



Shefali Razdan Duggal

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RED-LETTER DAY: Shefali Razdan Duggal of California with Obama at a fund-raiser

Prez poll: Obama, Romney allot key roles to PIOs

Washington: Recognizing the importance of Indian-Americans in US political dynamics, both Obama and Romney campaigns have entrusted key roles to members of the community with the presidential elections less than 100 days away.

It is not only the two Indian-American governors Nikki Haley from South Carolina and Bobby Jindal from Louisiana who are leading the pack for the Romney campaigns, but there are many Indian-Americans from across the country who have been entrusted with key positions and playing an important role for the Republican party in the run-up to the November 6 elections.

Dr Sampat Shivangi, an eminent Indian-American from Mississippi, chaired a fund raiser event attended by Mitt Romney, the Republican presidential nominee. The event raised \$1.7 million, one of the highest ever raised by a comparatively small state like Mississippi.

"President Obama's tirade against India on outsourcing has really changed his image in majority of the Indian-Americans. His television advertisements day in day out have taken warpath to disgrace India as the problem for joblessness in US which is untrue," Shivangi said in defence of his support for Romney.

This week, Romney roped in Akshay Desai, the Indian American from Florida, to campaign among Asian-Americans. Desai has also been entrusted with key responsibilities for the Tampa convention as well as the fund raising of the Romney campaign.

Similarly, there are host of Indian-Americans who have made it to key positions in Barack Obama's re-election bid. Indian-American women from California, Shefali Razdan Duggal and Kamala Harris, have been nominated to the 2012 Convention Standing Committees.

While Duggal is one of the top fund raisers for Obama, Harris is the California attorney general. Duggal has raised between \$500,000-\$1 million for the Obama reelection campaign. "Obama has had such a productive and successful first term and I'm confident he will continue this progress in his second term," Duggal said. PTI