

Remarks to the Assembly of  
The State of Maharashtra  
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Good Afternoon.

Honorable Speaker, thank you for inviting me to address the Assembly this afternoon. It is a privilege to be able to address the Honorable Members.

Our meeting reinforces the close partnership between India and the United States and the similarity of people, whether they live in Maharashtra or Pennsylvania, Mumbai or Pittsburgh.

One of the challenges and opportunities we all face is the pace of technological change. Kris Gopalakrishnan, chief executive of India technology company Infosys, with whom I shared a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, noted that most business leaders were using smart phones and tablets in Davos this year – with laptops very much yesterday's tools. On my own campus, I have discovered many students don't read my e-mails anymore. They think of e-mail as too slow. It's yesterday's technology. They prefer Twitter, Facebook.

In this fast-paced world, with its shifting economic power and markets, higher education holds great significance on the global front. I believe it is the key to success.

Indeed, the Honorable Speaker in a speech five weeks ago at India First Foundation School spoke forcefully about the importance of education, technology and the role of technology in education.

And, our national leaders would agree. In November 2010, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh announced that India and the U.S. will hold the first ever official higher educational summit this year. As the prime minister stated, no two countries are better equipped to be partners in building the knowledge economy of the future than the U.S. and India. We couldn't agree more.

The United States is fortunate to have the strongest institutions of higher education in the world. Among these are research universities like Carnegie Mellon which have been the engines of national and local economic success.

Carnegie Mellon is among the top-ranked American universities, but we are also a global leader in higher education and research. We have programs in 12 countries in Europe, Asia, Australia and the Middle East, as well as a campus in Silicon Valley. And, we are working to increase our presence in India, the most important country to Carnegie Mellon. Honorable Speaker, at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh we have 900 students from India, by far our largest contingent of international students. We have more than 100 faculty from India and our 1200 alumni in India represent our largest concentration outside the U.S.

India faces a great challenge in higher education as its colleges and universities struggle to respond to a large and growing demand. There are challenges of quality as well as quantity. It has been estimated by the Mckinsey Group that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the engineering graduates from Indian institutions are not employable by

Indian companies. Honorable Speaker, Carnegie Mellon wants to contribute to India's response to this challenge.

A few months ago, Carnegie Mellon and the Shiv Nadar Foundation announced their intent to make Carnegie Mellon's world-class undergraduate programs in mechanical engineering and electrical and computer engineering more available to Indian students. Under this landmark partnership, students will study in India at Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar (SSN) School following a curriculum designed by Carnegie Mellon and taught by SSN faculty trained at Carnegie Mellon. Students also will study at Carnegie Mellon's campus in Pittsburgh. Admission and academic processes will have the same rigorous standards that are Carnegie Mellon hallmarks, and once completed with their studies, students will receive Carnegie Mellon degrees.

This new initiative builds on our already strong relationship with Shiv Nadar. For years, we have had an existing partnership in providing graduate-level education through a successful Advanced Software Engineering program, in which students take courses at the SSN campus in Chennai and Carnegie Mellon's Pittsburgh campus.

Honorable Speaker, I referred before to your perceptive speech in which you emphasized the role that technology can play in improving education. This has been an active area of research at Carnegie Mellon for 20 years. Our Carnegie Learning math tutors for middle school students and our Open Learning Initiative for college courses are already having a major impact. I believe we will see transformative advances in the use of technology in education in the next few years, and Carnegie Mellon will play a major role.

At this time of rapid technological change, education is essential if we are to seize the opportunities. We have common challenges in this regard, even if the scale of the challenge differs if you are in the United States or India or in Maharashtra or Pennsylvania. By recognizing our common interests and by working together, we can all be successful.

Honorable Speaker, thank you once again for your kind invitation to me to address the Assembly and for showing much such hospitality this afternoon. May I thank all Honorable Members of the Assembly for your welcome and for your time during this busy period.