

Houston explores bilateral ties with India

Despite the global economic downturn, the Greater Houston Partnership is teaming up with the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston to actively cross promote opportunities between the region and India.

"We are pleased to join with one of the Houston's active economic development and trade organizations to promote our area as a global gateway to a very prominent international market that is very open to expanding or locating business operations here," Partnership president and CEO Jeff Moseley told PTI.

"With Houston's vibrant markets in energy, petrochemicals, nanotechnology, IT, biotechnology and its world-class medical facilities, now is the time for more Indian companies to stake their claim in the area," he said.

"The time is ripe for Indian companies to establish businesses in Houston and continue to bridge the gap between the two regions," said IACCGH executive director Jagdip Ahluwalia.

The partnership, represents the 10-county Houston region and collaborates with more than 36 economic development organisations to promote the growth of high-paying jobs, international trade and capital investment.

The Partnership's innovative Opportunity Houston SM marketing and lead generation programme promotes the region's prime business climate and assets to five major economic sectors: aviation and aerospace, energy and petrochemical, medical and biotechnology, IT and nanotechnology.

The programme will help grow jobs by 600,000, increase capital investment by \$60 billion and expand foreign trade by \$120 billion for the greater Houston by the end of 2015.

More than one in five Houstonians are foreign born, including over 100,000 Indians. The Houston region also boasts more than 90 foreign consulate offices, including Indian.

"The benefits of doing business and living in Houston, the fourth largest city in the US, are too many to count," said Indo-American Chamber Board President Brij Kathuria.

Last year, Moseley and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett led a regional delegation of business and economic development leaders to India and conducted high-level meetings with Indian companies and hosted investment seminars in Pune and Mumbai.

The Indo-American Chamber, Port of Houston Authority and the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau also participated in the mission.

Houston offers a robust IT market, including more than 400 software development companies; serves as the energy capital of the world; is home of the world's largest medical center and NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Seema Hakhu Kachru in Houston

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