

**CONSULATE OF INDIA IN TASMANIA
FLAG HOISTING CEREMONY TO MARK THE
INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA 2024
ADDRESS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
ACTON PARK, THURSDAY 15 AUGUST 2024**

Good morning, everyone, and thank you for inviting us to be with you today for this flag hoisting ceremony to mark India's Independence Day.

I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose Country we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, and waters.

Today, we gather to celebrate this momentous occasion in the history of the people of India. On this day, 78 years ago, India awoke to freedom and independence and moved away from colonial rule and into a new era of self-determination. I am sure that it is with an immense pride that you have come together today to commemorate Indian Independence Day.

India's journey to independence was marked by the sacrifices of many who dared to dream and work for an independent India. Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawa har lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, and countless others dedicated their lives to the cause of independence. They endured hardships, imprisonment and challenges, yet remained steadfast in their resolve. Today, we honour their efforts, their memory and their legacy. Their vision and courage have brought India to this point.

As we celebrate Independence Day, let us remember the values of these leaders: unity, diversity, and resilience. India is a land of unparalleled diversity, a tapestry woven with countless cultures, languages, and traditions. One of the reasons India is so strong, and can sustain the world's largest democracy, lies in the ability of all Indians to embrace that diversity and to draw from it a sense of unity and purpose. It is unity that has allowed the Indian people to overcome challenges and to rise above adversity.

Since gaining independence, India has made remarkable strides in science and technology, arts and sports, with economic growth and social progress. India has demonstrated its role on the global stage and continues to progress and develop, working to eradicate poverty, ensure access to education and healthcare for all.

On this Independence Day, may we celebrate our past relationship, take pride in our present, and look forward to our future.

Jai Hind! [*Literally, 'Victory to Hindustan', or colloquially now, 'Long live India' or 'Salute to India'.*]