

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Indian Independence Day**

- WHEREAS:** India is the largest free democratic country in the world, home of nearly a fifth of the world's population, and with exceptional beauty and rich cultural heritage; and
- WHEREAS:** The Indian independence movement was led by patriots including Mahatma Gandhi, Rani Laxmi Bai, Deshbandhu Das, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Lala Lajpat Rai, Lokmanya Tilak, Bhagat Singh, Maulana Azad, Raja Gopalachari, and Sardar Patel. One of their resistance methods was nonviolent protest, which became a model of civil rights movements around the world, including the one led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and
- WHEREAS:** On August 15, 1947, India regained independence from two hundred years of repressive British occupation with civil disobedience and nonviolent protest. That movement became a new weapon to fight against inequality and injustice in the world; and
- WHEREAS:** The Constituent Assembly of India created a democratic constitution of its own, including inspirations from the American constitution; and
- WHEREAS:** A youthful country celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, India has shown tremendous growth in education, health, agriculture, and technology since its independence; and
- WHEREAS:** India's Independence Day is celebrated by almost 1.5 billion people across the country with flag-hoisting ceremonies, kite-flying, and parades; and
- WHEREAS:** India has the largest diaspora in the world, and over 36 million of Indian origin live in other countries, with over 4 million people of Indian origin living in the United States, over 100 thousand in Massachusetts, and hundreds in Needham, who contribute greatly to the social, economic, and civic health of our nation and our community; and
- WHEREAS:** India is a composite civilization – an ancient nation extraordinarily unique as a cultural mosaic of people encompassing a prodigious diversity of ethnic groups, religions, languages, customs, traditions, clothing, gastronomy, climatic conditions and natural resources, and yet presenting an underlying unity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Select Board of the Town of Needham does hereby proclaim August 15, 2022, as India Day and encourages all residents to join the Indian Community to celebrate and commemorate its 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day.

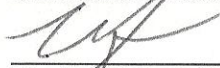



Signed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022

  
Marianne B. Cooley, Chair

  
Marcus A. Nelson, Vice Chair

  
Kevin Keane, Clerk

  
Matthew D. Borrelli

  
Heidi Frail