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March 11, 2010

MESSAGE

The initiative to hold the first USA – India Business Summit (UIBS) 2010 in Atlanta on May 10 and 11, 2010 is well-timed. Its theme “Growing Business and Promoting Entrepreneurship” addresses the priority of both governments to see the bilateral relationship contribute to the economic well-being of people in both countries.

India – US relations rest on the solid bedrock of shared values and ideals and are invigorated by economic synergies and complementarities. India sees the US as a key partner in its developmental efforts. India-US trade and investment ties, although still relatively modest, are growing rapidly in a balanced manner in both directions demonstrating strong potential for sustainable and mutually beneficial growth in the future.

Today, the US is not only one of our leading trade partners, it is also the leading source of technology collaborations and a major source of foreign investment. In recent years, there has also been a surge in Indian investments into the United States adding value to both economies. This trend is expected to continue as Indian companies increasingly seek to position themselves in the global economy.

India's growing market, its large reservoir of skilled English speaking manpower, its growing economy, its young population and its unexplored natural resources offer exciting opportunities for US business. The sectors with tremendous potential for deeper cooperation include infrastructure – power and transportation, energy, IT and telecommunications, bio-technology, healthcare, aerospace, and education.

The USA – India Business Summit in Atlanta would provide an excellent forum for business and industry leaders of both countries to discover opportunities and explore collaborations that would help to provide added momentum to our economic ties.

I commend all those involved in this initiative and wish them all success.

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(Meera Shankar)