Strengthening Indian-USA Relationship – July 23, 2023

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Brief History of Indians in USA

History of Indian Migration to USA
Early migration
The 1990 U.S. census reports
US Congress Approves Citizenship for Indian Nationals

Racial Discrimination

Red Dots & Dot Busters of the 1970's
Sikhs attached for wearing turbans & continuing individual attacks
There are also instances of intra-ethnic strife among Indians themselves

Trend of Indian Migration to USA

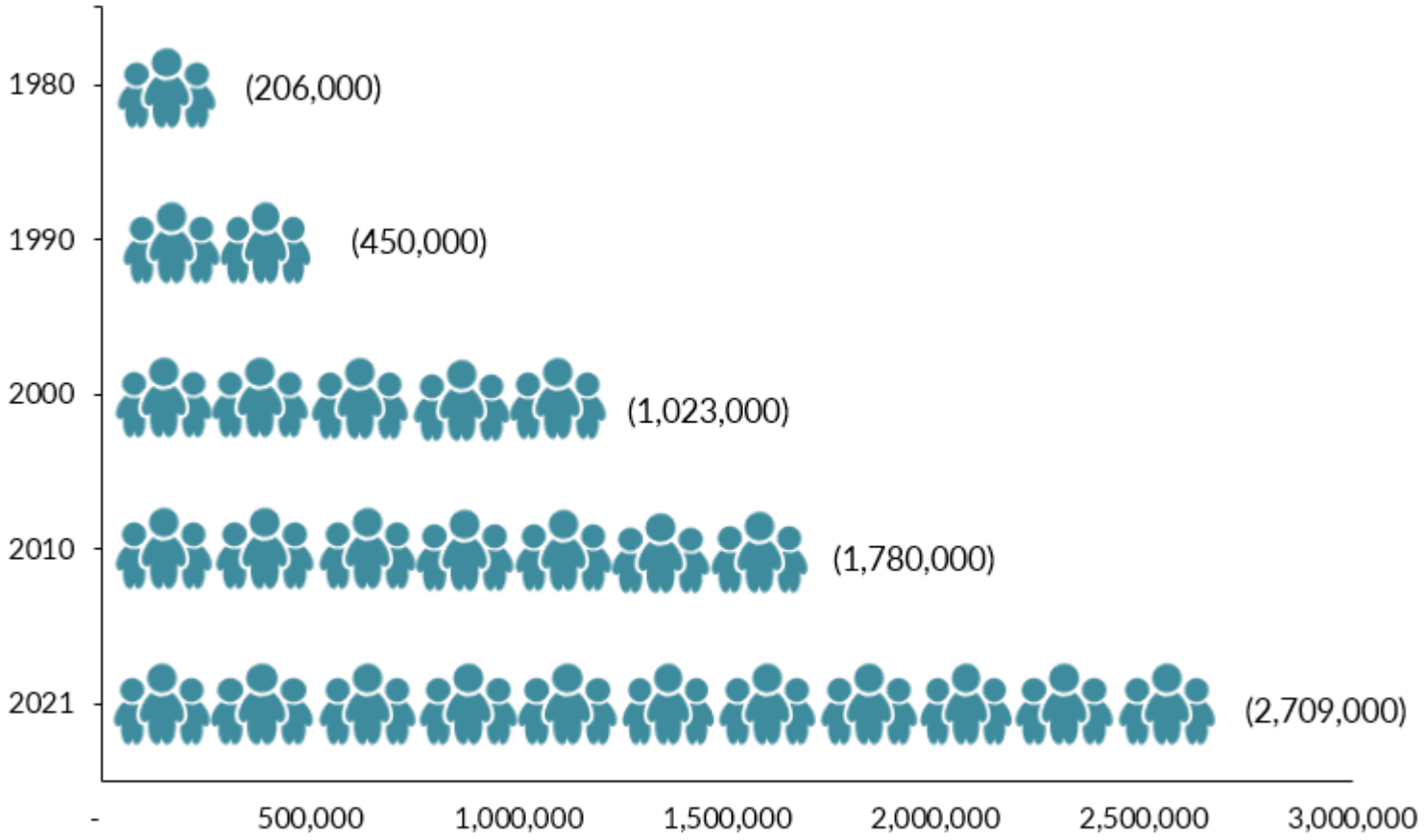
- The 1990 U.S. census reports 570,000
- The 2000 US census reports 1,500,000
- The 2010 US Census reports 3,100,000
- The 2020 US Census reports 3,700,000

Although it's closer to 4,500,000 when all is counted, included undocumented.

Indians in the USA is the largest population of the Indian Diaspora following Malaysia, UK, South Africa, Canada, Mauritius and other countries.

Number of Americans speaking South Asian languages at home (2010-2021)

South Asian language	2010	2021	Change	% Change
Gujarati	356,394	436,909	80,515	22.59%
Hindi	609,395	864,830	255,435	41.92%
Urdu	388,909	507,972	119,063	30.61%
Punjabi	243,773	318,588	74,815	30.69%
Bengali	221,872	403,024	181,152	81.65%
Telugu	217,641	459,836	242,195	111.28%
Tamil	181,698	341,396	159,698	87.89%



Sources: Data from U.S. Census Bureau 2010 and 2021 American Community Surveys (ACS), and Campbell J. Gibson and Kay Jung, "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850-2000" (Working Paper no. 81, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, February 2006),.

Opportunities & Challenges in Adaptation in USA

The USA offers vastly more opportunities for Indians more than any other destination country. This can be readily seen from the rising population of Indians migrating, working and studying in the USA.

There are challenges and difficulties, especially in the early years of migration when the numbers of Indians in USA was smaller. Example: Colour, ethnic background, non-citizens, religion, accent and a different lifestyle

Challenges

- Racial disparities in USA
- Race Quota for admissions
- Relative successes and relationship to other ethnic groups
- Too much assimilation & diminished cultural bonds
- Inter-generational issues: Seniors, working parents and children

Outstanding Achievements of Indians in USA

Indians in the USA have achieved a remarkable level of success more than any other immigrant group, in all segments of American society. The following are a few:

- Vice President Kamala Harris
- 5 members of the US Congress. Dalip Saund was 1st Indian Congressman
- 2 former governors
- 2 candidates for president 2024 elections
- Elected and appointed officials at federal, state and municipal levels.
- Over 25 CEOs of major companies of Indian origin, incl women.
- Indians dominate in the high tech companies as officers and innovators.
- Indians in high positions in judiciary, medical, legal and academia.
- Academic chairs, chancellors, Indian diaspora studies, professors.
- Writers, news journalists, entertainment, philanthropy.
- Television channels, radio and live streaming.
- Diwali celebration nationwide, a Diwali stamp, and NYC school holiday.
- Indian festivals, foods, parades and street namings.
- Mandirs, mosques, gurdwara and churches proliferate.
- Groceries, food outlets and restaurants for mainstream also
- Gandhi statutes and postage stamps

Yoga is nationally accepted in all major cities in the USA

Historical Ties & Engagement: India-USA

Since India's independence, ties with the United States have weathered Cold War–era distrust and estrangement over India's nuclear program. Relations have warmed in recent years and cooperation has strengthened across a range of economic and political areas.

Examples:

- July 18, 2005: Landmark Civil Nuclear Deal Drafted
- March 1, 2006: President Bush Visits India
- November 24, 2009: Prime Minister Singh Begins U.S. State Visit
- April 5, 2010: U.S. Treasury Secretary Launches Economic Partnership
- June 1, 2010: U.S., India Hold First Strategic Dialogue
- September 27, 2013: Singh Makes Last Visit to Washington
- September 26, 2014: Modi Makes High-Profile U.S. Visit
- January 24, 2015: Obama's Second India Visit Elevates Ties
- June 7, 2016: Obama Recognizes India as Major Defense Partner
- June 26, 2017: Trump, Modi Meet for First Time
- February 24, 2020: Trump Makes First Visit to India
- September 24, 2021: First In-Person Quad Leaders' Summit
- January 31, 2023: Deepening Defense and Economic Cooperation
- June 22, 2023 PM Modi visit White House and Congress

Indian Heritage & Culture Enriching the USA

Their average per capita far exceeds other recent immigrant groups as NRIs and PIOs have made enormous strides in economic progress, science and technology, businesses, hospitality, medical profession, media, academia and politics. In addition, the recent advances in strengthening of the relationship between India and USA further enhance the importance of NRIs and PIOs in the USA.

Indian heritage and culture are readily accepted by Americans. They enrich the social fabric of American society and engage non-Indians in peaceful co-existence, partnerships and collaboration

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Bilateral Relationship between India & USA

The U.S.-India strategic partnership is founded on shared values including a commitment to democracy and upholding the rules-based international system. The United States and India have shared interests in promoting global security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade, investment, and connectivity.

- Economic relationship
- International cooperation
- Bi-lateral cooperation

These include the U.S.-India Counterterrorism Joint Working Group, which was established in 2000, as well as the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership, Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue, Cyber Dialogue, Civil Space Working Group, the Education and Skills Development Working Group, Trade Policy Forum, Defense Policy Group, and Counter-narcotics Working Group

Geo-Economic Engagement: India-USA

In 2021, overall U.S.-India bilateral trade in goods and services reached a record $157 billion. The United States is India's largest trading partner and most important export market. Many U.S. companies view India as a critical market and have expanded their operations there.

As China’s economic preeminence and its geopolitical ambitions are growing in Asia Pacific, an economically robust India and stable and strong India US trade are of increasing geo-economic importance for the balance of power in the APAC region.

India-US trade is growing relatively rapidly.

India-US trade has been growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 8% over the past decade while world exports between 2008 and 2018 have grown at a CAGR of just 1.9%. Given the slowdown in post-crisis trade overall and the lack of a trade agreement between India and the US, this is a remarkable pace of growth.

India accounts for about 2% of US trade while the US accounts for about 15% of Indian exports

The India-US trade relationship is asymmetric, with India depending more on the US for trade than the reverse, reflecting the relative size of their economies.

Geo-Strategic Engagement: India-USA

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken will travel to New Delhi, India, July 27-28 to reaffirm the United States' commitment to strengthening our partnership and underscore cooperation on our shared priorities. Secretary Blinken will meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to discuss a wide range of issues, including continued cooperation on COVID-19 response efforts, Indo-Pacific engagement, shared regional security interests, shared democratic values, and addressing the climate crisis.

Engagement:

- Deepening the U.S.-India Partnership
- The Indo-Pacific Front and Center
- Deterring Our Adversaries and Defending Our Interests
- Combating the Covid-19 & other Pandemics
- Tackling the Climate Crisis

Strengthening India-USA Relationship

The strong partnership between India and USA is becoming stronger by necessity and geo-economic and geo-political dynamics. This strengthening of this mutually beneficial partnership is crucial for India's progress and standing in the world, for the USA continuing its position as a global, and for the Indian Diaspora in America The world's largest democracy and the world's oldest democracy need each other's commitment and respect as they continue to solidify this important bond that brings more stability and progress in the world.

Areas of enhancing the India-USA partnership:

- Strategic alliance
- Economic alliance
- Reducing the impact of climate change
- Peaceful resolution of global and border conflicts
- Eradicating childhood diseases and child labour
- Water and food security
- Human rights, diversity and cultural integrity
- Addressing the impact of migration from underdeveloped countries
- Preparing for the next pandemic (vaccines and distribution)
- Guidelines of use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

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ASHOOK K. RAMSARAN

Ashook K. Ramsaran, born in Guyana (formerly British Guiana), is 3rd generation of Indian origin. His great grandfather arrived in Guyana from India in 1853 and his great grandmother arrived in 1860 as Indian indentured labourers to work on British owned sugar plantations.

Ramsaran resides in the USA since emigrating from Guyana in 1968. He earned advanced engineering degrees at Polytechnic-New York University and established an electronics manufacturing company in New York. He is married to Camille Ramgadoo (also of Guyana), father of Arnold and late Gerald, grandfather of Jaden and Gavin, all residing in Queens, New York.

Ramsaran is President of Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC); Executive Vice-President, Queens Civic Congress (QCC); Chair, Community Advisory Council, NY Presbyterian Hospital/Queens NYP/Q); Board Member, Center for Caribbean & Latin Amer. Studies, St. John's University (SJU/CLACS); Delegate of Queens General Assembly (QGA); Executive Board Member, India Empire (a Diaspora Publication, Delhi, India); and board member of several other organizations; past President, GOPIO Int'l.

Ramsaran has acquired wide expertise in Indian Diaspora, actively engaging in series of local, regional and global initiatives to "engage, embrace and enhance" the global Indian Diaspora: On the basis of shared history and heritage, common interests, inter-ethnic relations, education and benefits of collaboration, economic engagement and issues of concern; to link diverse communities of Indian Diaspora, strengthen bonds and explore the benefits of collaboration.

Ramsaran collaborated extensively with India's Government of India (formerly Ministry of Overseas Indians Affairs (MOIA), and presently with Overseas Indian Affairs (OIA) Department of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), on global Indian Diaspora matters and the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) events. He was Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) chairperson, speaker and/or panelist from 2005 thru' 2017, attended several regional PBDs as well, and is engaged with OIA on 2024 Diaspora Conference.

In June, 2012 at the invitation of the Organization of American States (OAS), the government of El Salvador and the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF), Ramsaran made a presentation on "The Indian Diaspora, GOPIO's Role in Connecting and Strengthening it", and to Highlight Experiences and Lessons Learned from Diaspora-Government-Private Sector Partnerships for the Development of Human Capital". He was a special presenter on "Lessons of the Indian Diaspora" at the Commonwealth Diaspora Symposium on November 12, 2012 in Birmingham, UK.

Ramsaran collaborates with St. John's University ((New York) and other institutions on seminars and conferences on immigrant issues; he lectures on diaspora matters and is actively engaged in community issues: civics, housing, tax equity, social justice and inter-ethnic relations. He writes articles, essays and perspectives in major publications, as well as lectures on diaspora matters at conferences, symposia and seminars.

Ramsaran is instrumental in the establishment of the Kolkata Memorial (India) recognizing Indian Indenturedship 1834-1917; Indian Arrival Monuments in Guyana and Trinidad; Grenada, Martinique and others are in process); as well as several street namings in New York to recognize outstanding individuals and institutions.

Ramsaran initiated a series of global commemoration events with international affiliates of the Indian Diaspora Council, supported by government of India and impacted countries, the centennial of the abolition of Indian Indenturedship culminating a tremendously successful world convention in Trinidad on March 17-20, 2017: Indian Diaspora World Convention 2017 on March 17-20, 2017 in Trinidad & Tobago with the theme: "*Centennial of Abolition of Indian Indenturedship: Challenges, Achievements and Charting New Frontiers".*

For his many notable contributions, commitment and exemplary service to the global Indian diaspora and civic associations, Ramsaran has been accorded numerous national and international awards and recognition, including the prestigious Government of India's Pravasi Samman Award