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INDIANS IN NEW ZEALAND CONCERNED

The 120,000-strong Indian community in New Zealand is shocked after the latest terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

New Zealand is home to many families that have migrated

INDIA'S 9/11

Vaib Gangan

from India, and Mumbai is one of the main cities of origin for many migrants. Many Kiwi Indians have families and friends in Mumbai.

While writing these reports, there were no incidences of any of these families or friends of Kiwi Indians affected in Mumbai. Though the anxiety levels are very high. Many families that *The Global Indian* spoke to have expressed concerns for safety of their loved ones back in Mumbai.

"These are signs of times to come," says Moti Champaner who lives in Christchurch. "We need to unite to fight the growing terror."

Many members of the community have stayed glued to their television sets or telephones. The mood in Mumbai is that of mourning. "It's my sister's birthday tomorrow; she lives in Mumbai, but we'll not be celebrating," says Mukesh Goyal from Dunedin.

We are flying to India for Christmas and are very worried about our trip, says Prakash Zhunzhunwala from Sydney.

"We'll go ahead with our trip but we feel for those that have lost their lives."

KIWI COUPLE FREED

David Clement and his wife Vinka were freed from the Oberoi Hotel after being holed up in the hotel for over 33 hours. They had barricaded themselves in their room by moving their bed to the door.

The Kiwi couple lives in Australia while their son, Michael, lives in Auckland. They were eating Toblerone and peanuts from the minibar of their room. The hotel's water had run out.

According to New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, there are 139 New Zealanders registered in Mumbai.

DOUBLE WHAMMY

First, it was unrest in Bangkok that affected him. Then in Mumbai. Luck was evading Kiwi Greg Davey. The rugby coach was hoping to fly back to New Zealand from Mumbai via Bangkok.

His flight from Mumbai to Bangkok got cancelled when activists in Thailand stormed into the Bangkok airport. While he waited for another flight from Mumbai, the terrorist attacks in the city spoiled his plans. As we write this, he is still anxiously waiting to get on the plane to Auckland.

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THE BRAVEHEARTS

The men-in-uniform who lost their lives undisputedly take the top place in the list of heroes during this latest terrorist attack in Mumbai. India pays tribute to her martyrs — Anti-Terrorist Squad chief Hemant Karkare, additional commissioner of police Ashok Kamte, and widely-known encounter specialist Vijay Salaskar, and many other

eyelid, the gunman opened fire. "We were in sort of a single file," Dr Mangeshkar, a gynecologist who was one those guests, told Reuters. "The man in front of my wife shielded us. He was a maintenance section staff. He took the bullets." Over 17 Taj staff have died. Later, Dr Mangeshkar and his doctor-wife nursed an injured guest for many hours before help arrived.

channels exercised restraint in giving away information that could have been sensitive.

THE MUMBAIKAR

From ordinary man on the street who is used to terror on Mumbai roads, this was not just another terrorist attack. But the Mumbaikar (or the Mumbaikar as they are popularly known) has held themselves together in the hour of

INDIA'S 9/11

members of national security group, marine commandoes, rapid action force, Mumbai police and Indian army. Over 16 policemen have reported died, including Shahank Shinde, Prakash More, A R Chitle, Vijay Khandekar, V Obal, B Durgude, N Bhonsale, Jayavant Patil, Yogesh Patil, A R Pawar and M C Chaudhary.

THE TAJ STAFF

The staff should have been more concerned about their own safety. But when you're talking about Indians, 'ordinary' is the last word that comes to your mind. After the initial shock, the Taj staff were shepherding the guests through service lobby when they came face-to-face with one of the gunmen. Before they could blink an

INDIA'S HEROES

Vaib Gangan

MEN IN UNIFORM

Many security agencies, national and local, worked well together in a coordinated effort to save the more than 200 hostages stuck in multiple locations.

THE MEDIA

Indian media, especially broadcast, have set benchmarks for their courageous coverage of the encounter that lasted over 60 hours (while going to press). Many reporters, including women, were seen tirelessly reporting for hours together, with limited food and toilet facilities. Many were risking their lives (rightly or wrongly) while reporting from within firing range. In a country where freedom of expression is widely abused, many television

need. While the schools, colleges and offices have stayed closed for two days as we write this report, the mood is far from panic or anarchy. Mumbai has surprisingly remained calm and poised, while still disturbed and sad. Mumbaikars have joined hands in addressing the after-effects of what will go down in the history of the country as the worst attack on democracy.

FIRE FIGHTERS

Mumbai's fire-fighters swung in action at a moment's notice when two floors of the Taj hotel caught fire. They exposed themselves in the shooting range of terrorist, saving India's iconic structure.

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"I'VE KEPT A REVOLVER UNDER MY PILLOW"

"last night, as the events of the terror attack unfolded in front of me I did something for the first time and one that I had hoped never ever to be in a situation to do. Before retiring for the night, I pulled out my licensed .32 revolver, loaded it and put it under my

pillow. For a very disturbed sleep."

- Amitabh Bachchan

"I have never viewed the Taj as a hotel. It's always been home. My best memories are associated with this magnificent institution — the jewel of Mumbai. I got married there. Now, My daughter is scheduled to marry there."

- Writer Shobhaa De.

Mumbai combined all four elements of its precursors: by attacking it, the terrorists hit India's economy, its tourism, and its internationalism, and they took advantage of the city's openness to the world. A grand slam"

- Shashi Tharoor

The attacks struck at the core of the

fledgling luxury-goods industry in India, threatening to dampen the vibrant growth of one of the sector's key developing markets.

Mumbai's Taj Mahal Palace hotel is the most coveted retail address for luxury goods firms that are tapping into India's growing numbers of wealthy individuals. The Oberoi Trident Hotel houses luxury brands including Salvatore Ferragamo. Any prospective slowdown in the promising Indian

INDIA'S 9/11

market would come at a bad time for the industry. Luxury goods companies have been relying on new markets such as India, Russia and China to counter sluggish growth in Europe and the U.S.

Christina Passariello in Paris and Geeta Anand in Mumbai, Wall Street Journal

"I didn't think we were going to make it."

- One of the survivors of Mumbai attacks.

"Like 9/11, this attack was on India's financial capital. It is our hope that the international community and the Indian government will wake up to the reality of terrorists in their midst and take immediate steps to ensure security for

its people."

Suhag Shukla, said the Hindu America Foundation.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the hostages especially those who were guests of India and were visiting from the US and Britain.'

We appeal to all Indians to stay united and foil the evil designs of the terrorists whose main objective is to

"IN YOUR WORDS"

fan the flames of discord and hatred. We urge the political parties not to exploit these terrorist acts for political purposes."

- a statement by prominent Indians in the US.

"We should not blame the police at any cost. They have been doing whatever they can to protect the people and bring down the rate of casualties. They also have families and they have also been affected. Three of their best cops have died. The way forward is people should be more alert and God willing nothing like this will ever happen not only in Mumbai but also in the world."

Actress Prachi Desai

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THEY SAID IT

"In the US, there's a crisis of confidence. In India, for the first time after decades or centuries, there is a sense of optimism about the future, a sense that our children's futures can be better than ours if we try hard enough."

Returning to India for good has become an attractive option. Here's what people say why.

- Nandan Nilekani, co-chairman, Infosys Technologies.

"It was five years ago that I left America to come live in India. Now, in our family and among our Indian-American friends, other children of immigrants are exploring motherland opportunities. As economies convulse in the West and jobs dry up, the idea is spreading virally.

My love for the country of my birth has never flickered. But these new times piqued interest in my ancestral land.

Since 2006, 280,000 overseas Indians have opted for Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card. Of them, 120,000 are American Indians.

India's second-generation returnees have built boutiques that fuse Indian fabrics with Western cuts, founded

companies that train a generation to work in Western companies, become dealmakers in investment firms that speak equally to Wall Street and Dalal Street, mixed albums that combine throbbing tabla with Western melodies.

- Anand Giridharadas

This Isn't Child's Play



Ask the children of the tribal/backward communities in drought-prone areas in Andhra Pradesh, India. For most of the year, they are bonded labour in cotton fields. No school. No opportunities. No future. And no play either. Your support can change that. The way it did for the children under the CRY-supported project, Sharmik Vikas Kendram(SVK).

SVK & CRY- Success through Holistic Child Rights Approach

CRY's Support	SVK's Efforts	Impact On District Mahbubnagar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Project Planning Management Training Evaluation Techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness on Child Bonded labour Community Mobilisation Promoted Collective Action Women Empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eradication of Child Labour Universalised Elementary Education Enhanced Economic Standard of Living



For more information write to CRY, Child Rights and You, Global Operations, DDA Slim Wing, Barak Ghat, Bapu Park, Kotla Mubarakpur, New Belhi 110 003, India or email: del@crymail.org, or contact by telephone at +011 24653502.

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GLOBAL RECESSION HITS NRIS

Sonali Decosta

Global economic slowdown has only begun, but the signs of difficult times ahead are already visible.

Traditionally, NRIs visit India during Christmas holidays to spend time with their family, friends and relatives.

Many also explore investment opportunities in India.

This time, the story is different.

With the housing market taking a huge plunge in the US, NRIs are struggling to pay their mortgages. This seems to have affected their travel plans to India.

Mohinder Singh, an organiser of foreign tours told ExpressIndia the travel business has gone down by more than 50 per cent.

But here's more.

NRIs are not investing in India's real estate with the same enthusiasm that they have shown in the recent years.

Property dealers in India were already seeing a decline in their income. But it has taken a turn for worse.

They have seen a decline of 60 per cent in their earnings, according to the ExpressIndia report.

New deals are hard to come by and deals already finalised are also being called off by buyers due to the liquidity crunch. Apparently, the prices are holding ground.

"We have been sitting idle for many days," Parminder Singh, a property dealer in Jalandhar told ExpressIndia.

NRI buyers are also not as keen on buying property in Jalandhar. Kewal Singh, a US-based NRI from Jalandhar, was quoted in the report saying the recession in the US has made it difficult for NRIs to invest.

"We are unable to manage our own installments in the US as most of the things are bought on loan there," he said.

The construction sector has also taken a toll. NRIs are not investing in big projects and only concentrating on older projects, according to real estate developer.

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WHEN OPPOSITES ATTRACT

Have you ever stopped to think if the most ordinary, uninteresting, unobtrusive man you might see might have a love story to tell?

Maybe not! But guess what - love does not differentiate between the ordinary and exceptional, the uninteresting and interesting, the unattractive and attractive. It can happen to anyone.

This is what happened to Surinder Sahni (Shahrukh Khan) when he meets his total opposite and finds love in the flamboyant, fun loving, vivacious - Taani (Anushka Sharma).

PREVIEW

What follows is a journey that makes us believe that there is an

extraordinary love story in every ordinary jodi.

Release Date: Friday 12 December

Produced by: Yash Chopra and Aditya Chopra

Directed by: Aditya Chopra

Starring: SHAH RUKH KHAN, Anushka Sharma



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NEW ZEALAND GETS FIRST ASIAN CABINET MP

Sonali Decosta

National party, New Zealand's ruling party, has appointed Pansy Wong as the minister of ethnic affairs. The 53-year old National party MP, who came to New Zealand from Hong Kong 35 years ago, has become the country's first



Asian Cabinet minister. She will also lead the women's affairs portfolio.

Born in Shanghai and bred grew in Hong Kong, the chartered accountant moved to Christchurch in 1974, where she lived for 28 years before moving to Auckland.

Pansy first entered politics as a Canterbury Regional Councillor in 1989, and first entered Parliament in 1996 as a National List MP and

New Zealand's first Asian MP. She moved to Auckland in 2002 to contest the Auckland Central seat. She is married

to Malaysia-born businessman, Sammy Teck Seng Wong.

New Zealand also got its first Sikh minister in Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi. Mr Bakshi was embroiled in an immigration row just days before the election, and lost his seat in Manukau East to Ross Robertson by a big margin. However, he made it to the parliament as a list MP.

The businessman from Delhi moved to Auckland in 2001 with his wife Irvinder Kaur and two sons. He has since been involved with Indian community groups in New Zealand. He is a member of a range of business and social organisations.

Since moving to New Zealand, he has been active in a number of business ventures covering property, wholesaling and the fashion industry.

This is reportedly the most ethnically-diverse parliament that New Zealand has seen. Six new ministers are Asian—three in the ruling team and three in the opposition.

There are 18 Maori MPs in this parliament—fewer than the outgoing parliament.

Interestingly, with every third MP a woman, there are more women in the parliament this time.



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CURRENCY-HEDGING BE ALLOWED

TGI correspondent

India's Assocham (the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India) has requested the country's federal bank to allow non-resident Indians to hedge their currency risk in Indian currency and provide regulatory approvals.

This is expected to enable retail investments in Indian stock markets from NRIs and foreigners, according to a report in India's Business Standard newspaper.

The current rules of Reserve Bank of India for NRI investment in Indian stock market are complex, cumbersome and archaic and these need to be simplified, says Sajjan Jindal, president of Asocham in a presentation to RBI.

Mr Jindal added that investments by NRIs are clubbed with those by foreign institutional investors (FII) for determining the total FII investment limit in any company. As a result, NRIs are deprived of an opportunity to invest in many companies even when the market is down, he added.

PREPAID HEALTH CARD FOR PARENTS IN INDIA

TGI correspondent

Overseas Indians can now gift a prepaid health card to their relatives in India. Launched by Transglobal Beneficial, an American healthcare solutions company, the rechargeable card can be used in 1500 member healthcare facilities throughout India.

Though that's a small number, one hopes that the company will grow that network as the popularity of the card increases. The card offers up to 15 per cent discount on health bills

The company is currently selling the card to overseas Indians in the US and Middle East.

This card could be a boon for NRIs who have ailing families in India, especially in situations where time is of essence.

Reportedly, Indians are the highest remitters in the world. Last year, overseas Indians sent US\$27 billion back to India.

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HE IS THE CHANGE

A young Sikh man taken off a Qantas flight because fellow passengers were afraid to depart with him was the trigger which led Amaninder Singh Sandhu to seek a role within New Zealand police.

Struck by the fear and ignorance of people regarding his race and religion, he thought that one way to win the trust and confidence of the public was to work for an agency that exemplified those qualities.

In September 2007, Amaninder attended a police recruitment session in Auckland, intending to be an observer. However Asian Liaison Officer Jessica Phuang encouraged him join the session. When he raised the issue of wearing a turban as a possible barrier to his joining, Jessica said, "Let's worry about that when we get there."

Both parties approached the issue with goodwill and a desire to reach common ground.

In December 2007 the Sikh Council of New Zealand presented police with a sample turban, correctly tied for consideration. Police confirmed that the turban was acceptable.

In March 2008, three members of the Sikh Council stayed at the Police College to experience first-hand the life of a recruit. They agreed to solutions to minor problems – for example an acceptable smaller version of the turban for use during swimming training and with the riot helmet.

Amaninder is a trailblazer. He is the first Sikh police officer to wear a turban as part of NZ Police uniform and the first turbaned officer to graduate from the Police College.

The work undertaken to make the turban a part of NZ Police uniform has already reaped rewards for other officers.

Constable Jagmohan Malhi, an officer based in Nelson, was

able to return to the practice of his faith and adopted the approved turban in September.

NEW POLICE CARS TO SAVE \$800,000 A YEAR

Better, safer and more cost-efficient. This is not often a phrase that flows together in modern times – but true of the new livery and light-bar being rolled out in the marked police vehicle fleet.

"Police vehicles need to be instantly recognisable to deter bad behaviour both on and off the roads. They also need to be highly visible to protect officers and members of the public at the scenes of road traffic collisions, crime scenes or wherever police cars are parked," says Maria McCoy, Fleet Procurement Manager .

The most significant improvement to safety and savings has been generated by the introduction of the new low profile LED light-bar. "The old light-bar has rotating lights which require an awful lot of power to run," says Stan Pope, National Manager Procurement.

The low profile design of the LED light generates the greatest saving, by reducing the drag on vehicles and creating an estimated fuel saving of around eight percent.

This translates into a saving of around \$800,000 a year – money that could potentially be ploughed back in to front line policing.

Vehicles carrying the new light-bar and livery are being rolled out as part of NZ Police's fleet management programme which currently sees around 500 new uniform cars purchased and distributed each year.

Courtesy: Ten-One, police newsletter.

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ARE MEN SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS?

Priyan Govindankutty

The status of NRIs is fast changing and it is evident with the recent remark by India's minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi: "don't marry Indians in America, including Canada."

The National Commission for Women is also proposing to the government of India to have specific laws related for NRIs.

Some of the provisions of this law include that prior to getting married a NRI man should disclose his salary, employment and all other details to the prospective bride and her family. Which means that an NRI should make public all his confidential details.

Also, normally a wife can claim a share in the husband's property, but by this enactment, a NRI wife can claim share in NRI man's parents' property which is not the case with men residing in India. Further no marriage between a NRI and an Indian woman which has taken place in India may be annulled by a foreign court.

The divorce rates among Indians are fast increasing and this is more in the case of marriages with educated wives mainly due to the women empowerment programmes and the related gender

biased laws in India wherein wives are misusing many laws including filing false complaints of harassment against the husband and his relatives, domestic violence and child custody laws which have been framed with a view to protect Indian women.

Different women's groups in India are lobbying for biased laws favouring wives. Due to this many husbands are suffering in India and abroad.

There has been an increase in false complaints filed by the wives as it is easy for a wife to lodge a complaint against the husband and his family under the category of non-bailable and cognizable offence. Many husbands have lost their jobs. The husband and their family are being legally harassed due to this.

It is also interesting to note that when a wife files a complaint against the husband and his family, the authorities seldom listen to the women in the husband's family including his mother and sisters.

In such a situation wherein the current gender biased laws in India are being increasingly misused which is one of the main reason for the increase in divorce rate, the proposed amendments directed against NRI men are more worrying.

Many NRI men have started raising concerns about the proposed change in law. They feel it is not just the men who work abroad; there are a lot of women

also working abroad including their wives. Why is the proposed law not applicable to NRI women?

NRI men see this as a biased law proposed by the National Commission of Women which is directed against NRI men. Some have even commented that NRIs are today suffering abroad from tough immigration laws and now in the homeland by gender biased laws.

Becoming an NRI has become a curse and not a privilege and it is better to change citizenship to counter these Indian laws.

But this is not easy for the huge NRI men working in the Middle East and other gulf countries.

A NRI wife can claim share in NRI man's parents' property which is not the case with men residing in India. Further it also tells that no marriage between a NRI and an Indian woman which has taken place in India may be annulled by a foreign court.

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YOUR REMITTANCES OF \$700 MILLION ARE INVALUABLE TO SOCIETY

Dr Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India

I have held detailed discussions with the prime minister of Qatar on ways in which we can further strengthen our bilateral ties.

The Gulf region is home to five million Indians. Indians constitute the largest expatriate community in Qatar. Numbering over 400,000, the Indian community has earned a reputation for hardwork, diligence and great enterprise.

Your hard work is contributing to our mutual prosperity. Your annual remittances of over \$700 million to India are an invaluable contribution not only to your loved ones at home, but also to society at large.

The government will take all necessary measures to facilitate this process. Our financing requirements for the infrastructure sector alone are estimated at \$500 billion in the next five years.

The Indian economy rests on strong fundamentals. Over the last four years, we have averaged nine percent GDP growth per year. Our development efforts have been positively impacting our large agriculture sector which has registered a growth of over 4 percent this year.

The resurgence of our rural economy and a more inclusive and balanced model of growth will create wealth for our people and remove poverty.

The present international economic and financial situation has clouded some of the prospects of growth in the near term. I am however confident that the long term outlook

for our economy remains strong and robust. Our inherent strengths, the large size of our markets, the diversified industrial base we possess, and the strong and dynamic private sector will eventually allow us to return to a nine percent growth trajectory.

The current global financial crisis presents a rare window of opportunity for India and Qatar. The investment requirements of a large emerging economy like India and the large financial surpluses of an energy rich economy like that of Qatar can be married together to create a win-win situation.

Indian companies are also increasingly looking to invest in Qatar in such sectors as energy, construction, finance and IT.

In conclusion, I wish to reassure you of the government's deep commitment to your welfare and safety. Our decision to create a separate ministry of overseas Indian affairs was a reflection of this.

This ministry, under the dynamic leadership of my senior colleague Vayalar Ravi has taken several initiatives in the last few years. I am sure these initiatives such as establishment of Overseas Indian Community Welfare Funds, Overseas Workers Resources Centre and the Overseas Indians Facilitation Centre will make an impact.

Last year we have also signed an additional protocol with Qatar for new initiatives for cooperation in the field of human resource development. We would welcome any other suggestions and concerns that you may have.

This is the speech delivered by India's prime minister, Dr Manmohan Singh in Doha, Qatar. It marked the first visit by an Indian prime minister to the Gulf country.

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IS VEGETARIAN GOOD?

Chitra Jha

The plant food takes care of all the nutrient needs. If we eat enough fruits and vegetables we will not suffer from any nutrient deficiency. On the other hand animal foods are largely deficient in vitamins, except for vitamin B complex.

Everyone knows that the animal foods are higher in fat and cholesterol than the plant foods. Animal foods are also high in protein content. This causes excess nitrogen in the blood; leading to many health problems. By eating vegetarian food, we can say goodbye to many bothersome diseases, such as heart diseases, osteoporosis, kidney stones, gall stones, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, arthritis, gum disease, obesity and acne.

- Animal food is totally deficient in carbohydrates, which are essential for good health.
- Animal foods contain far higher concentrations of agricultural chemicals than plant foods.
- Most of the animals are given drugs such as steroids, antibiotics, and growth hormones. These drugs are consumed by us humans when we consume meat.
- There are many bacteria and viruses that thrive on animal foods, when we eat these foods we end up eating these organisms as well. It is not as if the plant foods do not have any micro-organisms, but their number is nowhere near as much as in meat products.
- Animal products take rather long to digest. They

keep putrefying in the colon, creating intestinal toxemia. It is a well known fact that the condition of the intestinal flora is critical to overall health of the body. Vegetarian food travels quickly through the gastro-intestinal tract.

- Plant foods are high in fibre content. Fibre absorbs unwanted, excess fats; cleans the intestines; provides bulk and helps in peristaltic movement; ensuring regular bowel movements. Meat, poultry, and dairy products are deficient in fibre content.
- Animal foods contain the body wastes of the animals such as adrenaline, uric acid, and lactic acid.
- When we consume plant foods we consume a chlorophyll module which is very similar to our hemoglobin.
- Plant foods contain trace elements that not only nurture our cells, but are precursors of all our genetic material.
- Animal food is primarily acidic in nature. It leaves behind an acidic residue after digestion. This acid upsets the delicate pH balance of our body. A chronically over-acidic pH ratio begins to corrode body tissues, produces neuro-toxins, interrupts all cellular functions and generally creates havoc with our health. However, some of the plant foods are also acidic in nature, and should be avoided e.g. alcohol, coffee, white bread, oatmeal, sugar, tobacco, chillies, and all packaged and processed foods.

It's an old debate. Writer, corporate trainer and healer Chitra Jha took stock of benefits of being vegetarian in an article for Indian Age. She looked at economic, environmental, ethical and spiritual issues. Here, we highlight the health benefits.

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SOMALI PIRATES IN DISCUSSIONS TO ACQUIRE CITIGROUP

The Somali pirates, renegade Somalis known for hijacking ships for ransom in the Gulf of Aden, are negotiating a purchase of Citigroup.

The pirates would buy Citigroup with new debt and their existing cash stockpiles, earned most recently from hijacking numerous ships, including most recently a \$200 million Saudi Arabian oil tanker.

The Somali pirates are offering up to \$0.10 per share for Citigroup, pirate spokesman Sugule Ali said earlier today. The negotiations have entered the final stage, Ali said.

“You may not like our price, but we are not in the business of paying for things. Be happy we are in the mood to offer the shareholders anything,” said Ali.

The pirates will finance part of the purchase by selling

new Pirate Ransom Backed Securities.

The PRBS's are backed by the cash flows from future ransom payments from hijackings in the Gulf of Aden. Moody's and S&P have already issued their top investment grade ratings for the PRBS's.

Head pirate, Ubu Kalid Shandu, said “we need a bank so that we have a place to keep all of our ransom money.

Thankfully, the dislocations in the capital markets has allowed us to purchase Citigroup at an attractive valuation and to take advantage of TARP capital to grow the business even faster.”

Shandu added, “We don't call ourselves pirates. We are coastguards and this will just allow us to guard our coasts better.”

(This is written in good humour, and is work of fiction.)

Submitted by Brian DeSilva, Auckland

Reach out to New Zealand's Indian community

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WHAT HAS THE WORLD COME TO?

What we have seen in the Mumbai terror attack is something that should make our blood boil. Why us? We are law abiding citizens of the world. We are by and large peace-loving population of a billion people. We live together harmoniously. What wrong have we done to deserve this? Are we hurting anyone? These are some of the questions that crossed my mind as I watched non-stop media coverage of the terror attacks that changed the face of Mumbai.

A friend of mine who lives in Mumbai tells me that he was planning to go to Taj with friends to celebrate one his

friend's birthday the same night. Luckily their plan changed. But my mind fails to think what would have happened if my friend was in the Taj at that moment.

Saumitra Banerjee, Melbourne

WILL THERE BE CHANGE?

I am hopeful that the new government in New Zealand will listen to us—the Indian community in the country. I left India because I thought New Zealand will be a safe place for my children. But I have seen more crime here that I have seen in India. Indian shop-owners are being killed for a few dollars. The earlier

government was very lenient with criminals. New Zealand's jails are a comfortable place for these criminals to spend their years. The hard-working immigrant families are left the struggle for the rest of their lives after the bread-winning person is murdered brutally. Indian associations are not doing any lobbying with the government. Indian MPs—less said the better.

Name withheld on request

Letters to editor can be sent to editor@theglobalindian.co.nz. The magazine reserves the right to edit, reject letters.

CURRY CORNER

BOMBAY PASTA

Gita Iyer

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 red pepper, slivered
- 3 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon garlic paste
- 1 green pepper slivered
- 1/2 cup shaved almonds

- 1 teaspoon ginger paste
- 1/4 cup raw sunflower seeds
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 teaspoon coriander powder
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup vegetable rotini (twisted spirals) pasta, cooked and drained

Method

Combine the soy sauce and oil in a wok. Saute the

sunflower seeds, onion, ginger and garlic in the oil. Add peppers, and cook until soft.

Add the cooked pasta, cherry tomatoes, feta cheese and almonds and mix well.

Gita Iyer, author of *American Curry*, brings interesting recipes from the US, exclusively for the readers of The Global Indian magazine.



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