

For Immediate Release

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WAITAKERE INDIAN ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR INDIA TRADE DEAL

The Waitakere Indian Association is calling on all political parties to come together in support of the Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand and India, recognising it as a long-term opportunity for the country's economic growth and global positioning.

President Sunil Kaushal said the time for political alignment is now.

"New Zealand has an opportunity in front of it that does not come often. India is one of the fastest growing major economies in the world, and a closer economic relationship will benefit not just exporters, but communities, workers, and future generations."

The Indian diaspora in New Zealand plays a central role in this relationship. It is one of the fastest growing and most highly skilled communities in the country, with strong ties across business, education, health, technology, and entrepreneurship.

"These are Kiwi Indians who are deeply connected to both countries. They link New Zealand and India through family networks, tourism flows, professional expertise, cultural exchange, and business connections. This is a relationship that already exists on the ground. A trade agreement simply strengthens and accelerates it."

According to the Waitakere Indian Association's 2020 economic contribution report, Kiwi Indians contribute more than \$10 billion annually to the New Zealand economy. This includes business ownership, employment, investment, and participation across key sectors.

"Our community is not on the sidelines. We are active contributors to New Zealand's economy and society. We understand both markets and can play a practical role in helping New Zealand businesses succeed in India."

The Association believes a bipartisan approach is critical to ensure certainty and confidence for businesses.

"Trade agreements of this scale require stability. Businesses make long-term decisions. They need to know that the direction is consistent, regardless of which party is in government."

The Waitakere Indian Association is urging all political parties across the House to support the agreement and work together to ensure its effective implementation.

"This is not about politics. This is about New Zealand's future. We encourage leaders across Parliament to back this deal and give businesses the confidence to invest, grow, and build stronger ties with India."

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