

**Embassy of India
Santiago**

**Remarks of Ambassador Abhilasha Joshi on the occasion of
the “International Gita Mahotsav 2025”**

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the ISKCON Chile,

Scholars of the ancient scriptures,

My colleagues from Embassy,

Dear members of the Indian community and friends of India in Chile,

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the “International Gita Mahotsav 2025” celebrations here in Santiago. Friends, whenever we gather for such events, we are reminded of how beautifully wisdom travels, across borders, across languages, across cultures and finds new homes and new hearts. That is exactly what is happening this evening.

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to **International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)** Chile, and especially to **Mr. Jagat Guru**, whose commitment and warmth have made it possible for us to experience the spirit of Kurukshetra right here in the Andes.

The Bhagavad Gita is many things at once, such as a conversation, a philosophy, a guide or a comfort. But above all, it is a text that understands the human mind deeply. It speaks to our doubts, our fears, our dilemmas and our aspirations. That is why even today, regardless of nationality or faith, people across the world turn to it.

Friends,

One message often highlighted during this Mahotsav is beautifully expressed by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, **“I don’t have anything better than Gita to give, and nor does the world have anything better to receive”**. It’s a simple line, but it captures something profound that sometimes the most valuable gifts are ideas, not objects.

And the Gita offers ideas that are timeless. Take this one for instance: **“As a person discards worn-out clothes and wears new ones, the soul leaves the old body and takes on a new one”**. A lovely reminder that life is a journey, not a destination and that change is not something to fear, but something to understand.

Friends,

To understand the Gita, one must understand **Kurukshetra**, the sacred land where **Lord Krishna delivered this message over 5,000 years ago**. Kurukshetra is more than a physical battlefield. It is a symbolic landscape of human dilemmas, where every individual confronts the choices of duty, righteousness, moral courage and self-realisation. Today, that inner battlefield exists within each of us, in our decisions, our priorities, our values and the way we respond to the challenges of modern life. And that is why Kurukshetra remains eternally relevant. The International Gita Mahotsav is India’s effort to bring this message from Kurukshetra to every corner of the world, **from the banks of the Saraswati to the Andes of Chile**.

Friends,

This year’s Mahotsav has a special global dimension. **21 scholars from 18 countries** have travelled to Kurukshetra for the main events on 24-25

November. Their participation reflects how the Gita has quietly become a global text, studied in universities, debated in academic circles and cherished in households far from India.

And here in Chile, we take pride in being part of this global celebration. **Chile is among only 26 countries in the world where parallel International Gita Mahotsav events are being held this year.** It is wonderful to see Santiago join cities across Asia, Europe, Africa and the Americas, all connected today by a shared search for wisdom.

Friends,

Chile, with its culture of reflection, poetry, spirituality and intellectual openness, is a natural place for such an event. And the presence of so many Chilean friends this evening shows that ancient ideas can resonate in new lands with the same freshness. And so if there is one message from the Gita that feels especially relevant today, it is this **“Set your heart on doing what is right, without being anxious about the outcome”**. It is a message that brings a sense of calm in turbulent times, a reminder that sincerity in action is more important than obsession with results.

As we celebrate this Mahotsav, let us carry with us the Gita’s gentle encouragement to live with clarity, with purpose and with compassion. These are universal values that applies to all humans, irrespective of their faith, nationality, language or ethnicity.

On behalf of the Embassy of India in Chile, I thank each one of you for being here, for your warmth and for your willingness to explore and celebrate this timeless message together.

Muchas gracias.

Namaskar.