



# communiqué

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## ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

On the occasion of the 38th anniversary of Independence, the Government of Canada would like to extend its best wishes to the Government and people of India. Over the past year, the strength of Indian democracy has been affirmed in spite of severe challenges and extremist acts. India now has the prospect of major new economic and political gains. In particular, the progress in negotiating a peaceful political settlement towards the problem of the Punjab is to be greatly applauded. This act of statesmanship will help to ease political tensions and reinforce India's unity and independence, first achieved thirty-eight years ago.