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6 March 2013 From Gurdip Singh

Singapore, Mar 6 (PTI) Singapore's former President S R Nathan has said the city state is set to become a hub for the Indian diaspora.

"Singapore is set to be a hub for the Indian diaspora. It is a springboard for these businessmen to venture into the region," he told reporters here last night at the curtain raiser to the Global Business Leaders conference of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) to be held here next month.

"We have benefited from them," said Nathan, referring to the IIM Alumni working around the world and contributing to the global economy.

International chief executives and heads of corporations, who had graduated from the IIMs, would be addressing the two- day conference to be held here on April 5-6.

Nathan is the patron of the conference themed 'IIMPact 2013: New Frontiers', which would be attended by some 700 delegates from India, South East Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

Key speakers, who are likely to participate in the event, are Raghuram G Rajan, Chief Economic Advisor, Akhil Kumar, MD and CEO of GS Caltex India, Ravi Uppal, MD and CEO of Naveen Jindal Group, and Ajoy Kumar, Member of Parliament, among others.

The conference is organised by the Pan-IIM Alumni Association, which has over 1,000 IIM Alumni leading Singapore-based businesses and supported by the Singapore Management University, Economic Development Board and the Institute of South Asian Studies.

Over 4,500 Indian-owned companies operate out of Singapore, making them the largest business community here.

Some 100 major Indian corporations have set up their Asian headquarters in the city state. PTI GS RAH ksr DKR