

**Embassy of India**  
**Santiago**

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**Draft remarks of Ambassador Abhilasha Joshi on the occasion of the**  
**77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India at the Embassy premises on 26th January**  
**2026**

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

**Buenos Dias/Namaste,**

Friends, it is a pleasure to see you all here in celebration of the **77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day** of India. On this day, we commemorate the entry into force of the Constitution of India on **26 January 1950**, which transformed India into a **sovereign, socialist, secular and democratic** republic. Our Constitution, the **world's longest written constitution**, laid the foundation for **justice, liberty, equality and fraternity** in our nation's journey. As **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, the chief architect of our Constitution, famously said "**The Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document, it is a vehicle of life and its spirit is always the spirit of age**". Indeed, for 76 years this living document has guided India's democracy, reflecting the aspirations of We, the People.

Friends,

This Republic Day is also a celebration of the strong and growing friendship between India and Chile, two nations united by shared values despite the vast oceans between us. At the outset, let me take a moment to extend our sincere condolences to the Government and people of Chile for the tragic loss of lives in the recent raging forest fires in Chile.

The year 2025 was a milestone year for our bilateral relations. We had the privilege of hosting **H.E. President Gabriel Boric** on a **State Visit** to India in **April 2025**, his first visit to India. This historic visit infused new energy into our partnership. The launch of the **CEPA negotiations**, the visit of **H.E. Claudia Sanhueza** to India in December 2025, the visit of **Vice-Minister Secretary East** to Chile in November for the Foreign Office Consultations, and several business and professional exchanges round the year, have marked a great momentum in our relations. Our relations are broad and diversified, covering political, economic, defence, critical minerals, education, cultural and global issues.

Friends,

There were several other milestone initiatives during last year. India was proud to be the “**Guest of Honor**” country at two major events in Chile, a symbol of our growing cultural affinity. In November 2025, at Chile’s premier innovation summit “**Emprende Tu Mente**” (EtM 2025) in Santiago, India was invited as the Guest of Honour country and thus became the first country in the event’s history to be crowned such an important status. There, we showcased Indian innovation and vibrant culture, including a special performance commemorating **150 years** of “**Vande Mataram**”, India’s national song.

Likewise, in October 2025, India was honored as the Guest of Honor at the **IV International Meeting of the Los Ríos Region** in Valdivia. These accolades reflect the warmth and goodwill between our nations, and they have brought Chilean and Indian communities closer through shared celebrations of art, entrepreneurship and heritage. **I thank the members of the Indian Association, diaspora, and the Indian companies and businesses present in Chile, for the immense support and cooperation extended to the Embassy.**

Similarly, we were delighted to organize **International Day of Yoga and Ayurveda Day 2025** events in iconic venues across Chile, whether in the National Congress’ historic “**Hall of Honor**” in Valparaíso, the

University of Chile, or the scenic **Playa Brava** in **Iquique** and in the **beautiful city of Valdivia; in the true spirit of “One Earth, One Health”**

Friends,

I would like to especially commend the Indian diaspora in Chile, a small but dynamic community of about 5,000 people of Indian origin. They are a living bridge between our two nations, excelling as professionals, entrepreneurs, students and enriching Chilean society while preserving India’s culture and values. You are truly, as Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has time and again noted, **“the custodians of our shared heritage”**. The success of our cultural events, be it Diwali celebrations, yoga sessions or Indian film festivals, owes much to the enthusiastic participation of both the diaspora and our Chilean friends. Together, you exemplify the motto **“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”**, the idea that the whole world is one family.

On behalf of India, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Government and people of Chile for the warmth and support given to our community.

Friends,

As we celebrate India’s Republic Day, let us remember the values of democracy, unity and mutual respect that our Republic stands for. In that spirit, and as we continue to commemorate **150 years of “Vande Mataram”**, the **National Song** of India that galvanized our freedom struggle, I invite everyone present to join me in honoring the legacy of this historical song. The song, which means **“I bow to thee, O Mother”**, is not just a melody but the very soul of India, a timeless ode to our motherland and the sacrifices of our heroes.

Let us once again, renew our pledge to serve the nation with utmost dedication and honesty!

**Vande Mataram! - May the Motherland be ever honored.**

**Jai Hind!**