



**DEPARTMENT OF  
FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS**

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PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO MRS GANDHI

ON INDIA'S NATIONAL DAY

The following is the text of a special message from the Prime Minister, Mr E. G. Whitlam, to the Prime Minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi, on the occasion of India's commemoration of Republic Day, 26 January:

"On behalf of the Australian Government and people, I would like to convey my warmest greetings to you and the people of India on the occasion of India's commemoration of Republic Day.

We in Australia are aware of your continuing efforts to improve the welfare and prosperity of your people, and of the many problems which you face in this great task.

Australia has been involved in assisting India in its long-range agricultural development programmes, amongst other things through the provision of stud cattle and the establishment of a sheep breeding project at Hissar.

At the request of your Government, we have now decided to expand this programme by establishing a dairy cattle breeding farm adjacent to the sheep project at Hissar, a subsidiary farm in Assam and a Semen production centre.

The expansion of these activities is an earnest of our desire to contribute to your endeavours.

On this national day, which we share, I should like to emphasise the importance that I place on Australia's close relationship with India, and my determination to expand and consolidate the ties between our two peoples.

I believe that our Governments have many ideals and interests in common, dedicated as they are to peace and progress in the region of South and South-East Asia.

Finally, on this Republic Day, may I wish you and the Indian people continued progress and prosperity in the coming year."