

**Embassy of India**

**Santiago**

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**Remarks of Ambassador Abhilasha Joshi for the 2025 Independence Day  
celebrations at the Embassy premises on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

**Distinguished guests, members of the Indian diaspora,  
Colleagues from the Embassy of India,  
All my dear friends from India and Chile,**

**Buenos Dias a todos,**

Friends, today as we gather beneath our beloved **Tiranga**, far from the shores of Bharat yet so close to her in our hearts, we are reminded of the spirit of India that travels with her people. Whether it flies over the Red Fort in Delhi or here in Santiago, it carries the same story, one of resilience, unity and a dream born on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. A promise that each generation would work to build a nation worthy of the sacrifices made for its freedom.

For those of us living away from home, this day is deeply personal and emotional. It is a thread that connects us back to our roots, to the fields, towns and cities where our respective stories began. And as I look at you, the Indian community in Chile, I see living proof that distance can never dilute belonging. You have carried India in your hearts, in your values and in the friendships you have built here.

Friends,

Over the last few years, we are witnessing a significant transformation in our country. Hope most of you would have heard the speech by Hon'ble Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort today. I would like to highlight some of the key elements of his address to the nation.

Prime Minister has given a clarion call for Atmanirbhar Bharat in every aspect of nation building.

He announced that the Semi-conductor mission is advancing rapidly and that there would be made in India semiconductor chips by year end.

He spoke of the following programs to promote Atmanirbhar Bharat in energy sector:

- Mission Green H2
- Nuclear Energy to expand by 10 times by 2047
- National deep water exploration mission for energy self sufficiency
- National Critical Minerals Mission
- Vision to promote Atmanirbharta in manufacture of EV batteries and solar panels

Regarding India's prowess in Space sector and to work towards self-reliance in this sector too, he talked of Mission Gaganyaan and proposal to have an Indian Space Station. He lauded the contribution of more than 300 startups working in the space sector.

Other highlights of his speech focused on:

- India's prowess as Pharmacy to the world and call to provide better quality medicines for the world,
- He exhorted Indian industry to make High Quality products with low cost in production
- Hon'ble PM gave a strong call for **Vocal for Local** - not out of compulsion, but as the choice of proud Indians.

- He also mentioned that India is a leader in milk production, 2nd in fisheries production, no 1 in fruits and rice. Keeping the interests of the Agri sector in mind, he announced that there would be no compromise in policies harmful to India's Agri, Dairy and Fisheries sectors.

Friends,

Over the last few years, thanks to reforms and progressive policies initiated by the government, poverty has been reduced with over 25 crore people rising above multidimensional poverty and more than 17 crore people have exited extreme poverty.

Further, as per the **International Labor Organisation (ILO)**, **social security protection in India has expanded from just 19% in 2015 to over 64% today**, which is the fastest expansion in the world. This is not merely governance, but in fact is **dignity restored, hope renewed and futures secured**.

Women empowerment is another pillar of our multisectoral growth. Initiatives like **Lakhpati Didi** are turning rural women into entrepreneurs and leaders. In fact in the **Government e-Marketplace**, there are over 1.84 lakh women entrepreneurs contributing in the transparent procurement ecosystem. Women are making their mark in all fields, whether it is in defence, science, sports, business or governance.

Friends,

While our nation continues to make remarkable strides, yet we should remain mindful of the persistent challenges to peace and stability in our region.

**In spite of grave provocations, India has clearly articulated through Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, that we are committed to peace and international law, but with zero tolerance towards terror.**

It is indeed heartening that several members of the defence forces have been awarded Medals, in recognition of their role in Operation Sindoor. Our forces are always prepared and trained for any eventuality, to protect the motherland. They live by the motto-

‘Sweat it out in peace; to bleed the enemy in war’ which was evident during Operation Sindoor!

Indian diaspora, whether here in Chile, or around the world, continues to be a beacon of resilience and hard work, and have achieved remarkable successes in all walks of life. From being early settlers and entrepreneurs, to now riding the wave of multinational Indian companies, our diaspora continues to contribute to growing India-Chile relations.

Recently, here in Chile, under some of the clearest skies on Earth, we find a beautiful meeting of our journeys in the **Vera C. Rubin Observatory**. This world-class facility will map the universe in unprecedented detail, and I am proud to say that Indian expertise is part of this global scientific mission. Among those contributing is **Dr. Kshitija Kelkar**, an inspiring daughter of India from Pune. She and her team recently captured the first images from the LSST Camera, marking a milestone for world astronomy. In her story, we see not only personal achievement, but also a bridge between India’s talent and Chile’s skies, between science and shared human curiosity.

Friends, as we celebrate our Independence Day today, let me call upon all of you Indian nationals and Indian diaspora, to continue to represent India overseas with sincerity, conviction and dignity. Let us continue to build bridges of friendship and trust, and keep flying the flag of our motherland high and in all its glory.

Let us renew our pledge to carry forward the flame of freedom, and work together to attain the goal of Viksit Bharat @2047!

At this moment, let us recall the words of **Swami Vivekananda**:

**“Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is achieved”**

Come, let us rededicate ourselves, to the service of the nation!

Vande Mataram!

Jai Hind!