

Press Kit

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About USINPAC

The US India Political Action Committee (USINPAC) is the political voice of 2.7 million Indian-Americans. As a bipartisan organization we work to impact policy on issues of concern to the Indian-American community in the United States. USINPAC has enhanced the community's presence and its issues on Capitol Hill and given Indian-Americans a stronger voice in the legislative process in a bipartisan manner. USINPAC's activities focus on strengthening a grassroots network to work on issues concerning the community.

USINPAC was founded in October 2002. We promote fair and balanced policies by working together with other Indian-American organizations and creating a platform that enables entry of Indian Americans into the political process. USINPAC has a dedicated presence in Washington, DC with full time staff and passionate volunteers. We provide bipartisan support to candidates for federal, state and local office who support the issues that are important to the Indian-American community.

USINPAC's Achievements

One of USINPAC's most significant achievements was its success in impacting the passage into law of the US-India civilian nuclear cooperation agreement in 2008. USINPAC had been at the forefront of advocating and lobbying the US Congress and Indian policy-makers right since the deal's inception in 2005.

Over the past eight years USINPAC has worked persistently to impact policy decisions and also act as a watchdog for Indian Americans. Following are some highlights of USINPAC's achievements over the years:

2010: Popular TV Host Glenn Beck lashed out against the River Ganges in India as well Indian Physicians. USINPAC launched a campaign by publicly asking him to apologize by pressuring his network and his advertisers. The next day Glenn Beck apologized for his remarks.

2008: Following the release of a campaign document from then Candidate Obama that took issue with the Indian-American supporters of Sen. Clinton by questioning their loyalty to the US. USINPAC wrote to him and also launched a campaign in the key states of Iowa and New Hampshire which resulted in his calling and apologizing to USINPAC Chairman as well as writing a letter of apology to USINPAC.

2006: USINPAC members immediately met with Senator George Allen after he called an Indian-American campaign worker of his opponent "Macaca." This meeting led to Senator Allen apologizing on national television. USINPAC then led a campaign to garner support for his opponent and also launched a voter turnout mission for his opponent which resulted in a loss for Sen. Allen.

In 2004, USINPAC's advocacy led the U.S. House of Representatives to ask the State Department to submit a report demonstrating Pakistani cooperation on safeguarding against and combating WMD proliferation, identifying the size and stockpile of Pakistani fissile materials as well as Pakistani efforts to combat terrorism, dismantle terrorist camps and strengthen democratic institutions. USINPAC's efforts also led the Congress to acknowledge for the first time Pakistan's support for Jihadi terrorism against India.

USINPAC led the efforts to launch the United States Senate Caucus on India and Indian Americans on April 29, 2004 with Caucus Co-Chairs Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and John Cornyn (R-Texas) and thirty-five U.S. Senators as members of the Caucus.

In 2003, USINPAC's advocacy led to the passage of a Congressional resolution requesting the Bush Administration to disclose to Congress the extent to which Pakistan is fulfilling its commitments to clamp down on cross-border terrorism; shut down terrorist camps in

Pakistan-held Kashmir; and halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons technology to rogue states and terrorists.

Executive Committee

- Sanjay Puri, Chairman and Founder

Sanjay Puri is the Chairman of US India Political Action Committee (USINPAC). Mr. Puri is a recognized authority on US-India relations, and a frequent public speaker on US-India relations and the political impact of the Indian American community.

He is also the founder and CEO of Alliance for US India Business (AUSIB). AUSIB is dedicated to strengthening economic ties between the US and India. Mr. Puri regularly leads delegations of business and political leaders to India. He is Founder and CEO of Optimos Incorporated, an information technology company located in Chantilly, Virginia. Before founding Optimos, Mr. Puri worked at the World Bank. He received his MBA in Finance from the George Washington University's School of Business.

- Surabhi Garg, VP Finance and Operations

Surabhi Garg is the Vice President of Finance and Operations at USINPAC, and has headed its Fundraising and Operations since inception. Ms Garg was named 'Women of the Year' in the 'Professional Organizations' category by the IndUS Business Journal.

She holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology and a Master of Science in anatomy and physiology from the University of Calcutta, India. Ms Garg has also worked at Voice of America, Washington DC as a news show anchor and broadcaster for nearly 10 years.

- Robinder Sachdev, Director-India Affairs

Robinder Sachdev is Director of India Affairs at USINPAC. A recognized expert on foreign affairs and economic diplomacy, Mr. Sachdev was featured as one of the 12 most influential Indian Americans along with Mr. Bobby Jindal, Mr. Sanjay Puri, Mr. Fareed Zakaria, and

Prof. Jagdish Bhagwati by the Business & Economy magazine in 2007. Almost 20 years ago, he pioneered software based professional political consulting in India, and went on to be part of former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi's staff as a consultant.

Mr. Sachdev is also President of Imagindia Institute, an independent think tank that works extensively amongst the Indian Diaspora and in India to promote the imagination of India.

- Vikram Chauhan, Senior Advisor on Strategic Issues

Mr. Vikram Chauhan is one of co-founders of USINPAC and the Senior Advisor on Strategic Issues. He has over 20 years of technical, management and startup experience, and more than 15 years of experience with the public sector. He serves as a subject matter advisor in technology strategy and governance, and enterprise transformation (planning and execution of strategic change). He is the co-author of the SMART city model, a re-engineering methodology for providing e-business solutions for government and industry.

- Manish S. Antani, Director of Grassroots Outreach

An internationally recognized expert on US Foreign Policy, Mr. Manish S. Antani is the Director of Grassroots Outreach at USINPAC. He previously served on the Executive Committee of USINPAC as their Legislative Director. In this capacity, he regularly met with Members of Congress and senior Congressional staff to discuss the complexities of US-India relations. He developed grassroots strategies to increase Indian American voter participation which was instrumental in the creation of USINPAC's New Hampshire Chapter.

Manish S. Antani is an associate with Barnes & Thornburg LLP where he focuses on real estate transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate tax.

- Manish Thakur, National Security Coordinator

Manish Thakur is the National Security Coordinator for USINPAC on issues relating to the security relationship between the United States and the Indian subcontinent. Through his interactions and dealing with government, military, education and corporate representatives from South East Asia, India and the Middle East, Mr. Thakur has gained a distinct perspective on global security issues. Manish currently also chairs the Sovereign Wealth Committee of the Hedge Fund Association of America.

He spent much of the past 20 years in international finance and real estate. Mr. Thakur worked on corporate finance assignments in Indonesia, Thailand, Russia, Mexico, India, Australia, Britain, and the United States. Mr. Thakur was also Managing Partner of Hudson Fairfax Group, a New York-based investment firm focused on India.

- Kersey B Dastur, Senior Advisor

Kersey Dastur has been involved with USINPAC since inception, and is currently a Senior Advisor. He is a Business Strategy and Finance Consultant with over 38 years of experience in information technology, financial management and global operations.

Mr. Dastur's professional career in the USA includes Senior Executive positions with national and international Information Technology Consulting companies, a leading regional bank, and a congressionally chartered Housing Corporation. Mr. Dastur provides his experience based advice to enable USINPAC develop and promulgate its positions on strategic US policy issues like Homeland Security and Defense against Terrorism, Domestic Economic and Trade Policy, and Energy Independence.

- Dr. Rahul Jindal, Co-chair Healthcare Subcommittee

Dr Rahul M. Jindal is a transplant surgeon at the Walter Reed AMC and a Clinical Professor at George Washington University, Washington, DC. He obtained his M.B.B.S. and M.S. (Surgery) from B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, India. He then studied in the U.K and earned the F.R.C.S from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Dr Jindal received a Transplant Fellowship at the University of Oxford, U.K, followed by Clinical Fellowships at the Boston University and Mt Sinai Medical Center, New York.



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