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**Subject:** Economic Development Interview: US State Dept and Indian journalists  
**Location:** Governor's Office  
**When:** 5/26/2016 4:00:00 PM - 4:20:00 PM

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**Staff:** Chaney and Rob

**Reporters:**

The following print reporters have come to the US through the State Department's Media Co-op program. The program through which they are traveling is specifically looking at foreign direct investment and the ease of doing business in the US- with the end goal of getting a snapshot of what exactly it means to do business in the US at the National (Washington, D.C.), State (South Carolina) and local (Houston, TX) levels.

**AVINASH NAIR- *Indian Express***

Avinash Nair is Assistant Editor and Business Desk head of the Ahmedabad edition of the Indian Express. A journalist with a career spanning more than 12 years, Nair has also worked in a major Indian wire agencies such as Press Trust of India and United News of India. At the Indian Express, his prime responsibility is to lead the business news section of the newspaper.

**PEERZADA ABRAR- *The Hindu***

Peerzada Abrar is a Special Correspondent at The Hindu. He specializes in writing about trends and personalities in the technology and startup ecosystem, right from entrepreneurship to funding and exits. Over the past eight years, he has met and interviewed hundreds of entrepreneurs, CEO's of large corporations, industry leaders and other key stakeholders in the ecosystem. He also has an extensive network of contacts in technology industry, among startup founders, as well as venture capital and private equity firms.

**RICHA PINTO- *The Times of India***

Richa Pinto is the Principal Correspondent with the Mumbai edition of India's largest selling English daily the Times of India. Richa covers city civic and administrative issues including the civic administration's budget and financial issues.

**SUMMIT KHANNA- *Daily News and Analysis***

Summit Khanna is Assistant Editor and Head of Business Desk of DNA-Ahmedabad. Khanna is a journalist with experience panning over 12 years of reporting and editing in the leading economic and business dailies in India. Khanna covers critical economic issues, corporate developments, economy, equity markets, government policies, taxation, banking, and other aspects of business and economics.

**VARUN AGGARWAL- *The Hindu Business Line***

Varun Aggarwal is the Special Correspondent at The Hindu Business Line; one of the largest financial dailies in India. Aggarwal has been a business journalist for close to a decade, having worked with publications such as Reuters, The Economic Times and Indian Express before joining The Hindu Business Line. He writes about IT, aviation and pharmaceutical industries.

**South Carolina:**

The journalists will arrive in South Carolina late on Wednesday and will spend three days in the state. They will also visit Washington, D.C. and Houston, TX.

**Thursday, May 26:**

1:00 PM- Journalists will sit down with Ford Graham, Director of International Strategy and Trade, at Commerce to discuss the “nuts and bolts” of recruiting international companies including incentives offered by the state and process questions.

4:00 PM- Journalists will sit down with the Governor and Secretary Hitt to discuss macro level recruiting questions- CEO relationship building and the state’s personal touches when recruiting international companies. (The reporters have been asked to avoid 2016 presidential questions but will likely show interest in the Governor’s Indian roots.)

**Note:** The journalists have been told they have 15 mins with the Governor. They have also requested still shots of the Governor and Sec. Hitt.

**Friday, May 27:**

10:00 AM- Journalists will interview Fred Cartwright, Executive Director of Clemson’s ICAR and receive a tour of the facility.

3:00 PM- Journalists will interview Tushar Chikhliker, head of Nexsen Pruet’s Economic Development group

**Saturday, May 28:**

Journalists will have a “free day” in the Columbia area.