



Cleveland -

CLEVELAND -- SGI Global Business Advisors LLC, an international trade and development firm, announced that it has completed the first of a series of India-Ohio initiatives with the conclusion of last week's Indian trade mission held in Northeast Ohio. The week-long event established initial ties between a variety of visiting companies and local organizations, and included the announcement from Ohio Lt. Governor Lee Fisher of the State's decision to open a trade office in India.

The trade mission from the State of Gujarat, India visited several cities in Northeast Ohio during the four-day conference. Industries represented including clinical research, plastics, laboratory equipment and architectural fittings/fixtures.

The mission was organized by SGI Global Business Advisors, an international economic development consultancy, and Zodiac Business Solutions, a business services provider with facilities in India and the US. "This mission represents the first major step toward an active program of two-way business and trade development between India and the State of Ohio," said SGI Principal David Silk. "We intend to pursue more missions and initiatives like this one, to make sure that this relationship becomes far more significant to both economies than it presently is."

The mission visited the cities of Cleveland, Akron, Beachwood, Stow and Twinsburg. It was welcomed by Mayors and representatives from these cities as well as by representatives of the local business communities.

Mission participants also had the opportunity to visit major industrial facilities in the region and receive briefings on the economy and industries present in Northeast Ohio. Members of the mission met with representatives of BioEnterprise, one of the most important organizations and the driving force behind some of the rapid boom in Ohio's biomedical development in recent years. Many mission participants expressed an interest in establishing office and other facilities in northeast Ohio as a result of the meetings that took place during their visit to Ohio.

The mission was also greeted enthusiastically by members of Ohio's Indian community including the Federation of India Community Associations and the India Ohio Chamber of Commerce, and a welcome address by Ohio State Representative Jay Goyal, the first member of the Indian-American community to be elected to the Ohio State Legislature. The President of one of the organizations involved in planning the mission, Zodiac Business Solutions, Ashish Mehta, commented: "The success of this mission would not have been possible without the support of many of the organizations and communities who have welcomed this mission. They all see the importance of making sure that this mission and others to follow succeed. What is at stake is vital to the development of the ties between our regions."

Further trade missions between India and Ohio are already being planned by SGI Global Business Advisors for 2007 and 2008.

SGI specializes in assisting public and private sector organizations in developing and implementing international economic development projects, overseas trade initiatives and market penetration strategies. It currently is working with clients in Israel, the United Kingdom, India and the US.