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Q10

'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries'. Comment with examples.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · GS II · 10 marks · Diaspora and Developed Countries

Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

Core demand of the question

- 'Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European countries'. Comment with examples
- Honour the official stem. Use US politics and tech/economy, UK and EU examples; do not claim a single diaspora 'controls' host States
- Keep the comment within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Indian-Americans have outsized income and presence in US tech, medicine and universities.

2020 US politics showed mainstreaming, including Kamala Harris on the Democratic ticket.

The UK combines business communities with Indian-origin cabinet rank such as **Rishi Sunak** as Chancellor.

Continental European political clout is still limited compared with the Anglosphere.

'Decisive' fits sectors and lobbies; it does not mean the diaspora runs host States.

Introduction

The Indian diaspora in the United States and in several European countries is large, skilled, and increasingly visible in parties, parliaments, and firms. 'Decisive' is true in specific sectors and constituencies; it is not true as a claim that host politics now run from New Delhi's overseas vote. The comment needs examples and a sense of proportion.

Body**United States - economy and politics**

- Indian-Americans are among the highest-earning ethnic groups; they are dense in information technology, medicine, academia, and start-ups, which is economic weight in the knowledge economy.
- Google, Microsoft, and other platform leadership with **Indian-origin CEOs** (a 2020-visible fact) is a corporate-economy signal, not a State-to-State lever by itself.
- Politically, the caucus around India in Congress, donors in both parties, and candidates at state and federal level (for example Kamala Harris's 2020 ticket as Vice-Presidential candidate of Indian and Jamaican descent) show entry into the mainstream.
- **H-1B, visa, and US-India strategic talk are where the diaspora lobby is most 'decisive':** it can move a hearing or a narrative, not a whole American election.

Europe

- **The United Kingdom:** **Rishi Sunak** as Chancellor in 2020, Indian-origin MPs in several parties, and a long Gujarati and Punjabi business presence in retail, pharma, and IT services.
- **Continental Europe is thinner:** students, IT contractors, and a growing professional class in Germany, Ireland, and the Nordics; political office is rarer than in the Anglosphere.
- **Remittances**, IIT/IIM alumni networks, and intra-firm trade matter more for India's economy than for, say, France's party system.

Comment on 'decisive'

- Decisive in Silicon Valley labour, UK Conservative fiscal politics, and niche US foreign-policy lobbying - yes.
- Decisive as a bloc that swings America or 'Europe' as a whole - no; the diaspora is internally diverse by language, class, and party.
- For India, the asset is influence and image; the risk is that host-country polarisation also splits the diaspora.

Flow diagram

Indian diaspora -> US tech medicine lobbying tech medicine lobbying
Indian diaspora -> UK business and cabinet business and cabinet
Indian diaspora -> Professional and student Europe
US tech medicine lobbying -> Bounded influence
UK business and cabinet -> Bounded influence

Conclusion

The Indian diaspora plays a decisive role where it is concentrated - US tech and selected ballots, UK business and cabinet politics - and a smaller role in most of continental Europe. Examples support a strong but bounded comment: influence is real; omnipotence is a myth.

Facts & figures

H-1B and Indian IT

The principal labour channel through which Indian professionals shaped the US tech economy.

Kamala Harris, 2020

Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate of Indian origin; a symbol of political arrival, not of a bloc vote.

Rishi Sunak

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer in 2020; Indian-origin leadership inside a major European economy's cabinet.

Indian-origin CEOs

Highly visible US corporate leadership that shapes brand and hiring, not US statute by itself.

Remittances

Diaspora economic link to India; distinct from political power inside America or Europe.

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