

FEAT_InfluenceList.indd

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"My Indian background has... shaped my intellectual outlook: I am comfortable with the changes taking place in the world, I understand and welcome the rise of Asia where many others see it as threatening, and I am comfortable with diversity, with a tolerance for the messiness of life. It has shaped my mental map of the world." – Fareed Zakaria



Vijay Iyer

- A LYNCH PIN OF THE NEW YORK JAZZ SCENE
- Age: 39
- Born In: Rochester, New York; traces his roots to Tamil Nadu
- Now lives In: New York City

VIJAY IYER IS a classic example of the infuriating, overachieving immigrants' son – he's smart enough that he could pursue physics at the graduate level; he's gifted enough that he could ditch science to become one of the most respected jazz pianists working in the New York scene today. His percussive playing style and his eclectic tastes – he can go from Duke Ellington to Stevie Wonder to M.I.A. in a single concert – make him a favourite of critics, many of whom called his 2009 album *Historicity* the best jazz album of the year.



THE 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL INDIANS

GQ 50

Fareed Zakaria

- THE LEADING ANALYST OF US FOREIGN POLICY
- Age: 46
- Born In: Mumbai
- Now lives In: New York City

AS ANOTHER WRITER on this list knows all too well, it's a sign your opinions are being taken very seriously when a *fatawa* is issued against you and the FBI starts putting your mail in Tupperware boxes. Even without that validation, few people would have denied that Fareed Zakaria is one of the most influential commentators on American foreign affairs and policy. Armed with degrees from Harvard and Yale, he has a breadcrumb trail of accolades lying in his wake: he was the youngest managing editor in the history of *Foreign Affairs*, then took the helm of *Newsweek International* in 2000 before landing his own show on CNN: *Fareed Zakaria GPS* (which, in



Arun Netravali

- THE REASON YOU BLOW A WHOLE PAYCHECK ON HIGH-DEFTV
- Age: 64
- Born In: Mumbai
- Now lives In: New Jersey

THE NEXT TIME you secretly watch *Desperate Housewives* in high-definition on TV, you have Dr Arun Netravali to thank for the pleasure. After all, it's his work that paved the way for HDTV broadcasts. Born and raised in Mumbai, this IIT Bombay graduate was chief technical officer at Lucent Technologies and the president of Bell Labs till 2001. He holds over 70 patents and has co-authored several books on video compression and encoding

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