



GREATER HOUSTON
PARTNERSHIP

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NEWS RELEASE

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PARTNERSHIP, MAYOR TO LEAD HOUSTON DELEGATION TO INDIA MISSION TO EXPLORE TRADE, CULTURAL TIES

HOUSTON, TEXAS (U.S.A.) – The Greater Houston Partnership and Mayor Annise Parker will lead a delegation of top business representatives and elected officials from April 20 to April 25 to discuss commerce and investment opportunities. The mission will focus on increasing trade and investment between the Houston region and Indian cities including Mumbai and Delhi.

Houston Airport System Director Mario Diaz will be part of the Houston group that includes Houston-area companies, ranging from energy and aviation to engineering and international trade and foreign investment. Delegates also include representatives from the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce; the Texas Medical Center; the Port of Houston Authority; and local businesses – Isani Consultants L.P., KBR, Universal Weather and Aviation, Gunda Corporation LLC, The Asset Management Consultants, Strategic Infrastructure, Emediscript Inc./Vishal Consultancy, Telco Intercontinental Corp., Geotest Engineering, Inc. and Ascendon Group.

The delegation will host a “Doing Business with Houston” seminar for Indian business people and investors. In addition, the group will meet with high-level government officials and corporate decision-makers.

“More than 100,000 residents of Indian origin call Houston home and nearly 700 Houston companies report business or trade ties with India,” said Mayor Parker. “As the most diverse city in the nation, we have a responsibility to nurture our foreign relationships. This trade mission is the result of a request from the Indian business community. Given the strength of the existing connections between us, this should be a very productive mission for Houston and our Indian counterparts.”

Greater Houston Partnership President and CEO Bob Harvey added: “Our economy is diverse and robust and is a leader in many of the types of industries that Indian entrepreneurs and business people are pursuing, including energy, healthcare, transportation and manufacturing.”

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Houston and India share extensive business, trade and cultural ties.

“Ashok Garg and Sanjay Ramabhadran join me in thanking Mayor Paker for leading the mission to India to help promote Houston as the gateway to the Americas to Indian businesses looking at doing business with or investing in the USA,” said Jagdip Ahluwalia, executive director of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

Garg is the current president and Ramabhadran is the past president of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.

Houston serves as headquarters to 26 *Fortune 500* companies – third in the nation; is home to the world’s largest medical complex, the Texas Medical Center; and has earned the title “Energy Capital of the World” because of its large concentration of oil, gas and renewable energy companies.

Trade between Houston and India has more than quadrupled since 2004 and although trade between the U.S.’ fourth largest city and India declined slightly last year, annual trade between the two still totaled \$4.7 billion in 2014. The Houston/Galveston Customs District ranks as India’s third largest U.S. gateway for international trade by value. India is sixth among Houston’s Asian trading partners and 16th among all of Houston’s trading partners.

More than 718 Houston companies report business or trade ties with India. Of the 441 firms in the Houston region affiliated with Indian subsidiaries, 38 are headquartered in Houston. Conversely, 14 Indian firms operate 20 subsidiary locations in the Houston area.

Houston is a city with no limits welcoming residents from all over the world to enjoy an enviable quality of life filled with a colorful arts culture; vibrant food scene – more than 11,000 restaurants cater to a diverse clientele; active and energetic outdoor and sports scene; and one of the lowest costs of living in America. In the region, one out of every five residents is foreign born counting more than 70,741 citizens from India. In addition, 90 languages are spoken in Houston including 24,569 residents who speak Hindi.

The city also boasts a “Little India”, The Mahatma Gandhi District, with dozens of unique shops, grocery stores and restaurants representing the many vibrant and flavorful regions of India. Although there is a high concentration of Indian stores near the District, scores more can be discovered throughout the greater Houston region.

“We are excited about the growth prospects this trade mission will bring for both our region and a global economic powerhouse like India,” said Harvey. “Houston presents a great opportunity for expanding Indian firms looking to do business overseas.”

For more information on business and trade opportunities in Houston, visit www.houston.org.

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Greater Houston Partnership works to make Houston one of the world’s best places to live, work and build a business. It represents 11 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker and Waller. With more than 1,400 member organizations, GHP represents approximately one-fifth of the region’s workforce. *Opportunity HoustonSM*, is an economic development initiative of the Partnership. Visit the Partnership at www.houston.org.

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