



His Excellency Taranjit Singh Sandhu
Ambassador of India to the United States
Embassy of India to the United States
2107 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20008

September 7, 2023

Dear Ambassador Sandhu,

I hope this letter finds you well. I followed with great interest Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Washington, DC, and his efforts with President Joe Biden to strengthen the bilateral relationship between our two nations.

During their historic visit, Prime Minister Modi and President Biden announced the U.S.-India Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership, including a commitment to establish two additional consulates in the United States. As the second largest city in the United States and home to more than 150,000 Indian Americans, I respectfully request you choose Los Angeles to host a new consular mission.

With the largest port complex in the Western Hemisphere, thousands of start-ups and the third largest venture capital market in the United States, and a slate of international sporting and entertainment events scheduled over the next decade including the 2028 Olympic & Paralympic Games, I am excited by the endless opportunities to strengthen ties between Los Angeles and India. While I acknowledge the important work led by your Consul General in San Francisco, twenty-three countries maintain consulates in both Los Angeles and San Francisco. Twelve G20 countries have consulates in Los Angeles and San Francisco and an additional five G20 countries have consulates solely in Los Angeles.

Southern California's diverse economy stretches well beyond the entertainment industry, and includes a thriving biotechnology and life sciences sector, global leaders in space and aerospace, and a booming sustainability and green technology field. The Los Angeles region is also home to more than 180 universities and colleges, centers for student experience, research, and innovation. California is proud to host more than 10 percent of all Indians studying in the United States, and we value the bridges they create between our communities.

Tourism between India and Los Angeles is another source of mutual benefit, and L.A. has invested in India with a dedicated Tourism Office that opened in 2019 and remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. With more than 100,000 Indian visitors to Los Angeles every year, a consulate will not only provide important services, but become a key partner to expand our cooperation. We are proud to host 94 foreign missions as part of our diplomatic corps, and my Office of International Affairs is dedicated to deepening our engagement with partners around the world.

I ask that you consider the City of Los Angeles for a new Indian Consulate. It would be my honor to work with you to open and provide continued support for this important platform for engagement and exchange.

Respectfully,



KAREN BASS
Mayor
City of Los Angeles

cc:

Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, Republic of India
Denise Shen, Regional Director, Office of Foreign Missions (L.A.), U.S. Department of State