

## Canada should allow more Indians to study in the country

Published in the Hindu, Economic Times and Times of India, Monday November 26, 2007

Ottawa (PTI): India needs Canada's educational expertise to help its students excel in a global economy, New Delhi's High Commissioner to Canada said here, urging Ottawa to simplify visa procedures and adopt aggressive market strategies so that more Indians can study in the country.

"India needs Canadian expertise in new generation of learning skills and knowledge to lead our students, states and nation to prosperity in the global economy," R L Narayan, India's High Commissioner to Canada, said on Sunday.

"In today's world, the traditional skills are no longer enough to help them to face challenges of 21st Century and they must be trained to develop abilities to compete in the international job market," Narayan said while addressing an international conference on education organised by the Canadian Bureau for International Education.

Over 100 top executives and vice chancellors of Indian universities, IIT and National Law Schools, Canada India Business Council, Canadian Universities, representatives of various provinces and federal government attended the meet.

"Over 1,60,000 Indian students go abroad and spent four billion dollars on education every year and Canada's share is only 2,500 students. There is a scope for attracting more Indian students to Canada if it adopts aggressive strategies," Narayan said.

Deepak Obhrai, Parliament Secretary to the Foreign Minister Affairs, said strengthening bilateral ties with India was on Canada's priority list.

Appreciating contributions made by Indo-Canadians, he said Canada needed Indian work force.

The government would do every thing possible to integrate newcomers from India into the Canadian economy, he said.

Kam Rathee, President of Canada-India Business Council (C-IBC), said that there was renewed synergy between the two countries to work together in the field of education.

"The council was committed to promote Canadian education in India by providing a helping hand to forge new partnerships between the two countries in the field of education," he said.

Dr Sheila Embleton, Vice-President of York University, said the institute was considering recognizing three year degree programmes conducted by Indian universities so that Indian students could get admissions in higher courses.

She said the university was lobbying with the government for a funding to encourage international students.

Dr Paul Evans, Chairman of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, suggested that it was high time Canada re-evaluates and modernise its India strategy so that "we could help the country to achieve its global status".

Retrieved November 28, 2007, from <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/001hdline.htm>