

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA,
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND
AT THE BANQUET HOSTED IN HIS HONOUR
BY THE PRESIDENT OF CHILE**

Santiago, April 1, 2019

1. Yesterday I had the opportunity to see something of your beautiful country and experience the truly cosmopolitan spirit of Santiago. I paid tribute to Mahtama Gandhi, the father of our Nation at the Plaza de la India. This year, we are celebrating his 150th birth anniversary. I thank you for giving him a home in the heart of your city. I also had the opportunity to pay my respects to one of the greatest poets of all times, our dear Pablo Neruda.
2. There is a unique connect between both these men. They both loved fountain pens. And I brought one, a special one, for the home of Pablo Neruda, made by the family whom Mahatma Gandhi encouraged to develop the first indigenous fountain pen in India. The fountain pen is now displayed in the Pablo Neruda museum in Santiago. We hope this special connection continues to write its story.
3. Today, we have had very comprehensive and productive discussions which will revitalize our relationship. Our bilateral agenda is expansive. From energy to security, and from Yoga to Outer space, we have much work to do together.
4. May our warm and mutually beneficial friendship grow and prosper in tandem with the progress of both our peoples.
5. On optimistic note, ladies and gentlemen, please raise a toast :
 - for the happiness and well-being of President Pinera;
 - for the peace and prosperity of the friendly people of Chile;
 - and for the ever-lasting friendship between India and Chile.

Jai Hind, Viva Chile!