

Indian CEOs visit UK



H.E. Mr. Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, High Commissioner of India with Mr. Harsh Pati Singhanian, President, FICCI, during the visit of a 17-member high level multi-sectoral CEO delegation to U.K.



H. E. Mr. Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, High Commissioner, addressing the Vice chancellors from Universities in India and the U.K. in Gandhi Hall, India House.



H.E. Mr. Shiv Shankar Mukherjee is seen with Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Captain, Indian Cricket Team, at a reception in London.

India to engage with world in countering terror — EAM

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Despite the global impact of the recent economic crisis, India remains among the fastest growing economies of the world.

Our Government is committed to all-round, inclusive growth. To achieve this, a peaceful extended neighbourhood and a supportive international environment remains our fundamental foreign policy objective. India, as a responsible power, does and will engage actively with the world, while pursuing an independent and non-aligned foreign policy of peace and development, as well as strengthening her strategic autonomy.

As we do so, we will continue to focus on addressing the challenges of technological self-reliance, food and energy security. We will engage more closely with the global community and all our partners to deal with international terrorism, which threatens us all.

India has an abiding interest in the stability and prosperity of our neighbours. We also believe that a prosperous and economically vibrant India is an asset and opportunity for our region. In this new term of our Government, we look forward to further strengthening our relationship with the neighbours. Our

relations are further strengthened by the bonds of history, cultural affinities and geography. South Asia has always prospered when it has been interconnected. We therefore hope to continue to work towards reestablishing these links and towards greater economic integration.

Our efforts to cultivate stronger bonds with countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region have borne impressive results in recent years, with cross-sectoral dialogue at various levels and a framework of institutionalized mechanisms for mutually beneficial cooperation. We will work towards bringing the region closer to us politically, with even more intensified contact. We are pleased that our trade and economic interaction with the region has been substantially enhanced. There are still enormous opportunities waiting to be explored and utilized.

We wish to further consolidate our relations with our friends in North America, with whom we share many commonalities and complementarities. We look forward to forging a new, higher level of strategic partnership with them.

With our friends in Europe, we will pursue with greater vigour the process

of qualitative transformation of our engagement that has been achieved in the recent years. Our friendship draws upon our rich cultural and historic heritage.

We have maintained and intensified our engagement with EU, a strategic partner, as well as individual countries in Europe in diverse fields such as defence and security, nuclear and space, trade and investment, energy, climate change, science and technology, culture and education. EU is today our largest trading partner. It is also one of our major sources of investment. We will continue this process of qualitative transformation of our engagement with EU and other European countries with greater vigour. India and the EU are indispensable poles in the emerging multipolar world.

In our strides towards economic progress, Asia in general and East and Southeast Asia in particular, continued to be a natural partner for enabling complementarities. We see cooperation between India and ASEAN, as well as countries in the Asia Pacific, as an important dimension of our diplomacy in the 21st century as reflected in our 'Look East' policy."

Innovative Study India Programme launched

King's College, London, and the University of Birmingham are organising a unique new summer programme for students. The partly government-funded Study India Programme (SIP) will sponsor 200 British students to spend three weeks in India this summer to study Indian society, culture and language. The deadline for applications is June 30, 2009 at 17.00.

SIP is organised by King's College London's Centre for Indian Cultures and the University of Birmingham's International Office and is funded by UKIERI, the U.K. India Education and Research Initiative.

The 200 successful applicants will be selected to go to either Mumbai or New Delhi, with King's managing applications and organising the programme for Mumbai, and Birmingham doing the same for Delhi. The programme will run from August 24 to September 12, 2009.

Participants will have the opportunity to visit India, attend lectures on various aspects of Indian society such as history and commerce, take language classes, and be immersed in Indian culture through a colourful programme of social activities. The programme is open to undergraduate students currently studying in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.

Tayyeb Shah, Head of the Short Course Unit at King's College London, and coordinator of the programme at King's, says: "This fantastic initiative from the U.K. Government is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to learn about India and Indian culture first hand in the country, with substantial financial support. India is one of the world's largest and fastest growing economies and a country with increasing global importance. This programme will equip students with the skills and awareness necessary for a successful future in the global economy."

Costs and accommodation

Students accepted onto SIP only need to cover the cost of their airfare, visa, vaccinations and insurance plus spending money. The SIP organisers will cover the cost of the programme, accommodation and meals.

In New Delhi accommodation will consist of a YMCA or YWCA Hostel with air conditioned twin rooms. In Mumbai students will stay in a three-star hotel in twin, triple or quadruple rooms with en-suite bathroom, television and air conditioning.

How to apply

To apply for SIP, students need to fill in the online application form and ask a member of staff at their University or Higher Education College to fill in the online reference form. For more information, log on to www.studyindia.org.