

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 91

Introduced by Senator Mendoza

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Cristina Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)

January 4, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 91—Relative to India Republic Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 91, as amended, Mendoza. India Republic Day.

This measure would proclaim January 26, 2016, 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

1 tricolor flag was unfurled by the nationalists and a pledge was
2 taken that on January 26 of every year, “Republic Day” would be
3 celebrated and that the people would unceasingly strive for the
4 establishment of a sovereign democratic republic. The professed
5 pledge was successfully redeemed on January 26, 1950, when the
6 Constitution of India framed by the Constituent Assembly of India
7 came into force, although independence from British rule was
8 already achieved on August 15, 1947; and

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

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

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

38 WHEREAS, The patriotic fervor of the people on this day brings
39 the whole country together even in her essential diversity. Every
40 part of the country is represented on this occasion, which makes

1 Republic Day the most popular of all the national holidays of India;
2 and

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

7 WHEREAS, Republic Day offers an opportunity to reflect on
8 the many achievements of the large Asian Indian community here
9 in California, which is home to the largest population of Asian
10 Indians in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Achievements by Asian Indians in America and
12 California include contributions to all facets of our community,
13 including our culture and society through their achievements in
14 food, medicine, business, and technology; now, therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby proclaims January
17 26, 2016, as India Republic Day, and urges all Californians to join
18 in celebrating India Republic Day; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
20 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.