



**Doug Parkinson, MLC**

None

Saturday, 17 August 2002

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### **Indian Independence Day**

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council Doug Parkinson today represented the Premier, Jim Bacon, at a flag raising ceremony to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the Indian Independence Day.

Mr Parkinson congratulated the Indian community in Tasmania on their significant contribution to the State.

"Although small in number, the community proudly participates in all facets of community life and shares its culture in a number of ways.

"The Indian community is active in all walks of life and in many different occupations and businesses – in all facets of the medical profession, as well as accountants, lawyers, restaurateurs, IT professionals and in many other walks of life."

Mr Parkinson said historically, Tasmania had a number of links with India.

"The suburb of Howrah was named after Howrah Farm, established by Captain James Fielder of the East India Company.

"And in the early 1800s the Anglican Church in Australia was under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Calcutta."

Mr Parkinson commended the Indian community in Tasmania for keeping their culture alive by teaching their language and dance to the younger generation.

"The community has also participated in a number of initiatives with city councils to raise awareness of Indian culture and also runs a regular community radio program.

"The annual celebrations to commemorate India's Independence Day is of course another way of keeping Indian culture alive in this far off island of Tasmania."

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**Further information:** Tasmanian Government Communications Office

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