

India & NRIs Need An Insider Job In Trump's America

Taking a leaf out of Jewish playbook, Indian-Americans must deploy their community strengths to protect their interests, as well as New Delhi's, against rising anti-immigrant sentiment

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If you are on social media, you couldn't have missed the heated arguments over the H-1B visa programme. Many top professionals in tech, engineering, and healthcare in US are of Indian origin. US holds a lottery each year to permit 85,000 professionals to be employed by American corporations.



The H-1B programme has been a key factor in US global competitiveness. Some of the top US companies are led by immigrants. But it's equally true that some companies have exploited the system to recruit cheaper foreign labour, thus depriving qualified Americans and driving down wages.

Now, contrast the annual H-1B number with the over 3.5mn people who cross over into America illegally every year. Unsurprisingly, immigration was a key issue during US elections. But most Indian-Americans imagined the angst was with illegal immigration – not the legal kind. What they didn't realise is that politics is often driven by emotion.

The important thing is that Indian-Americans comprise just 1.35% of the US population but contribute disproportionately. Their median

Around 51% of Indian-Americans are Hindu. This subgroup has always been more comfortable with Democrats. For this group to swing Republican shows just how badly the Democrats messed up. Recall the badgering of India and Hindus by Democrats such as Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and Pramila Jayapal; the needling of India through USCIRF reports; the SWAT raids on BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in New Jersey; attempts to pass resolution SB403 for perceived caste discrimination in US; the propping up of Khalistani terror suspects; a regime change operation in Bangladesh at the cost of Hindu lives...the list is long.

Contrast that with Trump who unequivocally

Duryodhan into joining the Kauravs.

Acting on Krishna's advice, Shalya becomes Karn's charioteer during the war. However, he subtly questions Karn's strategies, exaggerates Arjun's superiority, and sows seeds of doubt at crucial moments. In modern geopolitics, Shalya might well be seen as a lobbyist, an influential force working quietly behind the scenes to shape outcomes.

A striking example of a contemporary "Shalya" is the pro-Israel lobby. US hosts 51 pro-Israeli lobbying organisations, despite the Jewish population accounting for only 2.2% of the country. But consider this: half of America's 800 billionaires are Jewish. Is it any wonder that US unilaterally relocated its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem? Or that military aid to Israel reached a whopping \$16.3bn last year?

Having Indian-Americans in the limelight – Vivek Ramaswamy, Kash Patel, Usha Vance, Sundar Pichai, or Sriram Krishnan – does not ensure their interests are protected. In America, as elsewhere, it's usually about money.

Given the provisions of Federal Election Campaign Act, it is illegal for foreign nationals, govts, or corporations to directly or indirectly contribute money to US political campaigns, or parties. But the Jewish community in US is able

