

Rajan, Nitish on global thinkers' list

FOREIGN POLICY MAGAZINE'S TOP 100 GLOBAL THINKERS, 2012

Top 5



1. Aung San Suu Kyi
Nobel laureate, pro-democracy leader and opposition leader in Myanmar and **Thein Sein**, President
For showing that change can happen anywhere, even in one of the world's most repressive states



3. Bill Clinton, former US president and **Hillary Clinton**, US secretary of state
For still thinking about tomorrow



4. Sebastian Thrun
Computer scientist, California
For rewiring the robot-car revolution



2. Moncef Marzouki
President of Tunisia
For keeping the ideas of the Arab Spring alive



5. Bill Gates & Melinda Gates
Co-chairs, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
For daring to imagine a better everything/for insisting on women's power to choose

Indians/persons of Indian origin who have featured in FP's Top 100 Global Thinkers, 2012

10. Narayana Kocherlakota
President of Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
For changing his mind on interest rate

33. Salman Rushdie, writer
For defending free speech as if his life, and ours, depended on it



67. Ruchir Sharma
Managing director and head of Emerging Markets Equity team of

Morgan Stanley. For "dusting the gold" off the term 'emerging markets'

74. Raj Chetty, economist, currently a professor of economics at Harvard University
For following the numbers wherever they lead



77. Nitish Kumar
Chief minister of Bihar. For turning around India's poorest state



80. Raghuram Rajan, chief economic advisor to government of India
For saving India from its politicians

86. Pankaj Mishra, writer
For charting the intellectual rise of the East

89. Ricken Patel, co-founder, and executive director of Avaaz, US
For proving web activism doesn't have to begin and end with a click

90. Vivek Wadhwa
Entrepreneur-turned-academic & researcher
For a fresh idea in the US immigration debate

FP's Global Thinkers list for 2011

Indians/persons of Indian origin

14. Azim Premji
founding chairman of Wipro
For being the Bill Gates of India

37. Anna Hazare
Anti-corruption activist
For asking the world's largest democracy to live up to its billing

60. Abhijit Banerjee
Economist, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
For his brilliant book on the world's poorest

79. Deepa Narayan
Poverty researcher
For seeing the poor as more than victims

94. Arundhati Roy, author
For being the voice of India's voiceless

97. Arvind Subramanian
Senior fellow, Peterson Institute of International Economics, Washington
For sounding the alarm on China's economic ascendancy

Source: Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy's list for 2012 includes 9 Indians or persons of Indian origin

BS REPORTER

Bangalore, 26 November

Economist Raghuram Rajan and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar have featured in America's *Foreign Policy* Magazine's Top 100 Global Thinkers list.

Rajan, currently the chief economic advisor to the Government of India, has been ranked 80 on the list while Kumar is three notches higher at 77.

According to the magazine, Kumar has been featured on the list 'for turning around India's poorest state'. In its note on the Bihar chief minister, the magazine said much of the image of Bihar, which is often referred to as the country's 'bleakest state' for its colonial levels of poverty and corruption, changed after Kumar became the chief minister in 2005. "Much of that began to change, however, when a low-key bureaucrat from a local centre-left party, Nitish Kumar, won the 2005 election and set out to clean up a wasteland where 100 million people are squeezed into a territory smaller than Arkansas," the magazine wrote.

"In his two terms in office, he has done just that, relying on an array of innovative programmes to crack down on crime, shame corrupt public officials and boost economic development," it said.

Rajan was taken in the list 'for saving India from its politicians', according to the

magazine.

"In the US, where Raghuram Rajan lived and worked for years as a professor at the University of Chicago and chief economist at International Monetary Fund (IMF), he is known primarily as one of the guys who saw it coming. In a 2005 paper — widely derided by his colleagues at the time — Rajan warned that financial markets were encouraging irresponsible speculation that could lead to a major crash," it said.

"Now, Rajan is bringing his know-how to his most challenging assignment yet — saving the world's largest democracy from economic ruin," it added.

The list has also featured a few other Indians and people of Indian origin, such as author Pankaj Mishra, Morgan Stanley's Managing Director and head of Emerging Markets Equity team Ruchir Sharma, and entrepreneur-turned-researcher Vivek Wadhwa. Myanmar's pro-democracy leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, and Thein Sein, President of Myanmar, jointly tops the list which also include Bill Gates, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton among others.

The list includes a record half-a-dozen Pakistani nationals including Malala and Husain Haqqani, the former Pakistani Ambassador to the US, who has been ranked at 61st spot along with his wife Farahnaz Ispahani.