

Indian Americans build stronger lobbies

USINPAC networking for support on H1B Bill

IT MAY be quite a while before the new US Bill to hike the H1B quota or the Indo-US nuclear deal become realities - if at all. However, that doesn't stop US-India Political Action Committee (USINPAC), the Washington DC based bipartisan think tank and lobbying group, from carrying on with its efforts on Capitol Hill. "We are going to be talking to the key lawmakers and the staff on the issue of the newly introduced immigration reforms Bill. Some of the people we have identified are key members of the Senate and House Judiciary Committee. We are also going to engage our community to work with lawmakers and share their perspective and experiences on this issue," says Sanjay Puri, executive director of USINPAC. He feels that the Indian American community has a big interest in this Bill with India emerging the largest country of origin for H1B visas and Indian Americans among prominent small business owners in the field of technology, biotech, alternative energy, nano technology, medicine.

Recently, John Conyers (D-MI), chairman of the powerful house committee of the judiciary, met the Indian and Indian American business community to discuss H1B visas at an event or-



ganised by US-India Business Alliance - a sister organisation of USINPAC - and the congressional task force on US-India trade. At the invitation of USIBA, leading members of the house judiciary and foreign affairs committees, members of Nasscom and representatives from large US and Indian companies participated in the high-level discussion held in the US Capitol.

"A large number of Indians are developing revolutionary products and services that have changed how we live in the US. A lot of them came in through the H1B programme and have benefited. They are now giving back with their innovation and business creation and need this programme," Mr Puri added.

In another initiative, USINPAC is building up its public diplomacy platform despite the fact that the nuclear deal has run into trouble. "We are reaching out to the Indian diaspora in different regions such as Europe and Asia and plan to hold capacity building workshops to help develop effective communication skills in the area of public diplomacy. We want members of the Indian community to engage in public platforms more effectively," says Mr Robinder Sachdev, India director of USINPAC.

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