

Asians' Mark

THE United States Census Bureau has found that people of Asian origin are doing much better economically than the average American. Asians in the US have made their mark in education, medicine and other activities, raking in relatively high incomes. Asians are becoming prominent in the cultural terrain too.

The US Census Bureau reports that Chinese is the most widely spoken non-English language after Spanish. Popularisation of a language could have many cultural spin-offs. In the coming years, the number of Asians in the US is bound to increase even further as a greying US population compels authorities there to ease immigration restrictions and people from Asia and South Asia in particular migrate in search of jobs.

The number of Asians in the US is 13.3 million or 5% of the total population. And their numbers could treble to 33 million in 50 years, according to the census estimates. It is also interesting to note that Asians seem to be well on their way to making a significant contribution to America's intellectual capital in the years to come.

This is evident from census data on levels of education among young Americans. About 47% of Asians aged 25 and above had a minimum bachelor's degree in the US. But only 27% of all adults in the US in the same age group had a bachelor's degree.

So Asians are expected to wield a lot more influence in US politics. In fact, Hispanics, African Americans and Asians will constitute the three most formidable groups, and will in all likelihood reduce Anglo-Saxon Americans to minorities in the decades to come.

This should not cause any undue paranoia because American society was historically built on a mish-mash of immigrant cultures. There have been tensions between ethnic groups from time to time, but eventually everything settles down nicely in the salad bowl that is America. Materialist growth and innovation are the common factors that shape the consciousness of all Americans, overriding all other cultural baggage. This is what is most fascinating about American capitalism. It will be interesting to see how 30-40 million Asians contribute to the destiny and values of American capitalism by 2050.

