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**High School: 2nd place
winner**



IndiaFEST 2011– Essay Contest

What resources could India offer the U.S. or vice-versa?

"In the long history of humankind those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed." -Charles Darwin

In the ever changing global landscape countries strategically collaborate with one another for mutual benefit. India and U.S.A are no different.

India has been part of the global economy for centuries originally prized for natural resources such as spices and tea. With its steady economic growth after independence India now has become a valued market for western products. India, the world's largest democracy, lives up to the dreams of 1947 as it stands to become one of the world's largest economies. Favorable geographic location, a steady booming economy, technological innovations and advancements has made India extremely vital to U.S. foreign policy interests. As an emerging dominant player in South Asia region it is now viewed to be an indispensable partner of the United States.

Despite previously being considered one of the most backward countries of the world, India is now the coveted source for worldwide business potential. By enforcing positive economic reforms aimed at deregulating the economy and stimulating foreign investment, India has positioned itself as one of the front-runners in the rapidly growing Asia Pacific Region. As one of the largest growing economy in the world, India is a preferred destination for foreign investment with its strength in many fields from information technology to pharmaceuticals.

In addition to having a large technically literate population, India is one of the major computer hubs. With its large pool of skilled managerial and technical expertise, it is a popular destination for outsourcing heralded by the many international technological companies doing business in India. Low salaries, cheap production costs, English proficiency and a potential market of more than one billion consumers are all attributing factors to its economic boom.

U.S. and India are pursuing a global strategic partnership to concentrate on shared interests including economic, security and political issues. The Indo-U.S. relationship is regarded as one of the most important political ties in the coming decades.

During his recent visit to India, President Barack Obama said that the Indo-U.S. relationship is no longer merely bilateral in nature, but strategic in approach. He further stated that global partnership between the democratic nations U.S. and India extends to working together globally, to promote the shared vision of prosperity, freedom, and security worldwide. He recognized that India is no longer a developing country, but an emerging country with its influence felt all over in the global stage.

India has a lot to offer the United States as a global partner in the South Asia region. It can be a powerful ally for the U.S. in its defense against nuclear terrorism, providing stability and access to its global resources. Indo-U.S. partnership can focus on some of shared interests ranging from humanitarian to other challenges like piracy and terrorism. With increased cooperation in defense research and development, India could open up some of its lucrative markets like defense and energy to American companies. This shared interests of security and democratic values is the reason, President Barack Obama strongly supported for India to be included as a permanent member in the United Nations Security Council.

India is a key player in U.S.-driven global economic recovery by contributing significantly to restructuring efforts. Currently, the U.S. is planning on easing curbs on high-tech exports to India by pursuing joint research and development to create technology through green jobs in the U.S. and better access to cleaner, affordable energy for its counterpart India, creating a win-win situation for both countries.

Though the national economy of India has been growing rapidly with the future prediction to become the world's third largest economy in the foreseeable future, it is plagued by many problems. Poor infrastructure, high energy demand, glaring poverty and restrictive investment practices are few of the clearly evident problems that will hamper its full economic potential.

Despite the growth of a large urban middle-class, India remains a largely rural and agriculture-based society, and is home to many millions of people living in poverty. With help from U.S., the issue of food security can be addressed in India by leveraging India's expertise in farming and U.S. expertise with technology to address this urgent global challenge and eradicate poverty. Clean water initiative driven by the U.S. can help ensure Indians with clean drinking water and eliminate waterborne diseases.

India has always shown the best and the worst of education. It is home to unimaginable genius and devastating illiteracy rates. With the help of U.S., India has renewed interest in its education reform both to eliminate child labor and make good quality education available to one and all. With university partnerships and increased student-faculty exchanges, many of the untapped minds in India can now be exposed to higher level of

thinking and creativity to solve not only local issues in India but global issues all over the world.

With good trade agreements the US can help India with the booming energy requirement with expertise in nuclear reactors. US being one of the countries with a solid infrastructure system can help India with its increasing population demands and infrastructure nightmares.

Promoting prosperity, preserving peace and security, and advancing shared democratic values are the main focus and long term objectives of the US-India global partnership. Working together on global challenges from trade to counterterrorism, from clean energy to development, from science to education points to a positive Indo-US bilateral relationship.

"Equal partnership" between the United States and India as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh espouses, is certainly conspicuous in many diverse fields ranging from Bollywood films and music to science and technology. However, politics continues to dominate much of the Indo-US relationship, a fundamental stepping stone to much more interaction between these two great nations. With a promising future, this partnership is bound to foster economic, scientific, and political success for the citizens of both nations. In the words of Charles Darwin, a successful collaboration between any two entities will always prevail.