's journey of democracy, self-reliance, diversity and constitutional integrity.

Friends,

India over the last 80 years, has travelled from scarcity to scale, from technological dependence to technological leadership and from being perceived principally as a recipient of development assistance to becoming a provider of solutions, skills, medicines, technology and opportunity.

The India@2047, Viksit Bharat, or the nation that we aspire to build in 100 years of independence, believes in a development that is inclusive and universal with a conviction that progress cannot be achieved in isolation.

Today India is rapidly transforming lives of its citizens through large scale deployment of physical and digital infrastructure, financial inclusion, universal healthcare and equitable opportunities for education and employment.

Significant achievements powering India's growth are the India Stack- combining Aadhaar- the unique digital identity, UPI- the Unified Payments Interface, the world's largest instant payments system, and data

infrastructure—which has shifted millions of citizens into the formal economy.

India is emerging as the world's foremost location for **Global Capability Centres (GCC)**, and India's first **International Financial Services Centre, the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City, known as the GIFT City**, rapidly emerging as a truly global financial gateway. Indian Railways, the largest electrified railway systems in the world, added another milestone with the introduction of **our first indigenously developed hydrogen fuel-cell train, in July 2026.**

Last year, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to **travel to the International Space Station**, advancing India's upcoming ambitious **Gaganyaan space flight project**. Recently this year, India crossed another frontier with the launch of **Vikram-1**, the **first orbital rocket launch undertaken by Skyroot, a private Indian company from Indian soil.**

Friends,

These milestones are not isolated achievements. Together, they reflect a larger national transition, and the capacity of population-scale solutions that can be useful as global public goods, for **the world**. India grows, with a firm commitment to global responsibility. India's development partnerships, and advocacy for reformed multilateralism with a greater voice for the Global South, are rooted in the civilizational ethos of **“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”**, the **world is one family**.

India firmly believes in and practices South-South Cooperation.

India is committed to stand as a First Responder not only in our region but even extending humanitarian and disaster relief support to partners far beyond. India advocates zero tolerance for terrorism and terror financing, through sustained and coordinated global action. We have been a key contributor to global peace and security through active deployment of peacekeeping contingents on the frontlines, as part of UN missions. In the rapidly changing world of technology, we view AI as a global public good

and advocate against its misuse and other such new and emerging technologies.

The **India-AI Impact Summit**, the **first global artificial-intelligence summit of its kind hosted in the Global South in February this year**, reinforced this philosophy. The **New Delhi Declaration**, endorsed by **92 countries and international organisations**, advanced a shared vision of AI that is collaborative, trusted and directed towards expanding human potential while protecting human dignity.

India is honoured to hold the **BRICS Presidency in 2026**, under the theme **“Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”**. Our effort is to ensure that this important grouping remains **people-centered**, responsive to the priorities of emerging economies, and committed to practical cooperation in a changing international environment. India’s broader global vision is one of **reformed multilateralism**, an international order in which **the institutions created in the last century reflect the realities and aspirations of the present one**. Friends,

On the occasion of our Independence Day, let me reiterate that Chile is our trusted friend and partner. Bridging the geographic distance, Chile is now our 5th largest trading partner in LAC region. Negotiations for a balanced and mutually beneficial **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement** (CEPA) are ongoing, to build a relationship that is commensurate with the opportunities before us.

The momentum of high-level engagement continues with both sides committed to expanding bilateral relations. Foreign Office Consultations were held successfully in November 2025.

India’s Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh**, participated at the inauguration of H.E. President Kast, giving a fresh impetus to our bilateral relations.

H.E. Counciller **Francisco Pérez Mackenna's** first official visit to India in May this year, accompanied by Subsecretary Paula Esteves, was a great success and further cemented our ties. We are confident that both our nations are committed to enhance cooperation across trade, investments, mobility, critical minerals, energy, technology and other strategic sectors. The opportunities are substantial and India can be a trusted partner for Chile.

At the heart of any friendship are its people. The warmth of Chileans for Indian culture, philosophy, knowledge and traditions is indeed heartwarming. While Chile boasts the distinction of having the southernmost Hindu temple in the world, in Punta Arenas, from where the story of Indian immigrants in Chile began, the presence of a Buddhist Stupa in the scenic Cochiguaz valley, reflects a deep connect between the Himalayas and the Andes. Established by the Venerable **Drubpon Otzer Rinpoche, hailing from Ladakh in India**, this secluded jewel was appreciated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his monthly public address.

This acknowledgement was a reminder that India's civilizational traditions do not belong to India alone, their universal message finds resonance wherever people seek peace, wisdom and compassion.

Friends,

Before I conclude, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the Indian community in Chile. Through your enterprise, professional excellence and respect for the country that has welcomed you, you have earned goodwill for India. You are contributors to Chile's prosperity, ambassadors of India's culture and the most enduring bridge between our two nations.

I also thank the Indian companies present in Chile for their professionalism, and contribution to employment and growth in Chilean economy.

And my sincere thanks to my Embassy colleagues and families for making this event possible.

To our Chilean friends, thank you for your warmth, your generosity and your friendship. To the Chilean government and institutions, thank you for your support and commitment in taking forward India-Chile bilateral ties.

Let us continue to build bridges of friendship, trust and prosperity for both our nations!

¡Viva la amistad entre India y Chile!

¡Viva Chile! Viva India!

Jai Hind!