

TAMIL NADU

More scope for increasing bilateral trade between India, U.S.: Consul General



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Both the countries have educated workforce, says Robert G. Burgess

The thrust on Make in India and Made in USA by India and the United States respectively can be complementary with businesses expanding to the other country to be closer to the market, Robert G. Burgess, US Consul General in Chennai, said here on Thursday.

He was here to inaugurate a conference on “Advanced Manufacturing Practices” organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Coimbatore, and the Indo American Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Burgess said the bilateral trade between the two countries, which as \$ 20 billion in 2001, had grown to \$ 125 billion in 2017 and there was scope for more. In 2016, the two-way investments between the two countries was at \$ 42 billion. Each country is interested in promoting the manufacturing sector. Both the countries have educated workforce giving industries certain expertise. The U.S. exports to India can increase and industries in

India and the U.S. can expand to the other. This year, the Select USA programme that supports Indian investments in the U.S. will be held in June and the representatives of all the 50 States will take part, he said.

Some of the areas for co-operation between the two countries are energy and environment, science and technology and healthcare, and economics and commerce, he said.

M. Manickam, Chairman and Managing Director of Sakthi Automotive Group, said three Coimbatore companies including his have operations in the U.S. There is a lot of scope for such manufacturing in medium-scale segment as policies and market are stable and power is available at a low cost. However, labour is expensive compared to India and it is difficult to get mid-level management people, he said.

A. Sakthivel, Tamil Nadu chairman of the Indo American Chamber of Commerce, said the programme had technical sessions on advanced manufacturing processes so that the manufacturing processes can be fast tracked. These practices will enable manufacture of high quality products at low cost. The Indo-American Chamber's Tamil Nadu chapter plans to form a forum on investments in the USA.

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