

Five Most Influential Indian Women in U.S.



Indra Nooyi

BANGALORE (SI): The achievements and outstanding performance made by Indians residing abroad make us proud of our rich Indian heritage and culture, which also encourages the younger generation to achieve greater heights in their life. Below enlisted are some of the leading Indian women personalities who have made it big in the U.S.

Indra Nooyi

Indra Nooyi, an Indian-origin American executive who hails from Chennai is the current Chairman and CEO of PepsiCo. Nooyi's name appeared in the list of 50 women to watch in 2007 and 2008, according to a survey conducted by Wall Street Journal. She was one among Time's list of 100 most influential people in the world and she also bagged the top position of most powerful woman in business, by a ranking done by Forbes (2009 and 2010).

According to Nooyi, "Just because you are CEO, don't think you have landed. You must continually increase your learning, the way you think, and the way you approach the organization. I've never forgotten that."

Nooyi joined the company PepsiCo in the year 1994 and was appointed to the post of CFO in 2001. She rose to the position of CEO in 2007 and has been contributing a major share in the development of the company for more than a decade.

Nooyi completed graduation from Madras Christian College and post graduation in Management from Indian Institute of Management in Calcutta. She began her career as a product manager at Johnson & Johnson.

Nikki Haley

Nikki Haley is the current Governor of South Carolina, who is real inspiration and matter of pride to all Indian-Americans. She is the first woman to hold this prestigious position and the second Indian origin Governor in South Carolina. Moreover, this 40 year old lady is the youngest present Governor in U.S.

Haley has also been honored with many prestigious awards which include the Palmetto Leadership Award and India Abroad Person of the Year 2010. She was a prestigious member among the Board of Directors



Nikki Haley

of Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce and Lexington Chamber of Commerce. She served as the treasurer and later on as the president of National Association of Women Business Owners.

Born to Sikh immigrants from Amritsar, Haley completed her graduation from Orangeburg Preparatory Schools and B.S. in accounting from Clemson University. She joined her mother's business Exotica International, a clothing firm, after the completion of degree. Haley is proud to be an Indian-origin who respects and adores her heritage and ancestry. She is a true motivation to the young Indians in U.S. to become a part of political mainstream.

Sheffali Duggal

Indian American 'Sheffali Duggal' has been chosen as the most powerful woman in California, by National Diversity Council. The 40 year old Sheffali is a top fund-raiser at President Barack Obama's re-election campaign, who was successful in raising fund between \$ 50,000 and \$ 100,000.

Sheffali is a member of prestigious committees like the Democratic National Committee Asian American Leadership Council, DNC National Steering Committee, Human Rights Watch and California Committee North. She is also a member of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) Chairman's Council and is on the board of Director's of the Forgotten International.

She has actively supported the Presidential Campaign of Senator Hillary Clinton, where she was a member of the campaign's Northern California Steering Committee and the women for Hillary committee. She was a board member of the Indian American Leadership Initiative, which is an organization working on the promotion of South Asian Political participation.

This Indian-origin woman was raised in Chicago who completed her graduation in political communication from New York University and BS in Mass Communication from Miami University.

Renu Khator

Renu Khator is the Chancellor and



Sheffali Duggal

President of University of Houston, who holds the prestige of being the first foreign-born President of the University. She is also the first Indian-origin woman heading a prominent research university in U.S.

Renu is an active member for numerous boards and organizations such as Moffit Cancer Hospital Board of Directors, the Hillsborough Education Foundation Board and the National Advisory Council on Environmental Policy and Management. She is also the author of many books and articles on issues related to global public administration and environmental policies.

Born in Uttar Pradesh, Renu received bachelor's degree from the University of Kanpur, from Purdue University she completed MA in political science. She has also received doctorates in public administration and political science. Renu began her career at University of South Florida, where she was in charge of various positions. She took her current position as the President and Chancellor of Houston University in the year 2008.

Padma Lakshmi

Padma Lakshmi is a well-known internationally accepted personality who has proved her talent in diverse fields, being an actress, model, Television host and author of cookbooks.

Padma struggled with endometriosis (a female health disorder) for decades and took her own problems before the public with courage, in order to support other people and serve as an inspiration for increased disease research, education and awareness. This made her achieve the 'healthy give and take award' for the year 2011. 'Easy Exotic', her first cookbook was named as the Best First Book in the year 1999 at the Gourmand World Cookbook Awards conducted at Versailles. She was also nominated for Emmy Award as "Outstanding Host on a Reality-Competition", in 2006.

Padma basically belongs to an Iyengar Brahmin family based in Chennai, she did her schooling and higher education in U.S and completed graduation in Theatre Arts from Clark University in Massachusetts.



Renu Khator



Padma Lakshmi



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