

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 354

WHEREAS, New Jersey is home to a community of approximately 400,000 Indian-Americans who are vital participants in the economic, academic, civic, and social life of the State; and

WHEREAS, India is the most populous country in the world and has one of the world's fastest-growing economies; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey maintains close ties with India culturally and economically, as India is New Jersey's second-largest foreign direct investor and more New Jersey residents who are immigrants hail from India than from any other country; and

WHEREAS, in September 2019, I was honored to lead a seven-day, six-city trade mission to India, with the goal of strengthening economic, cultural, and educational ties between New Jersey and India, and cultivating international investment in our State; and

WHEREAS, in the immediate aftermath of that trade mission, New Jersey secured over 1,200 new jobs from the expansion of three Indian companies with a presence in the State; and

WHEREAS, continuing to attract international trade and investment opportunities between India and New Jersey is critical to building long-term, sustainable economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a New Jersey-India Commission will enhance New Jersey's ability to foster trade, investment, and cultural and educational exchanges between India and the State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. There is hereby established the New Jersey-India Commission ("Commission").

2. The Commission shall consist of no less than 35 and no more than 45 members, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. All members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

3. The Governor shall select a Chairperson from among the members of the Commission, who shall also serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

4. The purposes of the Commission shall be to: (a) advance bilateral trade and investment between New Jersey and India; (b) encourage mutual economic support between New Jersey and India; (c) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure and economies of New Jersey and India; (d) promote cultural and educational exchanges between New Jersey and India, including in areas of research, science, and technology; (e) study and initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to New Jersey and India; and (f) address similar issues as determined by the Commission.

5. The Commission shall organize as soon as practicable after the appointment of its members, and shall convene as soon and as often as requested by the Governor or Chairperson.

6. The Commission is authorized to call upon any department, office, division, or agency of this State to supply it with data or other information or assistance available to such agency as the Commission deems necessary to discharge its duties under this Order. Each Executive Branch department and agency is hereby required, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to cooperate fully with the Commission and to furnish the Commission with such assistance on as timely a basis as is necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Order. To the extent necessary, the Department of State shall provide professional and clerical

staff to the Commission, which may include an employee of the Department of State who is designated to serve as the Executive Director of the Commission.

7. The Commission shall be purely advisory in nature and shall provide advice to the Governor and other Executive Branch departments and agencies as appropriate.

8. For purposes of this Order, "Executive Branch departments and agencies" shall mean any of the principal departments in the Executive Branch of State government and any agency, authority, board, bureau, commission, division, institution, office, or other instrumentality within or created by any such department, and any independent State authority, commission, instrumentality, or agency over which the Governor exercises executive authority, as determined by the Attorney General.

9. Nothing in this Order shall be construed to supersede any federal, State, or local law.

10. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
6th day of February,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Four,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Forty-Eighth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor