



**RECEPTION FOR THE
INDIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA
TO MARK THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE CAROLINE WELLS
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST 2026**

It is a great pleasure to join you today as we celebrate the 80th Independence Day of India —a significant milestone that reflects the aspirations, resilience and democratic values of one of the world's great nations.

I would like to warmly welcome Dr Navpreet Kaur, Honorary Indian Consul in Tasmania. My sincere thanks to the President of the Indian Cultural Society in Tasmania, Dr Abjihit Das, and to everyone whose hard work has brought us together for this wonderful celebration. I have been looking forward to sharing this occasion with you.

I acknowledge the Palawa people as the First Peoples of lutruwita/Tasmania and the Traditional Custodians of this land. For countless generations, they have cared for this remarkable island, its waterways, landscapes and communities.

I pay my respects to Elders past and present and recognise the enduring contribution of Aboriginal Tasmanians to the cultural, social and spiritual life of our State.

As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, we honour its remarkable journey as the world's largest democracy and reflect on the enduring partnership between India and Australia founded on shared democratic values, mutual respect and a commitment to a peaceful, inclusive and prosperous Indo- Pacific.

Over the decades, this bilateral relationship has evolved into a trusted and forward-looking partnership, strengthened through dialogue, cooperation and a growing convergence across trade, where India is Australia's 5th largest trading partner and the 10th largest export market for Tasmania. Our engagements continue through education, innovation, sustainability, critical technologies and security. Yet the true strength of this friendship lies in the enduring bonds between our people.

The Indian community is one of Tasmania's largest and most dynamic multicultural communities. Across every region of our Tasmania, Indian Tasmanians contribute as doctors, nurses, pharmacists, engineers, researchers, academics, teachers, information technology professionals, entrepreneurs, aged care workers, hospitality staff, farmers and community volunteers. Their expertise strengthens essential services, supports regional communities and helps drive innovation and economic growth.

Beyond these professional contributions, Indian culture has become an important part of Tasmania's social fabric. Festivals such as Diwali, Holi and other community celebrations bring people together across cultures, while Indian music, dance, literature, language and cuisine enrich the cultural life of our State and remind us of the value of sharing traditions with one another.

Our multicultural community is one of Tasmania's greatest strengths. When people from different cultures, faiths and backgrounds come together with openness and mutual respect, we create a society that is more innovative, more resilient and more compassionate. Diversity broadens our perspectives, encourages creativity and strengthens our capacity to respond to the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly connected world, but some would say disconnected world.

When I became Governor, one of my aspirations was to encourage a Tasmania where every person feels welcomed, respected, included and valued—a place

where everyone has the opportunity to contribute, regardless of where they were born or the path that brought them here.

Celebrations such as today's remind us that multiculturalism is not simply about preserving traditions. It is about building relationships, creating understanding and ensuring that people from every background feel they belong. Every community contributes something unique to the character of Tasmania, and together we build a stronger, more confident and more inclusive society.

At a time when the world can sometimes seem divided, occasions like this remind us of what unites us. They demonstrate that communities flourish when people embrace one another with curiosity, kindness and goodwill, recognising that our diversity is not a challenge to overcome but one of our greatest shared strengths.

The future of Tasmania depends on continuing to foster inclusion, opportunity and respect for all. Whatever our heritage, language or faith, we each have a role to play in creating communities where every person feels they belong, where every voice is valued and where everyone has the opportunity to flourish.

On behalf of all Tasmanians, I extend my warmest congratulations to everyone celebrating this important occasion.

May the friendship between Tasmania and India continue to grow. May our educational, cultural, scientific and economic partnerships flourish. And may we continue to build a Tasmania where diversity is celebrated, inclusion is lived, and every person feels at home.

To everyone gathered here today, thank you for the contribution you make to our State and to our shared future.

Happy 80th Independence Day of India.

Thank you.