

THE WEEKLY CHAI · WIRES · 2026

# 250

America turned 250.

Forbes ranked the *immigrants*  
who built it.

*The South Asian cut. Twenty-seven cards. One ledger.*

COLLECTOR'S EDITION · SET 01

The Weekly *Chai*

WIRES.THEWEEKLYCHAI.COM/THE-250

FORBES RANK

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# Vinod Khosla

BORN NEW DELHI -> BUILT SUN MICROSYSTEMS · KHOSLA VENTURES

IIT Delhi to Sun Microsystems co-founder to the first venture check into OpenAI. Topped the 2026 Midas List, twenty-five years after topping the first one.

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# Naval Ravikant

BORN NEW DELHI -> BUILT ANGELLIST

Moved to New York as a child. Built AngelList in 2010 and changed how startups raise their first dollar. Early money into Twitter, Uber and Postmates.

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# Hemant Taneja

BORN DELHI -> BUILT GENERAL CATALYST

Landed in the US at 15. Now runs General Catalyst and its roughly \$43 billion under management. Stripe, Snap, Anduril, Livongo on the scorecard.

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# Sanjay Mehrotra

BORN KAMPUR -> BUILT SANDISK · MICRON

Co-founded SanDisk in 1988. Runs Micron since 2017, one of three companies on earth that make the memory the AI era runs on.

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# Sundar Pichai

BORN CHENNAI -> BUILT GOOGLE · ALPHABET

IIT Kharagpur to Chrome to CEO of Google in 2015 and Alphabet in 2019. Runs the company most of the planet asks its questions.

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# Abhijit Banerjee

BORN MUMBAI -> BUILT J-PAL · MIT

The 2019 Economics Nobel for testing what actually lifts people out of poverty. Moved development economics from theory to evidence.

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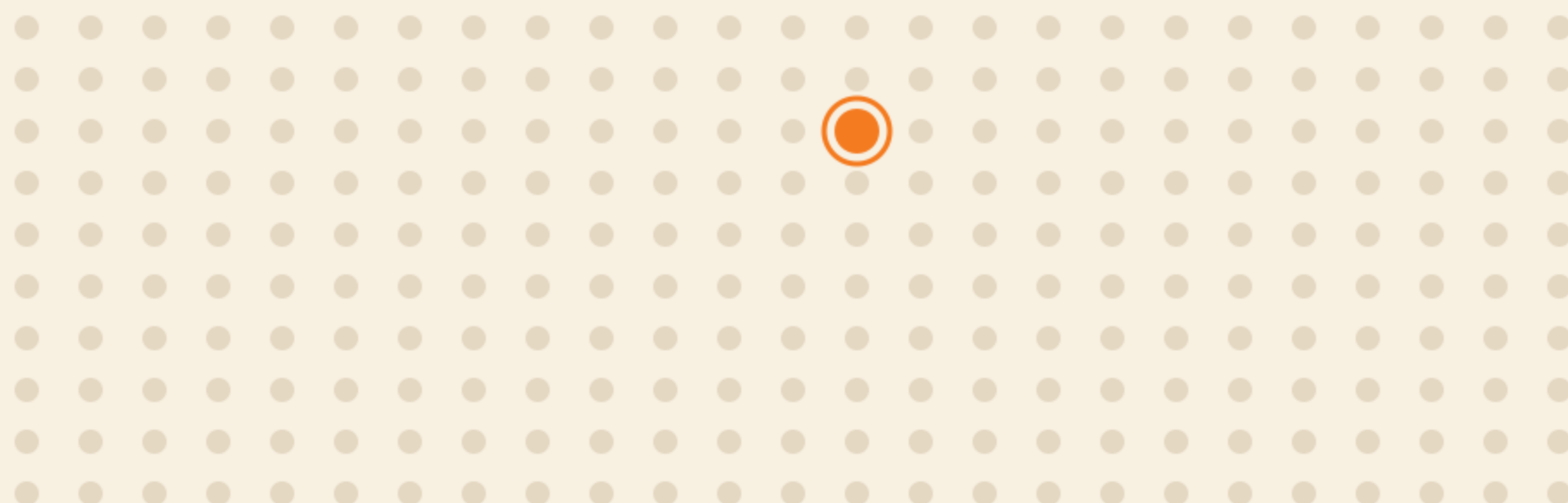
64

# Padma Lakshmi

BORN CHENNAI -> BUILT TOP CHEF · TASTE THE NATION

Arrived as a child. Turned the American table into a story about who sets it. Top Chef host, Taste the Nation creator, bestselling author.

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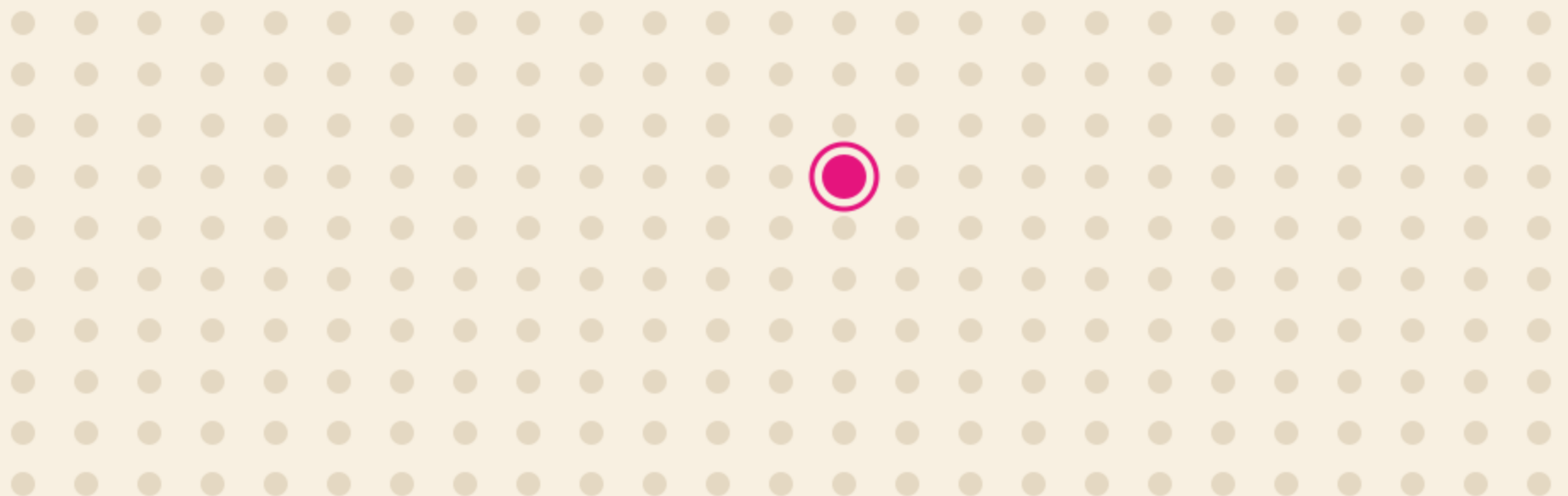
89

# Satya Nadella

BORN HYDERABAD -> BUILT MICROSOFT

Took Microsoft's keys in 2014 and rebuilt the company around cloud and AI. Azure, LinkedIn, Activision, OpenAI. The quiet decade that doubled an empire.

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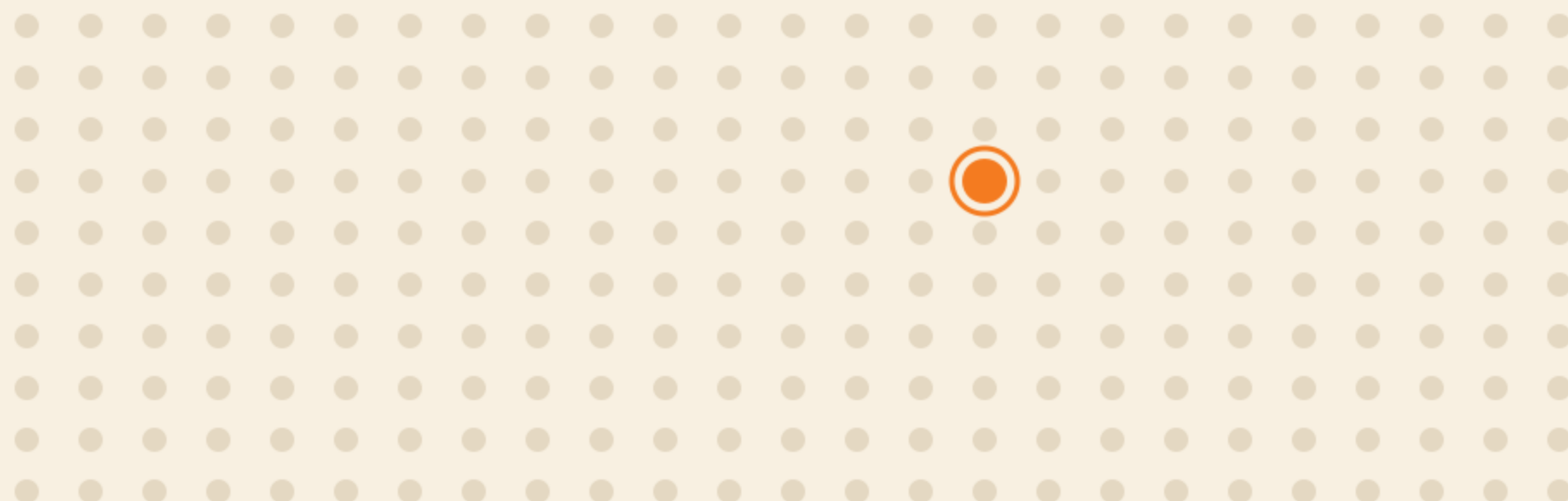
91

# Neerja Sethi

BORN DELHI -> BUILT SYNTEL

Started Syntel from a Michigan apartment in 1980 with \$2,000. Sold to Atos for \$3.4 billion. Pledged \$1.3 billion of the family fortune away in 2025.

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# Jay Chaudhry

BORN PANOH, HIMACHAL PRADESH -> BUILT ZSCALER

From a Himalayan village without running water to five security companies and Zscaler, the firm that guards the traffic of half the Fortune 500.

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# Romesh Wadhvani

BORN KARACHI, RAISED IN INDIA -> BUILT ASPECT DEVELOPMENT...

Polio at two, IIT Bombay, then Aspect Development, sold for \$9 billion in 2000. Now builds SymphonyAI and gives billions away through his foundation.

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# 103

## Ram Shriram

BORN CHENNAI -> BUILT GOOGLE FOUNDING INVESTOR · SHERPALO

One of Google's first checks and its board for two decades. Sherpalo put early money into Stripe and Notion. The quietest kingmaker in the Valley.

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FORBES RANK

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# Jyoti Bansal

BORN RAJASTHAN -> BUILT APPDYNAMICS · HARNESS

IIT Delhi to AppDynamics, sold to Cisco for \$3.7 billion days before its IPO. Started over the next year with Harness. Serial is the job description.

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# 142

## Neha Narkhede

BORN PUNE -> BUILT CONFLUENT · OSCILAR

Co-created Apache Kafka at LinkedIn, co-founded Confluent on top of it, acquired by IBM in March 2026. Now builds Oscilar, an AI risk platform.

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## David Paul

BORN INDIA -> BUILT GLOBUS MEDICAL

Founded Globus Medical in 2003. Spine implants, surgical robotics, a revenue line past \$2 billion, and almost no public profile.

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# Jitendra Mohan

BORN INDIA -> BUILT ASTERA LABS

Runs Astera Labs, the connectivity-chip company whose links wire AI servers together. The IPO rode the same wave the GPUs did.

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# Nikesh Arora

BORN GHAZIABAD -> BUILT PALO ALTO NETWORKS

BHU to Google's business chief to SoftBank to CEO of Palo Alto Networks since 2018.

Routinely near the top of every CEO pay table in America.

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# Shyam Sankar

BORN INDIA -> BUILT PALANTIR

Employee 13 at Palantir, now its CTO.

Published 18 theses on rebuilding American defense in December. Chairs Ginkgo Bioworks on the side.

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## Raj Sardana

BORN INDIA -> BUILT INNOVA SOLUTIONS

Built IT services firm Innova Solutions over three decades from Atlanta. No venture capital, no headlines, one large private fortune.

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# Aman Narang

BORN INDIA -> BUILT TOAST

Co-founded Toast, the cashier and operating system for close to 100,000 restaurant locations. Took it public in 2021, took the CEO chair in 2024.

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## Arvind Krishna

BORN ANDHRA PRADESH -> BUILT IBM

IIT Kanpur to IBM in 1990 to the CEO chair in 2020. Bet the company on hybrid cloud with the \$34 billion Red Hat acquisition he architected.

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# Shantanu Narayen

BORN HYDERABAD -> BUILT ADOBE

Took Adobe's keys in 2007 and moved creative software to the cloud. Hyderabad Public School, same as Nadella. The schoolyard claims two CEOs on this list.

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**K.R. Sridhar**

BORN INDIA -> BUILT BLOOM ENERGY

Built oxygen-generation technology for NASA's Mars program, then reversed the cell to make power on earth. Bloom Energy is the result.

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# Premal Shah

BORN INDIA -> BUILT KIVA

Left PayPal to co-found Kiva in 2005.

Crowdfunded microloans, billions moved to small businesses across emerging economies, structured as a nonprofit.

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# Rakesh Gangwal

BORN KOLKATA -> BUILT US AIRWAYS · INDIGO

IIT Kanpur engineer who ran US Airways, then co-founded IndiGo, now India's largest carrier. Airlines on two continents, one career.

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Rajiv Jain

BORN INDIA -> BUILT GQG PARTNERS

Left Vontobel at 53 to start GQG Partners. Within five years it managed over \$100 billion and listed in Australia. Concentrated conviction investing.

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# Indra Nooyi

BORN CHENNAI -> BUILT PEPSICO

Chennai to Yale to the PepsiCo CEO chair, 2006 to 2018. Revenue went from \$35 billion to \$63 billion on her watch. Now on Amazon's board.

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