

## India Marks 79th Independence Day with Flag Hoisting and National Address

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India celebrated its 79th Independence Day with nationwide observances, marked by the hoisting of the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi and a speech from Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighting development, national security, and announced reforms aimed at easing the fiscal burden on citizens.

The day began with the ceremonial unfurling of the tricolor atop the Red Fort, drawing attention from citizens across the capital and television audiences nationwide. Prime Minister Modi delivered his annual address, his twelfth consecutive speech on Independence Day, outlining the government's reported efforts to foster economic growth, strengthen security measures, and improve public welfare. Among the key announcements was the promise of forthcoming reforms to the Goods and Services Tax, intended to reduce the fiscal burden on the average citizen and simplify the tax framework for businesses.

The Prime Minister's address emphasized the nation's reported achievements over the past year and outlined a framework for future policy direction. He stressed the importance of unity, national pride, and the role of citizens in contributing to the country's development agenda. Modi also noted government initiatives in technology, infrastructure, and energy, presenting them as part of efforts to advance India's global competitiveness.

Across the country, state and local governments organized flag-hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs, reminding citizens of the historical struggle for independence and the sacrifices of those who fought for the nation. In addition to celebrations, security measures were heightened in sensitive regions to ensure safety and maintain public order. In Nagaland, authorities deployed additional police forces in response to calls for boycotts of the celebrations by local insurgent groups and student bodies, reflecting security challenges in some parts of the country.

The international community also joined in the observance, with several nations extending formal congratulations and recognition of India's continued democratic process. The United States sent formal greetings,

noting historical ties between the two nations and highlighting diplomatic, economic, and security partnerships. Other countries extended similar messages of goodwill, acknowledging India's reported achievements in governance, technology, and development.

Cultural celebrations, parades, and performances accompanied the official ceremonies, with schools, colleges, and community groups participating in events that highlighted India's diversity and heritage. Citizens in cities and towns across the nation displayed the national flag and joined in events commemorating the country's journey since its independence in 1947.

While Independence Day remains a moment of national pride, it also serves as a reminder of ongoing challenges, including regional tensions, socio-economic disparities, and governance issues. Authorities stressed the importance of dialogue, civic responsibility, and peaceful participation in public life as the nation commemorates the occasion.

As India marked its 79th Independence Day, the celebrations reflected patriotic observances, acknowledgment of the nation's past developments, and the announcement of planned reforms, with the Prime Minister's address providing a framework for citizen engagement and policy direction in the year ahead.