Global Indians List 2026: Sundar Pichai tops the list

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News

The 'HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2026', ranking Indian-origin leaders who head the world's most valuable companies headquartered outside India, was released on 12 November. Alphabet (Google) CEO Sundar Pichai took the top spot (company value $4.2 trillion), with Microsoft's Satya Nadella second ($2.6 trillion). Micron's Sanjay Mehrotra, YouTube's Neal Mohan and Google Cloud's Thomas Kurian followed. The ranking is based not on personal wealth but on the value of the companies they lead, as of 25 June 2026. It features 236 people leading 200 companies with a combined value of $15 trillion – 53% more than the first edition in 2024 ($9.9 trillion). Sixteen are women, led by Jayshree Ullal of Arista Networks; 177 are based in the United States. The report also says 58% of those listed completed their undergraduate education in India.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
List	HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2026 (first edition 2024)
Released	12 November 2026
Basis	Company value (25 June 2026), not personal wealth
No. 1	Sundar Pichai – Alphabet ($4.2 trillion)
Nos. 2–5	Satya Nadella, Sanjay Mehrotra, Neal Mohan, Thomas Kurian

Point	Details
Count	236 people, 200 firms; total value $15 trillion
Women	16 – led by Jayshree Ullal (Arista)
Countries	USA 177; UAE and UK 15 each

Background

- Sundar Pichai: born on 10 June 1972 in Madurai, he grew up in Ashok Nagar, Chennai. He studied metallurgical engineering (B.Tech) at IIT Kharagpur, then an M.S. at Stanford and an MBA at Wharton. He joined Google in 2004 and led the team behind the Chrome browser; he became Google CEO in 2015 and Alphabet CEO in December 2019. He received the Padma Bhushan (Trade & Industry) in 2022.
- IIT Kharagpur: India's first IIT, started in 1951 in the Hijli Detention Camp building in West Bengal. The IIT Act, 1956 declared it an 'Institute of National Importance'. The IITs grew out of the Nalini Ranjan Sarkar Committee's recommendation.
- The diaspora: 9 January is observed as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, marking Gandhi's return to Bombay from South Africa on 9 January 1915; the first was held in 2003. The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card is issued under the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- Hurun: Hurun Report is a research and publishing group founded in Shanghai in 1999 by British chartered accountant Rupert Hoogewerf, known for its rich lists. This list is brought out with HSBC.

Tamil Nadu link: List-topper Sundar Pichai was born in Madurai and grew up in Chennai, studying at Jawahar Vidyalaya and Vana Vani School on the IIT Madras campus. Of the Indian-origin leaders on the list, 58% completed their undergraduate studies in India.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

List: HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2026 (first edition 2024); Released: 12 November 2026; Basis: Company value (25 June 2026), not personal wealth; No. 1: Sundar Pichai – Alphabet ($4.2 trillion).

What is the background to this news?

Sundar Pichai: born on 10 June 1972 in Madurai, he grew up in Ashok Nagar, Chennai. He studied metallurgical engineering (B.Tech) at IIT Kharagpur, then an M.S. at Stanford and an MBA at Wharton.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which group published the 'Global Indians List 2026' topped by Sundar Pichai?

A) Forbes

B) Fortune

C) Bloomberg

D) HSBC Hurun

Answer: D – Explanation: HSBC Hurun – ranked by company value; first edition 2024. Hurun Report was founded in Shanghai in 1999.

2. Which Indian award did Sundar Pichai receive in 2022 in the Trade and Industry category?

A) Padma Bhushan

B) Padma Shri

C) Padma Vibhushan

D) Bharat Ratna

Answer: A – Explanation: Padma Bhushan – Satya Nadella received it the same year. Padma awards are announced on the eve of Republic Day.

3. In which Tamil Nadu city was list-topper Sundar Pichai born?

A) Madurai

B) Coimbatore

C) Tirunelveli

D) Thanjavur

Answer: A – Explanation: Madurai – 10 June 1972. He grew up in Ashok Nagar, Chennai and studied at Vana Vani School on the IIT Madras campus.

4. India's first IIT, where Pichai studied, began in 1951 in which detention camp building?

A) Cellular Jail

B) Deoli camp

C) Hijli camp

D) Yerwada Jail

Answer: C – Explanation: Hijli Detention Camp, Kharagpur (West Bengal). The IITs followed the Nalini Ranjan Sarkar Committee's advice.

5. Under which Act is the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card issued?

A) Citizenship Act, 1955

B) Passports Act, 1967

C) Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

D) Emigration Act, 1983

Answer: A – Explanation: Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955; OCI began in 2005 and the PIO card was merged into it in 2015. 177 of the listed leaders are US-based.

Sources: Business Today; Hurun India (list publisher); Britannica; padmaawards.gov.in; IIT Kharagpur; MEA. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.