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Purandeswari Speaks On Opportunities For U.S in Indian Educational System

Mr. Sam Reed-Secretary of State, State of Washington; Mr. A. G. Mukim-Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India; Mr. Deepak Pahwa-Past National President, IACC, Managing Director-Bry Air Asia; Dr. Tirupati Panigrahi-Chairman, Hi-Tech Group of Institutions; Mr. Gautam Mahajan-Executive Vice President, IACC; Dr. Vivek Lall-Regional Vice President, IACC Country Head-Boeing India; Mr. R. K. Chopra-Secretary General, IACC and other distinguished guests and friends.

It gives me immense pleasure to come here and participate in this prestigious conference of the Washington State Mission and address you on the theme "Emerging India: Opportunities for US, with an emphasis on the educational system in the India".



India and the United States have, in the past, been referred to as 'estranged democracies'. Today, we can declare with confidence that we are engaged democracies. Our two governments, and an increasingly wider range of both of our peoples, realize that the development of a strategic partnership is a "win-win" situation for both countries. Indians and Americans are interacting as never before and across a wide spectrum of activities-not just civil nuclear issues but also on trade, defence, tourism, health and most importantly now education.

The long-term nature of our economic partnership is further strengthened by the convergence based on skills availability in India and human resource needs of the U.S. An English speaking, pluralistic society with an open economy that produces graduates by the millions and engineers, and scientists and doctors by the hundreds of thousands, will be a natural long-term partner for the United States in the era of the knowledge economy. It goes without saying that in a competitive society like India, investments in scientific research are likely to be cost effective for US companies.

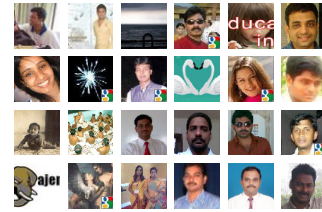
The concept of education in the emerging global scenario has acquired a new significance. When we attained independence in 1947, the most challenging task before us was the country's development. Our leaders realized correctly that without widespread reforms in education, the country's development would just be a cry for the moon. More than a century and a half back our colonial masters introduced Western System of Education in the country. The new system of education fulfilled a major requirement of providing the colonial masters with an educated elite class who would serve the interest of the British Raj. But with the attainment of the Independence this limited role of education outlived its utility and lost its relevance. Soon a demand grew up for a new educational system which could address the needs of a country in the changed political scenario. Accordingly in 1948 the Government of India appointed the University Education Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.

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