

2021 INDIA AND PAKISTAN 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY PROCLAMATION

Councilor Sponsor: Councilor Shalini Bahl-Milne

Community Sponsors: Alina Durrani, Dr. Ambreen Bawa, and Dr. Sanjay Nawalkha

WHEREAS, India and Pakistan have one of the world's oldest civilizations with an extraordinary history of accomplishments in philosophy, mathematics, arts, architecture, music, medicine, and astronomy, and had built a thriving economy with flourishing trade and commerce; and

WHEREAS, British subjugation of the Indian subcontinent from 1858 to 1947 involving political, social, and economic exploitation resulted in a significant transfer of capital from India to England, leading to a massive drain of revenue, the destruction of local industries, the transformation of lifestyles and local culture, and the obliteration of the colonized people's identities and self-respect; and

WHEREAS, pro-imperialist history claims many benefits of the British rule including democracy, railways, language, and literature, these achievements mostly benefited the imperialists leaving the Indian subcontinent divided and impoverished with a drastic reduction in their share in the world economy from 20% to 4% under the 200 years of British rule; and

WHEREAS, a long campaign of nonviolent protests and struggle for independence was led by many fearless leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Jawaharlal Nehru, Fatima Jinnah, Allama Iqbal, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Sarojini Naidu, to name only a few; and

WHEREAS, at midnight between Aug. 14 and 15, 1947, when the British finally left, the subcontinent was partitioned into two independent nation states: Pakistan and India; and

WHEREAS, the 1947 Partition was accompanied by one of the largest mass migrations in human history creating 14 million refugees and the loss of up to 2 million lives; and

WHEREAS, Indians and Pakistanis worldwide are celebrating the 75th year of independence in 2021, it is also a time to pause and remember the sacrifices of the people who fought for their freedom and to commit to working together to promote peace and progress; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Amherst is home to a vibrant community of Pakistani and Indian Americans and immigrants who have contributed to the diversity of our culture and to our local businesses, education, services, and economy; and

WHEREAS, to pay tribute to the brave men and women who gave their lives to bring freedom to the people in Pakistan and India, we join the members from the Indian and Pakistani communities and invite all residents in the Town of Amherst to a flag raising ceremony at 4:00 pm on September 24, 2021 in front of the Amherst Town Hall.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved that we, the Town Council of the Town of Amherst in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in recognition of the 75th year of independence in Pakistan and India, proclaim September 24, 2021, as “Celebration of India and Pakistan Day” and further recognize this Proclamation by raising the Pakistani and Indian National flags from September 24 to September 30, 2021, to help spread awareness of the history of the two countries and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of the Indian and Pakistani residents in Amherst.

Voted this ____ day of September 2021.

Lynn Griesemer,
Amherst Town Council President