

Indians third largest immigrant group in US

WASHINGTON

Indians have emerged as the third-largest immigrant group in the US behind Mexicans and Chinese, with nearly 1.9 million of them living in the country, a new study by an American think tank has said.

Indian population in the US has grown to over 150 times its size since 1960, when the slightly more than 12,000 Indian immigrants represented less than 0.5 per cent of the total immigrant population of 9.7 million immigrants, a study by Migration Policy Institute has found. In 2011, Indian-born immigrants accounted for almost five per cent (1.86 million) of America's 40.4 million immigrants. Almost one-third of all Indian immigrants resided in just two states- California and New Jersey. More than a quarter of them lived in three major metropolitan areas- New York, Chicago and San Jose. Two per cent of all unauthorized immigrants in the United States were also from India. The study also found that India was also the second most common country of origin for international students studying at

US institutions of higher learning in 2011, behind China.

According to the Institute of International Education, students from India accounted for 13 per cent (100,270) of the 764,495 international students studying at US institutions of higher learning during the 2011-12 academic year. As a group, immigrants from India are better educated, more likely to have strong English language skills and arrive on employment-based visas, and are less likely to live below the federal poverty line than the overall foreign-born population, the study says. Indian immigrant men outnumbered women in 2011. More than 29 per cent of employed Indian-born men worked in information technology occupations, while 19 per cent of employed women worked in management, business, and finance. The data for the study was collected from the US Census Bureau's 2011 American Community Survey (ACS), the 2000 Decennial Census (as well as earlier censuses), and the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) (2012 data).

US companies continue to outsource jobs to India

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US companies continue to ship jobs to India despite protectionist outcry against the same.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) filings made to the US Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration showed that outsourcing jobs to countries like India, China and Brazil displaced several hundred local workers. American workers representing companies including IBM, Honeywell, Walgreens and AT&T have filed petitions in July to receive Trade Adjustment Assistance benefits.

TAA is a federal program of the US Government to assist displaced American workers impacted by imports.

IBM, for instance, is laying off 747 workers at three sites in New York. At Poughkeepsie, a city in the state of New York, 50 jobs have moved to Brazil, India and China, the US Department of Labor filings showed. Another filing by three petitioners at the company's Austin office said service support and administration of accounts were relocated to foreign countries as cost-reduction strategy.

"Change is constant in the technology industry and transformation is an essential feature of our business model. Consequently, some level of workforce remix is a constant requirement for our business. Given the competitive nature of our industry, we do not publicly discuss the details of staffing plans," said an IBM spokesperson, when contacted.

Business outsourcing solutions provider Automatic Data Processing will lay off 50-100 people and the service will be outsourced to India. US-based packaging material company Sealed Air Corp has laid off undisclosed number of workers after it purchased Diversey Holdings, manufacturer of cleaning and hygiene for \$2.9 billion in 2011. The firm had outsourced its internal service desk to Diversey's third party support group - Wipro in Pune, the regulatory filing said.

Multi-channel retailer Sears Canada is laying off 245 workers, outsourcing IT positions overseas, said Financial Post.

"The 138 laid-off IT employees will be replaced by Filipino workers in Sears Canada's partnership with technology giant IBM. Sears Canada is also looking to new vendor Wipro to replace

the rest of its discharged force," the report said.

The protectionist noises haven't deterred the prospects of the \$108-bn Indian IT sector that continues to hold its stead in the global outsourcing play.

Siddharth Pai, partner and president in outsourcing advisory firm ISG Asia Pacific, said, "India continues to be a primary destination for global service delivery. Companies are going through huge cost pressures and they have figured out how to maintain their margins despite other headwinds. They will have to consider off shoring for that additional headroom."

The new immigration bill makes it burdensome for Indian IT companies imposing higher fees on H1-B dependent employers. "Many bills were debated. But the end of the day, it has to make business sense. The pricing mechanism changes the economics of doing business," Sudin Apte, CEO of Pune-based IT advisory firm Offshore Insights.

RSVP Events wedding expo to showcase exclusive bridal fare



RSVP Events wedding expo in 2012 was a major hit

vide brides, grooms, and their families an exclusive opportunity to find all of their wedding needs under one roof.

The expo is expected to attract over 200 brides and this, combined with their unique décor would create a chic and elegant ambience for all attendees, the release added.

There would be continuous live entertainment with several giveaways, including free jet excursions, gifts bags, honeymoon packages and more. Also included would be a fashion show featuring international and nationally acclaimed one-of-a-kind luxury brands such as Sahil and Nazrana.

Some of the vendors who would be showcasing their ware include Carlo's Bake Shop, Aria Seth Make-up, Pod Pix, Benares, Media Loft Photography, Maxx Entertainment, Aakriti Designs, Studio 2012, Sweet Silk, Rangoli Weddings, Mandap by Dhoom, Tafreen's Emporium, Chand Palace, The Cake Designer, Nicole Make-up/invitation, Curry On, Fungillo Caterers, Dhol Fusion, Sahil Designers, Calcutta Affairs, Malak Designs, AA Film Studio, Sensational Décor, Fine Art Production, Floral Sentiments and Prime Wedding Dj's. Admission is free. More information can be had at www.RSVPby.com.

Indo-American Arts Council celebrates 15 Years of mainstreaming Indian arts

OUR BUREAU

New York

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC), the secular, non-profit, volunteer-driven arts organization that has helped Indian arts enter mainstream America, turns fifteen this Fall.

IAAC is the first and only Indian Arts Council in the United States representing all of the artistic disciplines, including theatre, dance, music, film, folk arts and literature, a press release here said. The IAAC pioneered the first annual Indian theatre, film, dance and playwright festivals in the country, as well as an annual travelling exhibition of contemporary Indian art.

"We are thrilled to contribute to the rich diversity of the New York cultural landscape," the press release quotes Aroon Shivdasani, IAAC executive director, as saying. "By showcasing and building an awareness of the artists and artistic disciplines from India's sub conti-

mental heritage, we educate and entertain mainstream America about our culture, our traditions and our rich history, while simultaneously encouraging tolerance and greater understanding between cultures."

To commemorate its fifteenth anniversary, the IAAC will host a celebratory gala on Thursday, November 21, 2013 at the Angel Orensanz Foundation for Contemporary Art (172 Norfolk Street, NYC). Comedian and actor Aasif Mandvi (The Daily Show with Jon Stewart) will entertain guests as the Master of Ceremonies. Top notch designer Naeem Khan will showcase his latest collection in a specially-conceived fashion show. Mr. Khan and Dr. Bansal will also be honoured by the IAAC for their contribution to the arts. Musical entertainment will be provided by singer-songwriter-composer Paul Williams and pianist-composer Kenneth Lee "Kenny" Ascher, co-writers of the Oscar-nominated song "Rainbow Connection" from The Muppet Movie.

Tables at the gala range in value from \$5,000 to \$25,000, and individual tickets are available for \$500. More information and advance tickets can be had by visiting www.iaac.us.

OUR BUREAU

New York

RSVP Events, an exclusive and premier bridal show and wedding expo, will be organized by RSVP Events and Entertainments on Sunday, September 15th, 2013 at Hyatt Regency on the Hudson, 2 Exchange Place, Jersey City, New Jersey, from 12pm to 6pm.

RSVP Events has, throughout the years, established relationships with vendors throughout the Tri-state region, a press release here said, adding that the expo will pro-

