



October 5, 2020

HinduPACT USA  
P.O. Box 2009  
Natick, MA 01760

Dear HinduPACT,

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share my thoughts on a variety of policy concerns that are important to your organization and Hindus across the United States.

I hope my answers illustrate how I am the right person to lead California's 11th Congressional District.

Sincerely,

/s/

Nisha Sharma

115 Railroad Ave  
Danville, CA 94526  
[www.NishaForCongress.com](http://www.NishaForCongress.com)



## Domestic Issues

1. Will you ensure that the Homeland Security, Justice Department, and the FBI will work closely with the Hindu Mandirs (Temples) and other organizations to ensure that they are provided protection against hate crime and discrimination?

**I absolutely stand against hate crimes and violent crimes of any nature. Hindu mandirs can be vulnerable to these attacks, as isolated as they may be, and should utilize resources from the Department of Homeland Security and local law enforcement agencies to secure their properties to better serve their devotees.**

**Ultimately, hate crimes and such are issues of law and order, and in order to reduce the prevalence of such incidents we need a strong law enforcement presence in our communities and we must thoroughly prosecute criminals that perpetrate such crimes to deter future acts. We will not solve this by defunding the police.**

**That's why I fully BACK THE BLUE!**

2. As an elected representative, will you:

a. Consult practitioners of Hindu faith to develop guidelines related to accommodation of Hindus in workplaces, educational institutions, hospitals, prisons etc.?

**Yes, there should be equal access for Hindu Americans to serve in such public institutions.**

b. Ensure that the textbooks and instructional materials that promote Hinduphobia and reflect misrepresentation of Hindu dharma (faith) in school textbooks are Removed.

**Absolutely, Hindus and Hinduism have for far too long been misrepresented in textbooks and school lesson plans. As a parent, I'm deeply concerned about how my children will be treated by their teachers and classmates during lessons about India and Hinduism. No parent should have to worry about this. I will consult experts in the field of Hinduism and religious studies that are committed to portraying accurate depictions of Dharmic traditions and equity in education.**

**I also support school choice so parents can decide the best education for their children. Hindu Americans must begin starting our own educational institutions and use whatever government resources other parochial schools are afforded.**



c. Defund Universities and colleges that continue to institutionalize Hindupobic teachings?

**Just last month, I spoke out against the San Francisco State University for hosting Leila Khaled, a convicted Palestinian plane hijacker and terrorist against Israel, at a virtual seminar for students. There's no reason young minds should be subjected to such destructive ideologies on the taxpayer dime. I will speak out and do whatever I can as a member of Congress, especially restricting funding if necessary, to ensure that our students are not subjected to Hinduphobic teachings and other such misinformation that is unpatriotic towards America.**

3. Over 80% of high skilled immigrants who are eligible for Green Card are Hindus. What are your views on extended delays in Green Card processing times (often more than 20 years) for these legal immigrants?

**The Senate needs to pass the Fairness for High Skilled Immigrants Act and President Trump should sign it into law. These green card applicants are already in America, and contributing to the economy while paying taxes. They should be allowed to fully integrate into our society with the ability to open businesses that will create millions of jobs across the United States. Congress needs to consider how to solve future gaps in our labor market by training American citizens first before seeking immigrant labor.**

Global Issues:

1. Will you promote equal rights and security for Dharmic communities (Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist) in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh?

**I believe that American government should not be distributing aid dollars to countries that discriminate constitutionally and institutionally against minorities. No where in the world is this more prevalent than Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan - where the constitutions of these countries relegates religious minorities as second class citizens. Hindus and Dharmic populations have been irreversibly depleted. If those countries want American aid dollars then they must change their behaviors towards Hindus.**

2. The United States has a long tradition of offering hope and safe haven to refugees and to those seeking asylum. Will you give persecuted followers of Dharmic faiths who are minorities in these countries, asylum under the "emergency refugee protection" program?

**If asylum is required then yes. But I will also work with the Administration to bolster India's position in the region as the natural home for persecuted Dharmic communities.**



**India has passed a bill to welcome Dharmic refugees from the region and the United States must recognize and appreciate that.**

3. Will you refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of fellow democracies like India that seeks to give asylum to religious minorities that are legally or constitutionally persecuted in theocratic countries in the region?

**The United States has enough challenges we must solve for our own citizens. Nation building and interfering in the affairs of fellow democracies is the failed practice of previous political classes in America. My mandate as a US Congresswoman will be to bring prosperity and security to CA-11, California, and the nation at large.**

4. Will you promote stronger relations with India and support India's role in a new vision for the Indo-Pacific, to counter-terrorism and advance our shared security and economic interests in the region?

**Without hesitation I will most certainly support such measures. Specifically, I will:**

- **Join the House India Caucus immediately upon entering Congress and play an active role in shaping pro-India policies that benefit America across multiple arenas.**
- **Work with the appropriate Committee chairs to codify India's elevation as an Ally of the United States in legislation. This will make it easier for the United States military to work with India's military, as well as share intelligence against common adversaries such as the Communist Party of China, Radical Islamic Terrorist regimes and their non-state actors.**
- **Work across the aisle and with the Administration to craft an America First trade deal with India to boost both our economies and prepare our populations for 21st Century challenges and beyond.**