



# 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

15th August 2021

I congratulate the Republic of India and all Australians of Indian heritage on the 75th Anniversary of India's independence.

This anniversary marks a true milestone in India's history and in Australia's history. Indian culture is one of the most ancient in the world. As a modern nation, it remains one of the most diverse on earth, and on the day of its independence we celebrate this achievement.

Today we celebrate the vast accomplishments within the Republic of India. As a society that celebrates enterprise, knowledge and innovation, India has transformed itself into high-tech engine of the global economy. Literacy rates have soared from 12 to 78 per cent since achieving independence and the population has expanded to 1.2 billion people.

Empowered by technology, its people are connecting and sharing information over messaging services such as Facebook and WhatsApp. This helps maintain strong bonds with those overseas, and keeps brothers and sisters close even when they are afar.

It is also my great pleasure, on this most auspicious occasion, to not only celebrate this milestone in India's history, but to extend my gratitude to Australians of Indian heritage, who have contributed so much to Australian society, culture and our economic efforts.

Whether it be supplying food services throughout the pandemic, providing much-needed comfort in times when natural disasters have occurred, or accomplishing success in so many different facets; from business, to academia, sport, and the arts.

We are a smarter, more prosperous and more culturally enriched country because of the contributions of the Indian people and their children who have grown up here, and who now call Australian home.

For that, I am immensely proud to represent this electorate of Greenway in Sydney's North West suburbs.

Although this year we are confined to single household celebrations, I very much look forward to celebrating in-person next year with my community in Greenway and hopefully, travelling to India once again.

Long live India and its people.

Yours sincerely,

**Michelle Rowland MP**  
**Shadow Minister for Communications**  
**Federal Member for Greenway**

