

November 19, 2011

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
* CHENNAI SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2011

'Now More Americans Choosing Indian Univs'



Sarah J Talalay, Vice-consul, US Consulate, interacting with students at Stella Maris College on Friday | R Satish Babu

Express News Service

Chennai: Impressed by India's values, high quality and lesser cost of education, more Americans today are travelling to India to pursue their education.

Over the past year, this number has gone up by 44.4 per cent, said Anand Krishna, Information Officer at the Public Affairs Section of the American Consulate General. From 2,690 students last year, it has gone up to 3,884 for 2010-11.

India has now moved up to the 14th position among countries that Americans study in, while it was in the 20s last year, he said on the sidelines of an event organised in Stella Maris College on Friday. United Kingdom continues to traditionally be American's most preferred destination to study, he added.

Americans opt for courses

and universities across the board in India, while the IITs and IIMs have taken India's educational standards to the world, he said. 'Everybody in America knows the IITs and IIMs, where they are situated, and their reputation in education. This has created more awareness about education in India. In order to improve it, more initiatives have to be taken by both governments,' he said.

Addressing students as part of an initiative by the American Consulate General to observe International Education Week, Sarah J Talalay, vice consul, asked students to not pursue their interests in higher education abroad through agents. As part of the initiative, the consul officials will reach out to 20 institutions in the state, Puducherry, Karnataka and Kerala to highlight the benefits of education and exchange between countries.