The Honorable Taranjit Sing Sandhu  
Ambassador of India to the United States  
Embassy of India to the United States  
2107 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Sandhu:

I write as a staunch supporter of the U.S.-India relationship, and as someone who believes that our shared democratic identity and values are the strongest basis for continuing to grow our relationship. The right to peacefully express concerns to one’s government is a fundamental democratic value. And as the world’s largest democracy, I urge the Indian government to be a model of democratic values and respect that right as farmers and other demonstrators peacefully protest and make their voices heard.

Following the passage of the new farming legislation, hundreds of thousands of farmers peacefully expressed their opposition to the laws. Unfortunately, some law enforcement officers responded to their nonviolent protests with force. Water cannons, tear gas, barricades, baton attacks, and other forms of violence are not an appropriate response to peaceful protesters. These measures shocked me as well as many Americans whose loved ones are impacted. That is why I have condemned such anti-democratic tactics wherever they are used, whether in India or here in the United States, as happened over the past summer.

I am relieved that India’s Supreme Court has put a hold on these laws for now, but I remain troubled by the use of violence against those who protested. As Indian farmers and their supporters continue expressing their opposition to these laws, whether through protests, strikes, or other nonviolent methods, I urge the Government of India to respect their right to peacefully voice their views. The Indian people and government will determine the path forward on these laws, and as in all democracies, that determination should result from constructive dialogue.

Ties between the United States and India have grown significantly in recent years due to our shared values and the vibrancy of the Indian-American diaspora. I am committed to seeing U.S.-India ties continue to grow, and in the spirit of those shared values I hope that the Indian Government supports the rights of the farmers and their supporters to peacefully express their views.

Sincerely,

Judy Chu
Member of Congress