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The three-yearly national election is only a few days away. The last election (2005) saw a very close contest between Labour and National parties. This year's elections polls reveal a similar situation. Both National and Labour are currently observing almost similar support. It is likely that the ethnic vote will decide which party comes to power.

Which is probably why both the parties launched their ethnic campaign in October for the first time. The campaigns are trying to woo 300,000 Asian voters in New Zealand.

One in four New Zealander was born outside this country. New Zealand is home to people from over 170 different ethnicities and cultures. Auckland is the southern hemisphere's most ethnically diverse city.

National party has two unique candidates - Melissa Lee hopes to be New Zealand's first Korean minister while Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi the first Sikh minister.

Rajen Prasad (Fijian) and Ashraf Chaudhary (Pakistani), the current Labour MPs, are re-contesting.

But all eyes will be set on Ravi Musuku, National's Indian candidate. Ravi, a pastor by profession, is standing against the strongest contender - the prime minister.

Ravi proved his mettle in the last election, where he doubled the votes for National in the Mr Albert constituency - while standing against Helen Clark.

New Zealand has comparatively good race-relations record.

Many ethnically diverse societies are torn by conflict,

prejudice and discrimination, Labour Party spokesperson for Ethnic Affairs, Chris Carter. "New Zealand has managed to build a very diverse society with few of the conflicts other migrant nations have faced."

To further support New Zealand's increasing diversity Labour will develop a school liaison function within the Office of

## FACE OFF

Sonali Decosta

Ethnic Affairs.

"Schools are often the first place that newly settled migrants and other New Zealanders come into contact with each other.

"By better supporting schools with ways to connect students from different cultural and ethnic communities, they should understand each other better and be more comfortable in different cultural settings," Chris Carter says.



*National's Ravi Musuku almost doubled the support for his party in the last election, and hopes to make it to the Beehive this time.*

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## TO THE MOON N BACK

Sangeeta Anand

When the camera on India's first spacecraft to the moon was looking for a photogenic object, it chose Australia.

Chandrayaan 1, as India's first spacecraft to moon is known, has sent home one of the first pictures it took on its way to the moon—that of Australia.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which leads the project, says all aspects of the mission are progressing

as planned; the camera is working properly, and the spacecraft is orbiting the earth as intended. After it completes a few orbits around the earth to gain momentum, it will start its final journey towards the moon.

The spacecraft is carrying the Indian tri-colour (national flag) which will be placed on the moon once the craft is about 100km from the moon. If successful, India will be only the fourth country to claim its share on the moon—after the US, Russia and Japan.

The unique aspect of the mission is its multi-national nature. Many developed

countries took up India's offer to put their equipment on this craft to gather important scientific data which these countries are seeking.

The unmanned Chandrayaan 1 will not land on the moon. The next stage of the mission, Chandrayaan 2, will touch the lunar surface, and rover on wheels, pick up soil samples, do chemical analysis and send the results back to the craft.

Former president, Dr Kalam, had suggested that India should plant its flag so that it can claim its share of lunar resources in future.

## CRISIS HURTING BRITISH NRIS

Siddharth Karkoi

With the worldwide financial crisis, Indians living in the UK have been adversely affected.

The rising inflation has made life difficult for those migrants that live on low salaries.

Many NRIs have moved their money from British banks to Irish banks that guarantee the safety of their deposits, according to a report by Indo-Asian News Service. Some NRIs are parking their funds with the Post Office. Others

have sent the money back home.

But rich Indians are one of the big beneficiaries of the financial crisis. They are hunting for bargains in the stock and property market.

The UK's property market is reported recording a 30 per cent drop in prices in the last 12 months.

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## INDIA TO REVIEW NRI BLACKLIST

TGI correspondent

India's National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has requested the government to review cases against overseas Indians who were blacklisted for supporting extremist groups in the 1980s terrorism in India's north-western state of Punjab.

This request is made following a report by NCM member, Harcharan Singh Josh. The Commission has noted that these NRIs (non-resident Indians) joined terrorist groups following the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. These NRIs may have been exploited and used against the Indian government, a report by India's Express News Service said.

Indian government has put these NRIs on an alert list. These overseas Indians are not given visa and passports. "Now they have realised their fault and want to come back to India in the mainstream," the commission said.



### Million of girls are keeping house (their own or their in-laws) instead of going to school.

Unavailability of schools, unemployed parents, domestic work or lack of facilities like toilets in school keep girl children in India from going to school, 200 partners, 3000 communities have helped educate 45,000 girls so far. With your support we can enable the many more to go.

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## STONES TO MILESTONES

Vaib Gangan

“If stones are thrown at you, you convert them into milestones.” This was Sachin Tendulkar's comment after reaching the 12,000-run milestone which made him the world's highest test scorer.

This quote, which is likely to be immortalised over the coming years, almost sums up Sachin's career. Who could have put it better than the legend himself. To me, that quality makes him larger than life.

In the interview, Sachin came across as a confident orator - quite different from how I saw him when I interviewed him years ago. New to international cricket and media attention, Sachin was a shy boy then.

He has come a long way since, as an eloquent speaker. He chooses his words very well; he makes his point yet does not offend people. Best of all, he does not lose his focus despite all criticism. He is focused on the game. In fact, it is said, even while playing in his home town, Sachin sleeps alone during important games.

### Universities for NRIs

India has announced setting up three new universities exclusively for NRI students. This is in addition to the one currently being set up in Bangalore which will be opened by 2010.

One wonders if there is need for such a university. Sure, the NRI kids have special education needs, especially after having studied in a foreign education system initially. But I'm sure most NRI parents have funds to provide best education for their children in Indian schools. India has many divisions of cast, colour, culture and religion. Why add more divide?

### Diwali in New Zealand

New Zealand's Auckland region hosts the largest Indian population in New Zealand - about 120,000 of us. And this year, there are four Diwali festivals organised throughout this one city. We also have at least three Independence day celebrations in Auckland.

The Chinese community in Auckland is larger than the Indian community, but there is only one Lantern festival that I am aware of.

And we are only one of the 150 ethnic minorities living here. Just imagine, if each of these communities decided to organise as many cultural festivals.

### Why not invest in India?

Why do overseas Indians not invest heavily in India, unlike the Chinese expatriates who invest actively in China?

Well, those that are passionate about India don't have the money to invest, those that have money don't have the expertise to invest, and those that have the expertise to invest don't have passion for India.

Lord Swraj Paul says so.

### Sit tight, rough ride ahead

With the financial crisis in the US and its ripple-on effects on most major economies, this has implications for overseas Indians. Many Indians in the US are returning home. NRIs (non-resident Indians) are also withdrawing their funds from banks and sending them back home in India. Some of them are also considering investing in the Indian real estate sector. At the same time, property market in major Indian cities is expected to see a setback.

What do you do if you are an Indian living abroad? Reduce your loans, buy things only when necessary, ask for bargains; this is a good time to buy - property, shares, currency, provided you can buy with cash.

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## DOSTANA

Deepa Pande

Producer: Dharma Productions

Director: Tarun Munsukhani

Cast: Priyanka Chopra, Abhishek Bachchan, John Abraham and Bobby Deol

PREVIEW

If Bollywood is a reflection of Indian society, then there are some interesting trends on the horizon. And these trends are a reflection of India – a land of contradictions. In the midst of religious orthodoxies, the same-sex unions have firmed up their foot-hole. The latest Bollywood movie, Dostana, explores the concept of gay relationships – albeit in a lighter vein.

In fact, this exploration is in the backdrop of age-old Bollywood story formula – pretending to be someone else to get a job or house or love. In the 1960s, you could

often see male actor pretending to be a female to win his love, or to get a job and accommodation. The latest Bollywood movie, Dostana, draws on that logic. Here, Abhishek Bachchan and John Abraham pretend to be gay partners to get accommodation. This is because the landlady wants to protect her niece – Priyanka Chopra. But the straight guys fall in love with Priyanka.

If this wasn't interesting enough, Bobby Deol enters the screen. He is Priyanka's boss, and as you would guess, he is interested in her.

Sounds interesting? We'll have to wait to see if the director (Tarun Munsukhani) is able to make the most of the plot. This is a Dharma production, which almost guarantees a good treatment of the story. Icing on the cake is film's music, delivered by Vishal and Shekhar.



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## LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER

Dr Richard Worth

Parole is not a right for prisoners; it's a privilege – a privilege that must be earned. Any decision to grant parole to an offender should put the public's right to safety first.

Parole should be granted only to prisoners who have demonstrated that their behaviour has changed.

National will deny parole for the worst repeat violent offenders.

These offenders have shown contempt for the safety of others by committing serious acts of violence, and then offending again after being released.

Life is the presumptive sentence for murder, but seldom does it actually result in a full life sentence served in prison.

Currently, when a life sentence is handed down for murder, the court imposes a minimum non-parole period – the period of the sentence that the offender must serve in prison – of 10 years or more.

In 2006, the average minimum non-parole period was 14.3 years.

After they have completed the minimum non-parole period, most murderers are, at some stage, let out of prison on parole.

Because a life sentence is indeterminate (no fixed end point) they are then on parole for the rest of their lives. They can be recalled to prison at any stage.

An analysis of 144 offenders convicted of murder since

2002 and given life sentences suggests that 10 had committed previous violent offences attracting a sentence of five years or more.

If National's policy of no parole for the worst repeat violent offenders had been law at the time they committed murder, these 10 would be in prison for the rest of their lives:

George Baker (murdered Liam Ashley).



### NewsWorthy

Dr Richard Worth  
NATIONAL PARTY MP

William Duane Bell (Panmure RSA killer).

Graeme Burton.

Peter Carrington (murdered a 73 year old woman, previously raped an 81 year old).

Michael Curran (murdered a two-year-old girl while on bail for manslaughter).

William Holtz (murdered a dairy owner while on parole, previous convictions for aggravated robberies).

Emani Seu (murdered fellow inmate, previous convictions for rape of under-age girls).

Timothy Taylor (murdered Lisa Blakie, previous convictions for rape, kidnapping, aggravated robbery).

Michael Wallace (murdered Birgit Brauer, previous convictions for rape, armed robbery).

*Dr Worth is National party's associate spokesperson for ethnic affairs.*

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## HINDUS WON'T ENDORSE PARTISAN POLITICS—ZED

TGI Correspondent

American Hindus, numbering around two million, would not endorse any single candidate for the November presidential election.

Indo-American leader Rajan Zed, in a statement issued in Nevada (USA), says that religion was something sacred and spiritual; a tool for communication with God; human response to divine Reality; and meant for focusing the heart/mind of the devotee to some higher ideal.

It should not be associated with materialistic objectives like partisan politics.

Zed, who is the president of Universal Society of Hinduism, points out that

most Hindus are well versed with nitisastra, covering political science and political ethics in all its practical aspects. Moreover, ancient Sanskrit scriptures like Atharva-veda, Aitareya Brahmana, Arthasastra of Kautilya, Santiparvan in Mahabharata, Barhaspatya Arthasastra, Nitisara, etc., have well educated them to make wise political decisions.

Zed says that he has received lot of pressure for endorsing presidential and other candidates but has stayed away from this allurements.

Religious organisations and leaders can work for spreading justice, freedom, responsibility, righteousness and fairness; but religion loses moral power when it gets involved in partisan politics.

But Zed has asked all eligible Hindu-Americans to stand up and vote, because it puts them in the driver's seat; helps them control their future,

and speak their mind, and make others listen; and demands respect.

Hindus are prudent enough to vote with their well-formed conscience in November four general election for president; federal, state, district, and city offices; measures and constitutional amendments.

Rajan Zed further says that heavens never mandate a political blueprint for us human beings to implement. Hindus are well versed with the concept of dharma (righteousness) and can distinguish it from adharma (unrighteousness).

Anything having to do with materialism is inevitably transitory. Opening theme of pre-BCE Hindu scripture Isha Upanishad is clutching to the Real and declining everything else—everything less real, Zed adds.

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## WAIKATO PRESENCE FOR ETHNIC AFFAIRS

A higher profile for ethnic issues in the Waikato-Bay of Plenty region will result from the opening of the regional office of the Office of Ethnic Affairs in Hamilton, says the Department of Internal Affairs.

Mervin Singham, Director, Office of Ethnic Affairs, says: by establishing a presence, in the region, we can assist

the various ethnic communities to engage and build relationships with each other.

With over 14 per cent of the Hamilton population having ethnic origins other than Anglo-Celtic, Maori or Pacific Islands, it is important that there is an Ethnic Affairs presence in the region, says Mervin Singham.

He says that the Office of Ethnic Affairs will contribute to the region through a mix of new and existing programmes.

"We will, for example, expand the Building Bridges pilot programme which works with specific ethnic communities to identify issues and provide support for communities to address them."

Other initiatives include Intercultural Awareness and Communication training to government agencies so they can be more responsive to the needs of local communities.

## KIWIS WILL LEAVE NZ FOR OZ

TGI Correspondent

"The avalanche of people leaving New Zealand to go to Australia over the past year will be seen as a trickle if we don't put our house in order", said Sir Roger Douglas.

"The current global meltdown, coming on top of New Zealand's own government induced meltdown, means we are facing a financial tsunami."

"The economic future of our country is hanging in the balance.

"Frankly these are not the times for faint-hearted politicians worried more about their own voting franchise than the future of our country.

The country needs to implement long overdue changes like ACT's 20 point plan that will not only strengthen the economy but increase our per person incomes as well.

Until we do, we will not stop the exodus, nor will we make this a country which those departing will want to return to."

## NRIS DESERTING THEIR WIVES

TGI Correspondent

Apparently there are 20,000 cases against NRI husbands are pending in India's north-western state of Punjab, according to India's NRI minister, V Ravi.

Don't marry Indians in the US or Canada, Ravi told a media gathering in New York.

When Ravi goes overseas. He doesn't travel alone. He takes 19 ministers with him. Why? "Many of them do not get chances to visit the US," Ravi told India Abroad.

Ravi said he receives many complaints from girls abandoned by their NRIs grooms. "Women approaching me, crying, to tell me their plight is a common thing. We want to prevent men using marriage to cheat poor women and leave them after some time," he said.

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## BAILOUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

Dr. Dean Hirsch, Irene Khan, Jeremy Hobbs, Tom Miller and Gerd Leipold

The US government provided another bailout of \$37.8 billion to the giant insurance company, AIG, bringing the total of rescue loans to that one company in the last two weeks to nearly \$123 billion.

This is \$18 billion more than the annual amount of aid to poor countries and twice that needed to achieve the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals.

In Europe the bailouts have continued. The UK government has thrown in a further 50 billion to recapitalise the UK banking sector which is roughly what's needed for poor countries to adapt to climate change each year.

The urgency shown by rich countries to tackle the financial meltdown stands in stark contrast to their foot-dragging and broken promises over aid and poverty alleviation, human rights and climate change.

It is clear that reduced demands for exports to developed countries and lower foreign investment will mean less growth and government revenue for already-fragile social protection and services.

For millions of the worlds poorest citizens, it is literally a matter of life and death.

As the economy shrinks and countries tighten their belts, migrants and refugees could be pushed back to untenable situations. Social tensions could increase, leading nervous governments to clamp down on dissent and impose tough public security policies, curbing civil liberties.

During the 1972/3 recession, global aid spending fell by 15% to just \$28.8

billion. In 1990/3, aid donors slashed their spending by 25% over a five-year period to \$46 billion, and aid did not return to 1992 levels until 2003.

Humanitarian aid what we spend to help people hit by natural disasters and conflict also fell sharply and over a similar time as a direct result of the 1990-3 recession.

In terms of trade, for instance, countries reacted to the 1929 Wall Street crash and global depression by erecting tariff barriers and world trade fell by two-thirds. A replay of that in 2009 would be a disaster for poor exporting countries. Reduced aid and trade flows

could mean that the people in the poorest countries pay the highest price for the profligacy of the credit bubble in North America and Europe.

Human rights are not a luxury for good times. Inaction in the face of climate change is not a viable option. Global poverty does nothing for global stability. This is not just about money.

The signs of concerted action by the G7 finance ministers and the Eurozone finance ministers to address the financial crisis are welcome but they are not enough.

Governments must reduce the volatility in energy prices, food prices and the financial markets by ensuring sensible regulation, adequate protection for the rights of poor and vulnerable people, and long-term environmental sustainability.

Governments must show decisive leadership to build a global economy that is green and where better lives and livelihoods for all is more important than a system that rewards a privileged few.

***A joint statement by World Vision International, Amnesty International, Oxfam International, Plan International and Greenpeace.***

The urgency shown by rich countries to tackle the financial meltdown stands in stark contrast to their foot-dragging and broken promises over aid and poverty alleviation...

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## DO-IT-YOURSELF TAX REFUNDS

Sonali Decosta

People wanting to find out if they're due a tax refund from Inland Revenue can check with just a few easy steps.

Inland Revenue Group Manager Assistance, David Udy, said some people may not realise that they can check their tax status and request a refund themselves.

"People may think they need an accountant or a specialist service if they want to find out about a possible refund, but we've ensured it is something people can do for themselves without the need for a third party," he said.

Mr Udy said there are some simple steps people can follow to find out if they've paid the right amount of tax, are due a refund, or have tax to pay.

An online personal tax summary calculator can be found on the Inland Revenue website at [www.ird.govt.nz](http://www.ird.govt.nz). People can also register for Look at Account information on the website, to check the details the department has about their income.

Another way of checking income is by ringing 0800 257 773 to request a personal tax worksheet, or 0800 257 778 to ask for a summary of earnings. The

summary shows income and tax deduction details for the year, based on a person's employment, benefit or pension information.

Mr Udy said there were many reasons why a customer may have overpaid or underpaid tax during the year.

A person could be eligible for a refund if, for example, they didn't work a full year, had more than one job during the year, or have expenses to claim.

On the other hand, Mr Udy said they might owe tax if some of their income during the year has not been recorded by the department - for example, from investment dividends.

"Once people have worked out whether they owe money, or are due a refund, they can choose whether to contact us. It is entirely up to the customer."

If a person wants to claim a refund, they tell Inland Revenue the details of their income, and request a personal tax summary either through the website, or by calling 0800 257 444. If they are entitled to a refund, they will be paid," said Mr Udy.

He said Inland Revenue was keen to ensure that people knew how to check their income and tax status, and work out if they were due a refund. "People can do it for themselves, and there is no need to pay a third party. Of course, that choice is up to the customer."

## LET'S DRINK TO IT

Vaib Gangan

India is probably one of the few countries where drinking is glamourised through movies (Devdas) and music (ghazals), yet continues to be a cultural taboo. Indians are not traditionally known to be wine-drinkers. But that culture seems to be changing - thanks to big international winemakers eyeing the untapped Indian market. Currently, Indians consume 1.2 million wine cases a year. Of these, foreign wine accounts for only 20 per cent, or one in five cases.

An industry expert feels the Indian market is growing at 30 per cent. Interestingly, most of the foreign wine brands are brought to India by Indian companies, by acquiring foreign winemakers. For example, Champagne Indage, a leading Indian winemaker has bought Thachi Wines Company and VineCrest, two Australian wine companies, and is now selling leading Australian brand in India.

India's United Breweries, a well-known liquor company, is bringing wines from as diverse regions as France, Portugal and New Zealand.

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A sliced Carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye... and YES, science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and function of the eyes.

A Tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. All o f the research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopine and are indeed pure heart and blood food.

Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of the heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and all of the research today shows grapes are also profound heart and blood vitalizing food.

A Walnut looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three (3) dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.

Kidney Beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function and yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.

Celery, Bok Choy, Rhubarb and many more look just like



bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium and these foods are 23% sodium. If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.

Avocadoes, Eggplant and Pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female - they look just like these organs. Today's research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. And how profound is this? It takes exactly nine (9) months to grow an avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. There are over 14,000 photolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each one of these foods (modern science has only studied and named about 141 of them).

Figs are full of seeds and hang in twos when they grow. Figs increase the mobility of male sperm and increase the numbers of Sperm as well to overcome male sterility.

Sweet Potatoes look like the pancreas and actually balance the glycemic index of diabetics.

Olives assist the health and function of the ovaries

Oranges, Grapefruits, and other Citrus fruits look just like the mammary glands of the female and actually assist the health of the breasts and the movement of lymph in and out of the breasts.

Onions look like the body's cells. Today's research shows onions help clear waste materials from all of the body cells. They even produce tears which wash the epithelial layers of the eyes. A working companion, Garlic, also helps eliminate waste materials and dangerous free radicals from the body.

*(Sent by a reader—Sumitra Murthy. Original author unknown.)*

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## IDIOTS AT WORK

When our phones went dead, I contacted the phone company. They promised to be out between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00p.m. When I asked if they could give me a smaller time window, the pleasant gentleman asked, 'Would you like us to call you before we come?' I replied that I didn't see how he would be able to do that since our phones weren't working. He also requested that we report future outages by email. (Does email work without a phone?)

### IDIOT SIGHTING #1

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, 'Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?' To which I replied, 'If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?' She smiled knowingly and nodded, 'That's why we ask.'

### IDIOT SIGHTING #2

The stoplight on the corner buzzes

when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with a co-worker of mine when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?'

### IDIOT SIGHTING #3

At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear co-worker who is leaving the company due to 'downsizing,' our manager commented cheerfully, 'This is fun. We should do this more often'. Not a word was spoken. We all just looked at each other with that cow-in-the-headlights stare.

### IDIOT SIGHTING #4

I work with an individual who plugged her power board back into itself and for the life of her couldn't understand why her system would not turn on.

### IDIOT SIGHTING #5

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed I

had never signed my name on the back of the credit card.

She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature I had just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared the signature to the one I had just signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

### IDIOT SIGHTING #6

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbour call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Koala Crossing sign on our road. The reason: too many Koala's were being hit by cars and she didn't want them to cross there anymore.

*Submitted by: Brian D'Silva, Auckland*

## Reach out to New Zealand's Indian community

To advertise contact [editor@theglobalindian.co.nz](mailto:editor@theglobalindian.co.nz) or 021 2514924

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## WHEN DO WE BECOME KIWIS?

The Citizenship and Identity bill was passed in 2004 that increases residency time to 5 years from 3 years, and no longer recognises the time one has spent contributing to this nation.

A lot of us here have made this country our permanent home; I can understand some fuss being made on New Zealand citizens moving to Australia, but the majority of migrants stay in New Zealand and are well settled here.

Many of us would like to gain our citizenships and a sense of identity with our adopted country, and also prefer to travel overseas without much hassle to visit our extended relatives who are part of the worldwide Asian Diaspora.

Things are often difficult traveling on our present country's documents. What is more difficult is that many of us have spent several years here on a work permit and given some of our best years here, and we still have to wait for years and years to gain an identity in this country.

Do you feel there are any moves within the migrant community to get this bill amended to include time spent in the nation contributing? Do you feel any political parties or MPs would be willing to raise this issue? Is there something to this that as an individual I can do or write to any MP about it?

As a community publication editor, do you feel or sense that most people within the Diaspora would prefer to get the time spend in this nation

recognised like Australia and Canada has?

I have spent 8 years on a work permit, but got my residency only few years ago, I got it after this bill was passed, and now I often face distress at visiting my surviving family members who are in Europe, with my current passport.

**Ashok Sawant, New Zealand (email)**

*(Editor says: Changes to the legislation are not on cards, currently. You may wish to contact your local MP with your request.)*

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

## CURRY CORNER

### SQUASH AND CHEDDAR PARATHA

Gita Iyer

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 3 teaspoons salt
- 1 1/2 cups of water
- 1 teaspoon garlic paste
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ginger paste

5 cups all-purpose flour

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

1 10 oz. packet of frozen, cooked butternut squash, thawed

#### Method

Mix all ingredients but the oil and knead into stiff dough. Use a food processor or bread machine for best results. Knead the oil into the dough. Cover and set aside for 4 hours. Make

1 inch balls with the dough, and roll out into 5 inch rounds. Cook both sides on a hot griddle for 1/2 minute each. Or, use a tortilla maker to press into 5 inch rounds, and cook.

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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## ABOUT US

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