

201

GITA GOPINATH

YOUNG ECONOMIST RESHAPING GLOBAL FINANCE

Gita Gopinath is among the world's most influential economists, becoming the first woman Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund before rising to First Deputy Managing Director, the institution's second-highest post. A Harvard University professor (currently on leave), she previously advised Kerala's Chief Minister, reflecting her strong India connection. She received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (2019) and has been recognized by Time, the Financial Times, Bloomberg, and the World Economic Forum for her exceptional leadership in economics.

202

ARVIND PANAGARIYA

THE SCHOLAR BEHIND TWO ECONOMIC POWERHOUSES

Arvind Panagariya is one of the most influential Indian-American economists, earning global recognition through his distinguished academic career at Columbia University and leadership in international trade and development. He has served as Chief Economist at the Asian Development Bank and held key roles with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, and UNCTAD. Returning to India, he became the first Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog. A Padma Bhushan (2023) awardee, his acclaimed book *Why Growth Matters*, co-authored with Jagdish Bhagwati, won the Eccles Prize, cementing his impact on economic thought in both the United States and India.



203

RUCHIR SHARMA

**WALL STREET'S GLOBAL THINKER
WITH AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE**

Ruchir Sharma is one of the world's leading investors and economic commentators, serving as Chairman of Rockefeller International after a distinguished 25-year career at Morgan Stanley Investment Management. An acclaimed author, his New York Times bestseller *The Rise and Fall of Nations* established him as a leading global economic thinker, while *What Went Wrong with Capitalism* was named one of the Wall Street Journal's Best Books of the Year. Born in India and based in New York, Sharma continues to bridge India and the U.S. through his influential writings, investment insights, and commentary on global markets.



204

RAJ CHETTY

USING BIG DATA TO UNLOCK THE AMERICAN DREAM

Raj Chetty is one of America's most influential economists, serving as the William A. Ackman Professor of Economics at Harvard University and Director of Opportunity Insights. Born in New Delhi and raised in the United States, he pioneered the use of big data to advance research on economic mobility and equal opportunity. One of Harvard's youngest tenured professors, Chetty received the prestigious John Bates Clark Medal and a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, cementing his place among the world's leading public policy economists.



205

ZAKIR HUSAIN

TABLA MAESTRO WHO WON AMERICA'S HIGHEST APPLAUSE

Ustad Zakir Hussain (1951-2024) elevated the tabla to the global concert stage, building an extraordinary career in the United States while remaining India's foremost musical ambassador. A Grammy-winning percussionist and composer, he collaborated with leading Western and world musicians, co-founded the pioneering fusion band Shakti, and inspired generations through performances and teaching. Honored with India's Padma Vibhushan and the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, America's highest folk and traditional arts honor, Hussain left an enduring legacy bridging Indian classical music and American audiences.

206

ANOUSHKA SHANKAR

CARRYING INDIA'S SITAR TO THE WORLD STAGE

Grammy-nominated sitar virtuoso Anoushka Shankar has built an acclaimed international career, captivating American audiences with her innovative blend of Indian classical music, jazz, flamenco, and contemporary sounds. The daughter and disciple of Ravi Shankar, she has performed at prestigious U.S. venues and collaborated with leading global artists. A champion of cultural dialogue and humanitarian causes, Shankar has earned multiple Grammy nominations and the British House of Commons Shield, strengthening India's musical legacy across the United States and beyond.

A photograph of Anoushka Shankar, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple and white patterned shirt, playing a sitar. The background is dark with some stage lights.

