

Senate Resolution No. 1935

BY: Senator COONEY

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim August 15, 2026, as India Independence Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are important to the cultural heritage of the citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in keeping with its time-honored traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim August 15, 2026, as India Independence Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, On August 15, 1947, India was declared independent of the British Empire after approximately two hundred years of colonial control which was marked by oppression, sacrifice, and struggle; and

WHEREAS, India's independence is enormously important to people around the world; it marks the end of a 90-year struggle to achieve stronger civil, political, and economic rights along with self-determination; and

WHEREAS, Countless brave and courageous Indian people sacrificed their lives for the independence of their country and for the betterment of the lives of their families, friends, and peers; and

WHEREAS, On November 26, 1949, the Indian Constitution was enacted, adopted, and given to the citizens of India; this legal document balances a strong central government with the autonomy of states; additionally, it provides a stable framework for governance, facilitates social justice, and promotes economic development; and

WHEREAS, Diverse regional needs and identities are respected and preserved through the Indian Constitution; this legislation has played a crucial role in shaping modern India, reflecting the aspirations of the forefathers and providing a guide for the nation's progress; and

WHEREAS, Annually, the Indian people celebrate Constitution Day, honoring the visionary framers of this vital document; this year-long observance commences every November; citizens of the State of New York should celebrate with the Indian people, remembering that our Nation had the same struggle to achieve independence from the same oppressors; and

WHEREAS, It is important to honor and cherish the ancestral history of the citizens of the State of New York and to educate the citizens of this State of the richness thereof; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim August 15, 2026, as India Independence Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, the Consul General of India, and various Indian organizations in the State of New York.