Today, more than **four thousand** bright, ambitious students from all across India are appearing for visa interviews at the U.S. Mission’s five visa-issuing posts as the last step in their higher education journey before leaving for the United States. While students are welcome to apply and interview for visas on any day that interviews are being conducted, today the Embassy and Consulates are interviewing exclusively students to celebrate the higher education ties that link our two countries together.

**132,000 Indians** are currently pursuing educational programs in the United States, more than double the number of students 15 years ago contributing **$3.6 billion** to the U.S. economy.

2 of 3 are at the graduate level.

4 of 5 are in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and business fields.

1 of 3 are in the states of Texas, California, and New York.
While students have multiple personal and professional reasons for choosing U.S. higher education institutions, many are drawn to their academic excellence, cutting-edge technology, extensive support services for international students, generous funding opportunities, wide variety of educational options, flexible curricula, and hands-on training and work experience. Some may have relatives, friends or classmates, who had studied in the United States, whereas others are going to be the first in their circle to attend college, let alone one abroad!

Many students began their higher education journeys with a visit to one of our seven EducationUSA advising centers in India.

**EducationUSA is the official source of accurate, current, and comprehensive information on higher education in the United States.**

Students and parents can visit EducationUSA online (http://educationusa.state.gov), attend an information session, or schedule an appointment to meet with a counselor. This year Mission India is focused on increasing the awareness and use of EducationUSA and is asking all students who receive visas today to complete a short, online, five-minute survey on EducationUSA in India.

The United States remains the **number 1 destination** for students who seek a global education and **India is the 2nd highest sender of students** after China. Last year, there was record growth and a record number of Indian students in the United States. The U.S. Mission to India congratulates all of those Indian students who will receive their visas today and become members of the U.S. higher education community!