

**Embassy of India  
Santiago**

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**Remarks of Ambassador Abhilasha Joshi for the Reception hosted  
by the Embassy on the occasion of the 2025 Independence Day  
celebrations on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

Excellency Chancellor Alberto Van Klaveren, Minister of Foreign  
Affairs of Chile,  
H.E. Sr Esteban Valenzuela, Minister of Agriculture,  
H.E. Sra Claudia Sanhueza Vice Minister of Subrei

Officials of the Govt of Chile

Excellency Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, 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 and Buenos dias!

On behalf of all of us from the Indian Embassy, I extend a very warm  
welcome to each one of you on the occasion of the 79<sup>th</sup> Independence  
Day of India celebrations!

We are honoured to have the gracious presence of HE Chancellor  
Alberto van Klaveren, who has taken time out of his busy schedule to  
join us for our national day!

At the outset, I would like to thank the PDI band and the school children from the Republic of India School, for their melodious rendition of the national anthems.

Friends, this year has been a landmark in India-Chile bilateral relations as we recently welcomed HE President Gabriel Boric Font, in India, in April 2025. The State Visit of the President of Chile, in reciprocation of the last Visit of the Indian President H.E. Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Chile in 2019, marked a historic milestone, further strengthening and expanding our ties. Both leaders had substantive discussions and the presence of the high level multisectoral delegation accompanying the President, gave a unique opportunity to the two sides to engage in a broad-based and constructive manner.

Apart from signing of several MOUs, the highlight of the Presidential visit was the announcement of the launch of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations, which is expected to significantly enhance India-Chile trade and investments. Both sides are working towards a balanced and equitable framework and are hopeful to complete the CEPA negotiations in a timely manner.

Soon after this milestone visit, it was a welcome opportunity that Prime Minister Modi and President Boric could meet again, albeit briefly, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Rio, to reconnect and give a renewed momentum to the growing relationship.

In the run up to the Presidential visit, the last one year has seen a marked uptick in engagement between various stakeholders on both sides. H.E. Chancellor Klaveren's visit last year for the Joint Commission Meeting co-chaired with Minister Jaishankar paved the way for the State Visit. The first Chile Summit India 2024, in New Delhi and Mumbai, provided

a good platform for interaction between Indian and Chilean authorities and industry. Chilean company BDP Foods, opened an office in Mumbai while Bollywood became interested to shoot in Chile.

The visit of senior Indian parliamentarians to Chile in January 2025, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Summit of the Committees of the Future and H.E. Sra Claudia Sanhueza's participation in the 10<sup>th</sup> CII India-LAC Business Conclave in New Delhi in March thereafter, were important platforms for wide ranging discussions.

Commercial and cultural ties between India and Chile have grown steadily, with Indian participation in key Chilean fairs like Edifica and Exponaval, and strong Chilean presence at IndiaSoft through large delegations. A 13-member women entrepreneurs' delegation from Chile visited multiple Indian cities in 2024, exploring business and cultural linkages. Chilean women also featured in a special tech session during IndiaSoft 2025. Cultural engagement deepened with recent visits to India by Miss World Chile and Miss Universal Woman Chile and the visit to Chile of the youngest Indian mountaineer to climb Mt. Everest – 17-year-old Ms. Kaamyra, for scaling Mt. Vinson in Antarctica. The Embassy's outreach extended to Chile's regions, and enduring cultural bonds—reflected in yoga, Ayurveda, Indian cuisine, and shared literary influences—continue to enrich bilateral ties.

Moreover, it was a singular honour for us, to organize a yoga and meditation session in the Hall of Honor at the National Congress in Valparaiso this year, in collaboration with the Chile-India Parliamentary Friendship Group of the Chamber of Deputies, as a curtain raiser to the International Day of Yoga.

A yoga session at Iquique in partnership with the Indian diaspora and the Municipality of Iquique was another memorable gathering at the scenic shores of Playa Brava with the cool waves of the Pacific Ocean enchanting our hearts and calming our minds.

This beauty of Chile is waiting to be captured by the lens of Bollywood and we hope that together with the efforts of ProChile, we should have some memorable moments created soon.

Education and capacity building are other important areas of cooperation. Several Chilean and Indian universities have partnership agreements and we are committed to explore avenues for collaboration in digital learning, research exchanges, smart education infrastructure, and vocational training programs, leveraging the strengths of both nations to drive innovation and knowledge sharing in education.

While the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program has offered capacity building courses to more than 375 Chilean government officials and professionals, we recently (in April 2025) had the privilege of organizing a special course on **Big Data and Machine Learning with Python in Cloud** for a group of 14 officers from the Comptroller General of Chile office, optimizing synergies in our South-South cooperation. Programs on AI, cyber-crime, forensics and digital tools, have been popular with participants from Chile.

I also wish to express our sincere thanks to the govt of Chile, for hosting and providing excellent support for the 7<sup>th</sup> Regional Committee meeting of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for the LAC region last week. Both India and Chile share commonality of views in our combined fight

against climate change and building a sustainable world for our future generations.

India recently achieved its committed target of 50% power from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, in 2025 itself, 5 years ahead of schedule. We have the 4<sup>th</sup> largest renewable energy installed capacity worldwide, aligning with our commitment to achieve net-zero by 2070. We aim to achieve 500 GW of Renewable Energy by 2030 with expansion of solar, wind, Green Hydrogen, ethanol blending and nuclear energy. From a power deficit country to becoming power surplus, India is walking on the path of energy transition with firm resolve and commitment.

Our global multilateral initiatives, like the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), the Global BioFuels Alliance or Mission LiFE- Lifestyle for Sustainable Environment, are testimony to India's commitment for climate action.

India is committed to global action against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and to counter financing of terror and illicit financial flows. India continues to advocate for reform of multilateral institutions representative of the global realities of current times. Our government is also working to accelerate progress on SDGs, digital public goods, women-led development and empowerment of citizens to leave no one behind.

As we celebrate 79 years of our Independence on 15 August, we recall that Chile was among the first countries to recognize our independence. Last year marked 75 years of our diplomatic relations. Today, Chile is our 5th largest trading partner in the LAC region with bilateral trade reaching USD 3.8 billion last year. While Chile became the largest

supplier of copper ores to India, India was the third largest supplier of pharmaceuticals to Chile in 2024.

Several prominent Indian companies have business operations here, contributing to the IT, pharma, energy, mining, agriculture and engineering sectors. I would like to mention that Indian companies present in Chile like **UPL, Bajaj, Kalpataru, Infosys and TCS** have showcased their profiles in this event today. I also want to **thank UPL for their support to the Mission LiFE – Lifestyle for Environment initiative.**

All of this wouldn't have been possible, without the pioneering efforts of the Indian community settled here. Their story, starting from Punta Arenas, dates back to 1905; a story of grit, determination, entrepreneurship, resilience, hard work, success and integration. It was a full homecoming, when a few of the Indian diaspora members, formed part of President Boric's delegation to India.

Friends, India- Chile relationship is built on shared values of democracy and mutual respect. We believe that we can be natural partners for the advancement and prosperity of both our nations. Together with all our friends and stakeholders, it is our humble mission to keep working to build a diverse and substantive partnership with Chile.

Today, as we recall our independence struggle, and remember the freedom fighters who lived and died for us; let me conclude with the words of Rabindranath Tagore, that still ring clear and relevant in today's times- when he wrote-

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
Where knowledge is free;*

*Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;*

*Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.*

Words of inspiration even to this day!

Finally, I would like to thank the government and people of Chile for their warmth and friendship. May India-Chile ties grow from strength to strength! I also thank Team Indian Embassy Santiago for their dedication and support without which this event would not be possible.

Viva Chile! Viva India!

Jai Hind!