

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 25, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 13, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 85

**Introduced by Assembly ~~Member~~ Members Mendoza and
Wieckowski**

January 4, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 85—Relative to India Republic Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 85, as amended, Mendoza. India Republic Day.

This measure would proclaim January 26, 2012, as India Republic Day, and would urge all Californians to join in celebrating India Republic Day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Republic Day is one of the three national holidays
2 of India and is celebrated every year on January 26. It was *during*
3 the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress at midnight
4 of December 31, 1929, to January 1, 1930, inclusive, that the
5 tricolor flag was unfurled by the nationalists and a pledge was
6 taken that on January 26 of every year, “Republic Day” would be
7 celebrated and that the people would unceasingly strive for the
8 establishment of a sovereign democratic republic. The professed
9 pledge was successfully redeemed on January 26, 1950, when the
10 Constitution of India framed by the Constituent Assembly of India

1 came into force, although independence from British rule was
2 already achieved on August 15, 1947; and

3 WHEREAS, Although India obtained its independence on
4 August 15, 1947, it did not yet have a permanent constitution.
5 Instead, its laws were based on the modified colonial Government
6 of India Act 1935, and the country was a dominion, with *King*
7 George VI as head of state and Earl Mountbatten as Governor
8 General of India. On August 28, 1947, the drafting committee was
9 appointed to draft a permanent constitution, with Bhimrao Ramji
10 Ambedkar as chairman. While India's Independence Day celebrates
11 its freedom from British rule, Republic Day celebrates the coming
12 into force of its constitution; and

13 WHEREAS, A draft constitution was prepared by the committee
14 and submitted to the Constituent Assembly of India on November
15 4, 1947. The assembly met, in sessions open to the public, for 166
16 days, spread over a period of two years, 11 months, and 18 days
17 before adopting the constitution. After many deliberations and
18 some modifications, the 308 members of the assembly signed two
19 handwritten copies of the document, one each in Hindi and English,
20 on January 24, 1950. Two days later, the Constitution of India
21 became the law of all the Indian lands; and

22 WHEREAS, Today, Republic Day is celebrated with much
23 enthusiasm all over the country and especially in New Delhi, the
24 capital of India where celebrations commence at the presidential
25 level. The beginning of the occasion is always a solemn reminder
26 of the sacrifice of the martyrs who died for the country in the
27 freedom movement and the succeeding wars for the defense of
28 sovereignty of the country. The president awards medals of bravery
29 to the people from the armed forces for their exceptional courage
30 in the field and also the civilians who have distinguished
31 themselves by their different acts of valor in situations; and

32 WHEREAS, The patriotic fervor of the people on this day brings
33 the whole country together even in her essential diversity. Every
34 part of the country is represented on this occasion, which makes
35 Republic Day the most popular of all the national holidays of India;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Republic Day serves to remind us that the
38 foundation of any nation and our state is in its people, in their spirit
39 and courage in the face of adversity, and in their willingness to
40 sacrifice in the pursuit of freedom and liberty; and

1 WHEREAS, Republic Day offers an opportunity to reflect on
2 the many achievements of the large Asian Indian community here
3 in California, which is home to the largest population of Asian
4 Indians in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Achievements by Asian Indians in America and
6 California include contributions to all facets of our community,
7 including our culture and society through their achievements in
8 food, medicine, business, and technology; ~~and now, therefore, be~~
9 ~~it~~

10 ~~WHEREAS, Asian Indians have one of the highest educational~~
11 ~~levels of all ethnic groups in the United States, with almost 71~~
12 ~~percent holding a bachelor's degree or higher, including 40 percent~~
13 ~~of whom have a master's, doctorate, or other professional degree;~~
14 ~~and~~

15 ~~WHEREAS, One-third of the engineers in Silicon Valley are~~
16 ~~of Indian descent, while 7 percent of Silicon Valley hi-tech firms~~
17 ~~are led by Indian CEOs; now, therefore, be it~~

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
19 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims January
20 26, 2012, as India Republic Day, and urges all Californians to join
21 in celebrating India Republic Day; and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
23 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.