

02 BRIEFING Hindu American Leadership and Impact

Hindu Americans and Americans with Hindu affiliation lead across business, technology, entrepreneurship, science, space, education, philanthropy, and service.

National data generally track ethnicity rather than religion. The figures below describe the broader Indian American population, 67% of whom identify as Hindu or affiliate with Hinduism.

11.1% of U.S. unicorns operating in 2024 (72 of 648) co-founded by Indian Americans

~10% of U.S. patents issued in 2019 named Indian-origin innovators

SELECTED EXAMPLES IN EACH FIELD

Business and Technology

Indra Nooyi	Former Chairman and CEO, PepsiCo
Sundar Pichai	CEO, Alphabet and Google
Satya Nadella	Chairman and CEO, Microsoft
Shantanu Narayen	Chairman and CEO, Adobe
Arvind Krishna	Chairman and CEO, IBM

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Vinod Khosla	Co-founder, Sun Microsystems; founder, Khosla Ventures
Jay Chaudhry	Founder and CEO, Zscaler
B. Jayant Baliga	Inventor of the energy-saving IGBT semiconductor
Manjul Bhargava	Fields Medal-winning Princeton mathematician
Apoorva Mehta	Founder of Instacart

Science, Medicine, and Space

Sunita Williams	Retired (2025) NASA astronaut and U.S. Navy veteran
Kalpana Chawla	First woman of Indian origin in space
Vivek Murthy	Former U.S. Surgeon General
Mani Bhaumik	Contributor to laser technology underlying LASIK
Swati Mohan	Guidance and controls lead for NASA's Mars 2020 landing

02 Hindu American Leadership and Impact CONTINUED

Education and Scholarship

Renu Khator	Chancellor, University of Houston System
Srikant Datar	Dean, Harvard Business School
Nitin Nohria	Former Dean, Harvard Business School
Subra Suresh	Former Director, National Science Foundation
Vasudha Narayanan	Distinguished scholar of Hindu traditions

Philanthropy and Service

Chandrika and Ranjan Tandon	\$100 million gift to NYU Engineering
Kiran and Pallavi Patel	\$200 million commitment to Nova Southeastern University
Gururaj and Jaishree Deshpande	\$20 million gift establishing MIT's Deshpande Center
Romesh Wadhvani	Founder, Wadhvani Foundation
Sewa International USA	Volunteers supporting American institutions. 12,291 volunteer hours across 105 locations in its 2024 September 11 service initiative

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

16.9%

of U.S. adults practiced yoga in 2022. Yoga originated within Hindu philosophical and spiritual traditions.

FOR PUBLIC LEADERS

Draw on this expertise through appointments, advisory councils, policy work, economic-development initiatives, and public-private partnerships.