

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



1. Country Brief with reference with its people

Britain's American colonies broke with the mother country in 1776 and were recognized as the new nation of the United States of America following the Treaty of Paris in 1783. During the 19th and 20th centuries, 37 new states were added to the original 13 as the nation expanded across the North American continent and acquired a number of overseas possessions. The two most traumatic experiences in the nation's history were the Civil War (1861-65) and the Great Depression of the 1930s. Buoyed by victories in World Wars I and II and the end of the Cold War in 1991, the US remains the world's most powerful nation state. The economy is marked by steady growth, low unemployment and inflation, and rapid advances in technology.

USA totally has 9,631,418 sq km space with it out of which 9,161,923 sq km is land and 469,495 sq km of water. It has a total population of 298,444,215 out of which 67 percent are in the working age group and only 33 percent are dependent population out of which, around 20 percent are in the age group of 0-14. The median age is as high as 36.5 years. The population growth is estimated

to be 0.91 percent in 2006. The net migration rate is 3.18 migrants per thousand populations in the year 2006, which proves that the out-migration is higher than the in-migration.

The ethnic composition in the USA consists mostly of White population (81.7 percent); Black population (12.9 percent) and Asian population (4.2 percent); 1 percent of Amerindian and Alaska native population; and the rest 0.2 percent consists of Hawaiian and other Pacific island. It is to be noted that a separate listing for Hispanic is not included because the US Census Bureau considers Hispanic to mean a person of Latin American descent (including persons of Cuban, Mexican, or Puerto Rican origin) living in the US who may be of any race or ethnic group (white, black, Asian, etc.)

Majority of the population in the USA follow Christian ethic where 52 percent are Protestants; 24 percent are Roman Catholic. 2 percent are Mormon; 1 percent Jewish; 1 percent Muslim. 10 percent follow other religions. Yet another 10 percent do not consider themselves under any religious group (2002 est).

2. Nature and Demographic Profile of Indian Diaspora

The Indian American community in the United States is over a million strong, but this large number has grown from small beginnings and an expansion of immigration within the last thirty years. The first Indian immigrant entered the United States in 1790 as a maritime worker, as part of the early commerce connections between India and the U.S. After that, the next noticeable groups of Indians came to the west-coast of the United States, in the state of Washington, entering from Canada. These early twentieth century immigrants were largely agricultural workers.

In the early 1920s only about five thousand Indians resided in the United States. At the time Indians were denied citizenship and the right to own land in many states. After World War 11, the U.S. desire for more professionals, particularly doctors, engineers, and entrepreneurs, facilitated the immigration of Indians. In 1946, *the Indian Citizenship Bill*, co-sponsored in a bipartisan effort of

Congressmen Emmanuel Celler and Clare Booth Luce, legalized the ability of Indian immigrants to seek naturalization and granted India a token quota of one hundred immigrants annually. When the Immigration Act of 1965 lifted immigrant quotas that had been in place for more than fifty years, the entry of Indians into the United States increased during the late 1960s and '70s.

In 1960, estimates showed only five thousand Indians in the United States, but by 1970, this population had grown to approximately three hundred and fifty thousand. The 1990 U.S. Census records the number of Indian-Americans at 815, 447, and between the 1980 and 1990 Census, the annual growth rate of the community was 8.5 percent

According to the estimate of the Population Reference Bureau, the Indian American population has grown by 103% in 1980-90, a growth rate second only to the Chinese among Asian American ethnic groups, and by 55% in 1990-97, second only to the Vietnamese. As a result the Indian American population numbered 1.215m in 1997, making it the third largest Asian American ethnic group in the US, after the Chinese and the Filipino Americans, outstripping the Japanese. Certainly, the Indian American community in the United States has experienced a remarkable transformation from its modest beginnings.

The U.S. Census bureau defines Indian-Americans as "Asian Indians." When households fill out the census they define themselves as Asian Indians, a sub-category of the Asian or Pacific Islander group. People who choose to write in more specific categories, such as Gujarati or Sikh, are still classified as Asian Indians. People are classified as Asian Indians if they are of Asian Indian origin or if they are of Asian Indian race, or if they are foreign born people from India.

The United States Census Bureau estimates that the national census count of 1990 differed from the true population by less than two percent, which means that their statistics about the size of the Indian American population are quite accurate. Using this margin of error, the Indian American community in 1990 would, at its highest count be approximately 831,755 people. This means that perhaps, with the highest estimates, around 15,000 Indian-Americans were left out of the census. In estimating this undercount, the Census Bureau uses

birth and death records, immigration records and previous censuses to estimate the true population. It also conducts special surveys by taking scientific samples of census blocks and re-interviewing them independently of the census enumeration to determine accuracy.

It is, however, difficult to accurately estimate the undercount of Indian-Americans because adequate records on this segment of the population have not existed for a long period of time.

Below are some points about the achievements of Indian Americans compiled from **indianembassy.org** -

- There are now more than 1.7 million peoples of Indian origin in America. They reflect the multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-lingual society of India.
- Indian Americans are represented in many fields including academics and entrepreneurs, doctors and lawyers, engineers and financiers.
- Based on the count of the 2000 Census, there are 1.7 million people in the US who identify themselves as Asian Indians or Indian Americans -- first- and second-generation immigrants or those whose ancestors migrated to the US from India.
- More than 87% of Indians in America have completed high school while at least 62% have some college education. As much as 58% of Indian Americans over the age of 25 hold a bachelor's degree or higher.
- High levels of education have also enabled Indian Americans to become a productive segment of the U. S. population, with 72.3% participating in the work force.
- Of these work force participants, 43.6% are employed in managerial and professional specialties.
- Technical, sales, and administrative support occupations constitute another 33.2% of the work force.
- The remaining 23.3% of the population works in other areas, such as operators, fabricators, laborers and precision production.
- More than 5,000 Indian Americans today serve as faculty members in institutions of higher education
- About 300,000 Indian Americans work in technology firms in California's Silicon Valley. They account for more than 15% of high-tech startups in that region. The median income of Indian Americans in that region is estimated to be \$125,000 (average \$200,000) a year, in the U. S.
- According to University of California, Berkeley Study, about one-third of the engineers in Silicon Valley are of Indian descent, while 7% of valley high-tech firms are led by Indian CEOs
- The estimated annual buying power of Indian Americans in the United States is around \$ 20 billion.

4. Known Distinguished Diaspora

- Two Indian Americans - Har Gobind Khorana of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and late Subrahmanyam Chandrashekar of University of Chicago - have been awarded the Nobel Prize, in medicine and physics respectively.
- In deed, the NASA's premier X-ray observatory was named the Chandra X-ray Observatory in honor of the late Subrahmanyam Chandrasekhar. Known to the world as Chandra, he was widely regarded as one of the foremost astrophysicists of the twentieth century. The observatory was launched into space in July 1999.
- Dr. Kalpana Chawla added a new chapter to the history of the Indian American community. In 1997, she became the first Indian or Indian American to fly in the US space shuttle. She was part of the Space Shuttle Columbia Flight STS-87.
- Some successes are well known, such as Vinod Khosla, co-founder of Sun Microsystems, and Sabeer Bhatia, who founded HotMail and sold it to Microsoft for \$400 million. The number of Indian American New Economy millionaires is in the thousands. Massachusetts' Gururaj Deshpande, co-founder of a number of network-technology companies, is worth between \$4 billion and \$6 billion.

5. Major Diaspora Associations

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bengali Association of Southern California, Inc• Bengali Association of Greater Rochester• Bengali Socio-Cultural Organization, Ann Arbor, MI• Bay Area Prabasi Inc• Bichitra• Gujarati Association• Gujarati Cultural Association of Bay Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DFW Maharashtra Mandal• Marathi Vishwal• Brihan Maharashtra Mandal• Maharashtra Mandal, New York• Maharashtra Mandal of Detroit• Marathi Kala Mandal of Greater Washington
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gujarati Kshatriya Association of Texas • News and Information for all Gujaratis • Gujarati Samaj of New York • Gujarati Samaj of Houston • Gujarati Samaj of Tampa Bay,FL • Triangle Gujarati Association,Cary area of North Carolina. • Gujarati Cultural Association site, Fremont ,CA • Dallas FortWorth Gujarati Samaj, Dallas,TX • Triangle Gujarati Association (TGA) • Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA • Patidar Cultural Association • Kannada Koota of Northern California • Kannada Organization of New England • Kaveri • New York Kannada Koota • World Millennium Kannada Conference -2000 • North American Sankethi Association • Pampa Kannada Koota, Detroit • Federation of Kerala Associations of North America -Fremont ,CA • Kerala Association of Dallas • Kerala Association in Florida • Kerala Association of Greater Washington • Malayalee Association of Northern California • The Nair Service Society of Greater New York • India American Malayalee Chamber of Commerce,NY • Kerala Association,Texas • KeralaMall Inc., NY • India Association Tallahassee , Florida • Jain Center of Northern California • Mahdavia Publications • India Club of Greater Seattle • India Association of Greater Charleston • Indo-American Association (IAA) • Indo-American Golf Association • Indo American Democratic Organization, Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maharashtra Mandal, Chicago • Maharashtra Mandal, Atlanta • New England Marathi Mandal • Maharashtra Foundation • Rajasthani Association Of Michigan • Bay Area Tamil Manram • Chicago Tamil Sangam • Georgia Tamil Sangam • Michigan Tamil Sangam • New Jersey Tamil Sangam • Seattle Tamil Sangam • Tamil Sangam of Carolina • Tamil Sangham of Michigan • Tamil Sangam of Washington-Baltimore Inc. • Tamil Nadu Foundation Inc. • Tampa Bay Tamil Association of USA • Bay Area Telugu Association • Detroit Telugu Association • Tri-State Telugu Association - Chicago ,IL • Telugu Association of Greater Boston • Telugu Association of Greater Chicago • American Telugu Association • Telugu Association of North Texas • Telugu Association of Connecticut • Arizona Telugu Association • American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin (ASEI) • American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, USA (AAPJ) • Asian American Hotel Owners Association • Indian Professionals Network • Indian Business and Professional Women • Michigan Association of Physicians from India (MAPI) • Network of Indian Professionals • Network of South Asian Professionals • Silicon Valley Indian Professional Association
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian-American Political Advocacy Council, USA (IAPAC) • India Abroad Center for Political Awareness (IACPA) • India Community Center of Austin • Maitri - Helping Women Help Themselves • Narika - A Helpline for abused South Asian women, USA • South Asian Women's NETwork, USA (SAWNET) • SRUTI - The Indian Music and Dance Society, USA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Asian Journalist's Association, USA (SAJA) • TiE-The Indus Entrepreneurs • ARADHANA - St. Thyagaraja Aradhana, Cleveland, USA • Charotar Patidar Samaj • Global Organization of people of Indian Origin, USA (GOPIO) • Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston
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7. Bilateral Relations/Agreements

There has been steady progress in relations between India and the US in recent times. There is a strong commitment on both sides to carry this process forward and to further widen, deepen and strengthen these ties. India and US interaction today included strategic and security issues, defence, counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, science and technology, health, trade, space, energy and environment. There is an increasing convergence of views on global, regional and bilateral issues of mutual concern.

(More to be explored and information collected from the Indian Embassy at the Washington. D.C.)