

Pichai Sundararajan (born June 10, 1972^{[3][4][5]}), better known as **Sundar Pichai** (/ˈsʊndəːrˈpiːtʃaɪ/), is an [Indian-born American](#) business executive.^{[6][7]} He is the [chief executive officer](#) (CEO) of [Alphabet Inc.](#) and its subsidiary [Google](#).^[8]

Pichai began his career as a [materials engineer](#). Following a short stint at the management consulting firm [McKinsey & Co.](#), Pichai joined Google in 2004,^[9] where he led the product management and innovation efforts for a suite of Google's client software products, including [Google Chrome](#) and [ChromeOS](#), as well as being largely responsible for [Google Drive](#). In addition, he went on to oversee the development of other applications such as [Gmail](#) and [Google Maps](#). In 2010, Pichai also announced the open-sourcing of the new video codec [VP8](#) by Google and introduced the new video format, [WebM](#). The [Chromebook](#) was released in 2012. In 2013, Pichai added [Android](#) to the list of Google products that he oversaw.

Pichai was selected to become the next CEO of [Google](#) on August 10, 2015, after previously being appointed [Product Chief](#) by the then CEO [Larry Page](#). On October 24, 2015, he stepped into the new position at the completion of the formation of [Alphabet Inc.](#), the new [holding company](#) for the [Google](#) company family. He was appointed to the Alphabet Board of Directors in 2017.^[10]

Pichai was included in *Time*'s [annual list of the 100 most influential people](#) in 2016^[11] and 2020.^[12]

Early life and education

Pichai was born in [Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India](#),^{[13][9][14]} to a [Tamil](#) family.^{[15][16]} His mother, Lakshmi, was a [stenographer](#), and his father, Regunatha Pichai, was an [electrical engineer](#) at [GEC](#), the British [conglomerate](#).^{[17][18]}

Pichai completed schooling in Jawahar Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School^[19] in Ashok Nagar, Chennai and completed the Class XII from [Vana Vani school](#) at [IIT Madras](#).^{[20][21]} He earned his degree from [IIT Kharagpur](#) in [metallurgical engineering](#) and is a distinguished alumnus from that institution.^[22] He holds an [M.S.](#) from [Stanford University](#) in materials science and engineering, and an [MBA](#) from the [Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania](#),^[23] where he was named a [Siebel Scholar](#) and a Palmer Scholar, respectively.^{[3][24][25]}

Career

Pichai speaking at the 2015 [Mobile World Congress](#) in [Barcelona](#), Spain

Pichai worked in engineering and [product management](#) at [Applied Materials](#) and in [management consulting](#) at [McKinsey & Company](#).^[26] Pichai joined [Google](#) in 2004, where he led the product management and innovation efforts for a suite of Google's client software products, including [Google Chrome](#)^[27] and [ChromeOS](#), as well as being largely responsible for [Google Drive](#). He went on to oversee the development of other applications such as [Gmail](#) and [Google Maps](#).^{[28][29]} On November 19, 2009, Pichai gave a demonstration of ChromeOS; the [Chromebook](#) was released for trial and testing in 2011, and released to the public in 2012.^[30] On May 20, 2010, he announced the open-sourcing of the new video codec [VP8](#) by Google and introduced the new video format, [WebM](#).^[31]

On March 13, 2013, Pichai added [Android](#) to the list of Google products that he oversaw. Android was formerly managed by [Andy Rubin](#),^[32] who was a director of [Jive Software](#) from April 2011 to July 30, 2013.^{[33][34][35]} Pichai was selected to become the next CEO of Google on August 10, 2015,^[36] after previously being appointed Product Chief by CEO, [Larry Page](#). On October 24, 2015, he stepped into the new position at the completion of the formation of [Alphabet Inc.](#), the new [holding company](#) for the Google company family.^{[37][35][36]}

Pichai had been suggested as a contender for [Microsoft's](#) CEO in 2014, a position that was eventually given to [Satya Nadella](#).^{[38][39]} In August 2017, Pichai drew publicity for firing a Google employee who wrote a [ten-page manifesto](#) criticizing the company's diversity policies.^{[40][41][42][43][44]}

In December 2017, Pichai was a speaker at the [World Internet Conference](#) in China, where he stated that "a lot of work Google does is to help Chinese companies. There are many small and

medium-sized businesses in China who take advantage of Google to get their products to many other countries outside of China."^[45]^[46]

On December 11, 2018, Sundar Pichai was questioned by the [United States House Judiciary Committee](#) on a range of Google-related issues such as possible political bias on Google's platforms, the company's alleged plans for a "censored search app" in China, and its privacy practices.^[47] In response, Pichai told the committee that Google employees cannot influence search results. He also stated that Google users can opt out of having their data collected and that "there are no current plans for a censored search engine" in China.^[48]

In December 2019, Pichai became the CEO of [Alphabet Inc.](#)^[49]^[50] His compensation from the company topped \$200 million in 2022,^[51] which many employees criticized in light of large scale layoffs that Google undertook in 2023.^[52]