

## Policy Research, Strategy, and Advocacy

- We are a 4.5 million strong Indian American community.
- A significant contributor to the US economy's diverse sectors, such as technology, agriculture, hospitality, transportation, finance, retail, etc.
- We have about 125 delegates meeting with house representatives to discuss four **issues** and concerns of Indian Americans to the 118th Congress.
  1. US-India relations
  2. Immigration,
  3. Religious phobia
  4. Critical Minerals

### US-India relations

- Quoting President Biden from June 2023 “we are “two great nations, two great friends, two great powers that can define the course of the 21st century.”
- India is the world's 5th largest economy, playing a major role in G20 and QUAD.
- Third largest military power
- World's largest democracy.
- To counterbalance China's assertive actions in 2016, the Obama administration granted India the MDP (Major Defense Partner) status and President Biden’s initiated Initiative on ICET (Critical and Emerging Technologies).
- However, ICET and MDP are not codified via legislation and lack consistent funding and assurance of cooperation. As Whitehouse's ICET paper calls out, India must be exempted from technology and defense export control.

### Immigration

- We, the immigrants
  1. contributed \$220 billion to the GDP,
  2. paid \$72 billion in taxes,
  3. invested \$45 billion in real estate,
  4. founded 44% of startups, and
  5. received 24% of patents.
- Tech immigrants, vital for innovation and the economy,
  1. face challenges due to the 7% country cap on green cards (9,800 annually).
  2. Over 50% of H1B tech professionals are Indian, leading to a backlog of over 400,000 awaiting green cards.
- Prevent the disruption of families and continue attracting high skilled talent by supporting the EAGLE Act of 2023 PHD Act, removing backlogs, and utilizing un-used quota of green cards, thus protecting children and families and maintaining the US’s innovative workforce eco-system

### Religious phobia

- Indian Americans ~4.5 million
  1. The majority of them are Hindus, followed by Sikhs,
    - Five Indian American House of Representatives expressed concerns over anti-Hindu attacks and hate crimes to the Justice Department in April 2024,
    - California Civil Rights Department, published May 2024, reported that among religiously motivated incidents, anti-Hindu bias ranked second, constituting 23.3%, second to Anti-Jewish bias or antisemitism (37%)
      - while Anti-Muslim hate crimes rank third, comprising 14.6%
  2. The most common reasons cited in the reports were

- discriminatory treatment (18.4%),
  - verbal harassment (16.7%), and
  - derogatory names or slurs (16.7%)
- Indian Americans: despite positive contributions, Hindu Americans face
  1. stereotypes,
  2. disinformation,
  3. bullying,
  4. discrimination, and
  5. hate crimes
- As a minority, having different skin colors, language, food habits, accents, and faiths (Indic traditions originating from India: Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist).
- Such differences result in bias, demeaning comments as well as violent hate crimes termed religious phobia, e.g., Hindu phobia.
- Kindl request to review and support the bill that appreciates their contributions as well as condemns attacks on emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and diversity in the United States in line with similar bills against antisemitism
  1. Hindu places of worship,
  2. Hindu phobia, and
  3. anti-Hindu bigotry
  4. hate

## Critical Minerals

- Critical minerals essentials such as lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements being manipulated as export control by China on graphite, gallium, and germanium represents a threat of notable escalation in trade relationship with the United States for
  1. clean energy technology,
  2. military, consumer electronics and
  3. defense
- The U.S.'s reliance on Chinese supply chains makes the US vulnerable to potential supply disruptions or strategic manipulation by Beijing.
- Reliance on China poses risks to national security and economic stability due to supply chain interruptions severely impacting US industries ranging from consumer electronics to defense systems.
- The US must consider reducing this dependence, which is critical for maintaining the US's technological edge, economic stability, and national security.
- The proposed legislative measures are steps toward achieving greater mineral independence and securing supply chains from potential geopolitical disruptions.