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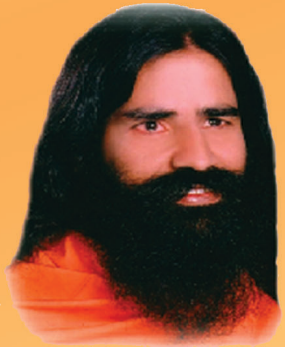
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## Sen. Isakson Bonds With Indian Diaspora Leaders

BY VIREN MAYANI

Atlanta: It is not often that our elected officials come to us with the desire of engaging with us, giving us their undivided time to not only speak to us but listen as well. That is precisely what occurred on January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Northeast Atlanta where Senator Johnny Isakson met with

*"It is a shame that we have so many wonderful students from China and India who come here to study and expand their knowledge to get their Master's and PhD's and instead of giving them a work visa we give them their diploma and a deportation document."*

Indian Diaspora leaders and media group members at a roundtable discussion hosted by the Georgia Indo American Chamber of Commerce (GIACC).

Senator Johnny Isakson declared it an honor to be present with the Diaspora and spoke directly to the audience present, without notes or lists to read from. His statements indicated that he was aware of the Chamber's approach to issues. "Most elected officials when they get to the podium may speak of how much they love the Indian community but I really do. I had the pleasure of going to India in 2006 when President Bush had agreed on the Civil Nuclear deal with Prime Minister Singh," he said.

The Senator spoke about his visit to the offices of Infosys in Bangalore and meeting with Narayana Murthy. He stated that he was proud to visit the world's largest democracy, as the US is a great friend of India. He spoke of the over \$27 billion in goods and services the US had procured from India last year, and added that India was the 16<sup>th</sup> largest

recipient of US exports. The growing economic relationship is mutual in as much as our needs to make the world safer, the Senator affirmed.

He gave the example of his discussion with Narayana Murthy at an Infosys Board meeting when he asked Murthy what his remarks are to US citizens' concerns that India was outsourcing US tech jobs and perhaps hurting the people of the US? The Senator said: Murthy replied that when he was building his company: he



rode an Indian car, banked with a local bank and drank a local soda. Now that his company is built and is international: he drives a Ford, banks with Citibank and drinks Coke! A positive result of trade between countries. So as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I consider India as a great trade partner and understand the immigration concerns with the H1B visa status. It is a shame that we have so many wonderful students from China and India who come here to study and expand their knowledge to get their Master's and PhD's and instead of giving them a work visa we give them their diploma and a deportation document.

"President Obama has stated that he wants to tackle the immigration issue in 2010 and you can be rest assured if he does that I will be right there with him because I understand the value of what H1B visas contribute for the nation," he added.

Full report on Pg 4.....

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