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U.S. Ambassador David C. Mulford and Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon shake hands after signing the agreement on July 4 at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

Fulbright-Nehru Scholarship Agreement Signed

Ambassador David C. Mulford and Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon signed a landmark agreement on July 4, strengthening educational exchanges between India and the United States.

The agreement doubles the size of the 58-year-old Fulbright exchange program with India, and makes India and the United States full partners in the program.

“Together, we have seized upon the importance of bringing new energy into our longstanding agreement,” said the Ambassador. “What we have done today will bring priceless benefits to thousands of young people in both our countries in the years ahead.”

Reflecting this new partnership, scholarships awarded under this

program will now be known as Fulbright-Nehru Scholarships. Signed at Hyderabad House in New Delhi in the presence of U.S. Congress members Gary Ackerman, Russ Carnahan, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Al Green, Thaddeus McCotter and Randy Neugebauer, the agreement represents the strong and growing people-to-people ties that bind the world’s oldest and largest democracies, and emphasizes the value both countries place on education and scholarly exchange.

Named for its sponsor, Senator J. William Fulbright, the program was established by the U.S. Congress in 1946 to promote “international goodwill through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture and science.” It now operates in 155 countries.

Since the signing of the first exchange agreement between Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then-Ambassador Loy Henderson on February 2, 1950, more than 5,000 Indians have traveled to the United States, and more than 9,800 Americans have come to India as Fulbright scholars.



U.S. Ambassador Loy Henderson (left) and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru sign the Fulbright Agreement for India on February 2, 1950, as India’s Education Minister Abul Kalam Azad (seated right) and other U.S. and Indian officials witness the event.

