

**Embassy of India  
Santiago**

**Remarks of Ambassador Abhilasha Joshi on the occasion of “INDIA DAY -  
Chile-India International Forum” on 9 October, 2025.**

Distinguished Guests,  
Colleagues from Indian Embassy,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me and my team, to be present here today in the beautiful city of La Unión, in celebration of India Day. The Embassy of India is delighted to partner with the Regional Government of Los Ríos and we are here at their kind invitation, to reaffirm the ties that already bind our peoples and explore the vast opportunities that lie ahead.

I would like to begin by recalling my participation in the Noche Valdiviana in March 2025 and my meetings with the regional authorities, that sparked the initiative of dialogue and collaboration between India and the Region of Los Ríos.

Friends,

Today I want to highlight three key areas: **trade, culture, and academia**, and how each offers concrete, complementary pathways for strengthening the India–Los Ríos relationship.

Firstly, as far as **trade** is concerned, Chile is the fifth largest trading partner for India in the LAC region. Bilateral trade reached USD 3.8 billion in 2023–24, with Chile becoming the largest supplier of copper ores to India and India being the third largest supplier of pharmaceuticals to Chile. Our diplomatic relationship has matured over many decades with high level visits- the most recent being the successful State Visit of H. E. President Gabriel Boric to India in April 2025.

**India’s economic transformation** — driven by reforms, digitalisation, and industrial policy — has opened many entry points for regional partners. Our programmes to boost manufacturing through Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat *or* Self-Reliant India, and Production Linked Incentive scheme, targeted initiatives for sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy and semiconductors, are creating new value chains. The latest reforms of the GST will enable easier access to products across India at economical rates. At the same time, India’s consumer market, skilled workforce and growing start-up ecosystem — now one of the largest in the world — offers substantial opportunities for buyers, investors and technology partners.

In this spirit, I warmly invite companies from the Los Ríos Region to participate in **INDIASOFT 2026**, India's premier global IT and electronics exhibition and networking event. This platform brings together hundreds of Indian technology companies with international buyers, investors, and business leaders. For enterprises in Los Ríos — whether in IT, digital services, innovation, or those seeking technological solutions for agriculture, aquaculture, logistics, or education — **INDIASOFT** is an excellent opportunity to discover new partners, explore digital tools, and build cross-border collaborations that can directly benefit your region's growth and competitiveness. In fact, senior delegates from ESC India have travelled all the way to your region, to highlight the opportunities for local companies to partner with Indian IT players.

The Embassy of India will be pleased to provide more information and facilitate participation from Los Ríos companies in this flagship event. In fact, we have been working with our partners in ESC India and their representative in Chile, to facilitate this dialogue. There have been large delegations from the Araucania and Nuble regions in the last two editions of IndiaSoft; we hope that many companies from Los Rios region will participate in the next edition in 2026.

Moreover, for Los Ríos, with its strengths in agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, tourism and sustainable tourism development, there are obvious complementarities. Climate-resilient crops, value-added food processing, aquaculture and cold-chain logistics, eco-tourism and green technologies are all sectors where Indian expertise and Indian markets can be valuable partners. Likewise, Chilean excellence in sustainable resource management and high-quality food exports can meet growing demand in India for premium, sustainably produced products.

The Embassy stands ready to support regional businesses — from SMEs in Valdivia and La Unión to chambers of commerce across Los Ríos — by facilitating contacts, market intelligence and participation in trade events. We want to see more Chilean companies exploring India and more Indian companies investing in your region.

Second, **culture**. The invitation of the Los Rios Region to the international events in Valdivia have been a catalyst to promote and strengthen our cultural relations. Cultural exchange — whether through festivals, film, performing arts, gastronomy or collaborative public celebrations — creates familiarity, trust and long-lasting relationships. Our humble participation in this event, through the India Week activities, showcasing various aspects of India including blockbuster Bollywood films, tourism and cuisine, will hopefully foster long lasting collaborations for the future.

Third, **academia**. Knowledge partnerships are the engines of innovation. India's investments in digital public infrastructure, agricultural research, clean energy and health technologies create fertile ground for collaborative research with Chilean universities and institutes. I am particularly excited about the possibilities for ties in areas such as sustainable aquaculture, forestry management, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and agritech.

Some universities across Chile have agreements or collaborative exchanges with Indian universities. We at the Embassy, would be happy to facilitate further connections for universities of this region, in subject areas of mutual interest. Academic exchanges should be the next frontier of collaboration between India and Chile.

The Indian Government's scholarship programmes for capacity-building and technical cooperation — including short-term training and research fellowships — are available to Chilean researchers and public officials. We want to make it easier for Los Ríos' academics and students to access Indian laboratories, centres of excellence and technology parks. Together, we can design capacity building courses tailored to the needs of your region: from best practices in aquaculture and agritech, to digital land-record systems, from sustainable tourism planning including wetlands conservation and entrepreneurship development.

In conclusion, I once again thank the regional government of Los Rios for extending such a warm welcome to our team to participate in the International Meeting and related events. May this initiative with Valdivia and here in La Union today, facilitate further collaborations and mutual exchanges between our peoples. Together, let us turn possibility into partnership, and partnership into shared prosperity.

Thank you.