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INDIAN GIRL WINS BATTLE WITH PHARMA GIANT

A recent Auckland story that hit headlines reminded many of the David-Goliath story. A 14-year old Indian student in Auckland and her Asian friend, forced world's second largest pharma company to pay NZ \$217,000 for making false claims.

The story not only highlights the contribution of Asian communities, but also exemplifies the faith, determination and perseverance of two teenagers in their fight against a

global conglomerate.

It all began with a routine school experiment by these two 14-year old, Pakuranga High School students in 2004. They tested the Vitamin C levels in their favourite drink – Ribena, and were surprised to find that their test results did not match with the drink manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline's claims of high vitamin contents. The kids did not believe their results, and conducted some more tests, with same result.

They did the obvious thing and informed Glaxo who did not take the findings seriously. But the pair did not

give up. They approached New Zealand's Commerce Commission. The commission's testing found that Ribena did not contain vitamin C.

In addition to a fine of NZ\$217,000, the food giant was also ordered to run advertisements in newspapers, informing the public about the decision.

Showing their commitment, the teenagers were only partially happy with the decision as they felt that Glaxo should have been ordered to run the ads on TV where Ribena's main drinkers, kids, would see them.

MEDICAL STUDENT WANTS TO SERVE INDIA

For 19-year old Pion Das, completing her medical qualification is not just about career. The young South Aucklanders wants to serve her home-country- India.

The Auckland University medical student recently received a \$5,000 scholarship from The mad Butcher-

Suburban newspapers Community Trust. The scholarship will help her meet part of her \$12,000 fees. "It means I don't need to work as much," she told the Manukau Courier. Many university students in New Zealand have to work while they complete their tertiary education, so that they could pay their fees, and have a smaller student loan when they graduate.

Young New Zealanders, burdened with heavy student loans, usually

leave New Zealand to go to better paying markets like Australia or the UK, so that their student loan could be paid off faster. The loan also affects young New Zealanders' ability to buy a house early in life.

This is the second year Pion has secured the scholarship. Pion plans to do her residency at Middlemore Hospital before returning to India.

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WILL FONTERRA OFFSHORE TO INDIA?

By Michael Foreman, ZDNet Australia

22 March 2007 12:16 PM

If all goes well, Fonterra will soon be sending IT jobs to India. The dairy giant, which is also New Zealand's largest company, is considering outsourcing its worldwide information services work to HCL in India, according to ZDNet Australia.

HCL outsourcing proposal has reached the due diligence phase but the company was still "a couple of months away" from making a decision, Fonterra chief information officer Greg James

INDIA SEEKS SUPPORT FROM NZ, AUSTRALIA

In a move that can be described as 'the mountain coming to Mohammad', India was seen pursuing New Zealand and Australia to muster support for its nuclear programme.

India's foreign affairs minister, Shyam Saran, came Down Under as part of its efforts to win support of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for its

told ZDNet Australia.

Fonterra is a significant user of SAP, having spent NZ\$260 million on a global ERP installation.

The HCL proposal could potentially affect up to 130 jobs in New Zealand and overseas.

Asia is Fonterra's largest export region. The dairy giant reported revenues of NZ \$11.8 billion last year. Fonterra generates 20% of New Zealand's export receipts.

HCL was founded in 1976 and now reports annual revenues of US\$3.9 billion and employs 43,000 people in 17 countries.

civil nuclear aspirations, India's PTI reported.

After firming up the deal with the U.S., India is seeking changes in the guidelines of the 45-member NSG to allow the world community to have nuclear cooperation with it.

Australia's support will be particularly important since it is one of the largest uranium reserves in the world, the wire agency added.

UK INDIAN BECOMES LEAD WRITER

UK Indian Aditya Chakraborty has been appointed economics lead writer by one of UK's oldest and most respected newspapers, the Guardian. Aditya will write feature stories on UK's economic policy, finance and other issues, Asians in Media magazine reported.

"It's a great opportunity to analyse and write about developments in economics, business and technology for a great newspaper," Aditya said.

India's growing energy needs are driven by its sustained economic growth.

Senior managers of Australia's mining giants, BHP Biliton and Rio Tinto, visited India last month with Trade Minister Warren Truss to explore possibilities for business.

Major economic powerhouses like the U.S., Britain, France and Russia have already confirmed their support to India.

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INDIA CAN BE HARD FOR KIWIS TO GRASP

Phil Goff



Our relationship with India is more important to us than ever. This change has been driven largely by the dramatic rise of India – its rapid economic growth and associated greater influence in the region and internationally.

In terms of purchasing power parity, India's economy is the world's fourth largest – behind the US, China and Japan. Current economic growth is around 9 percent.

Add to this India's political stability – particularly impressive for a diverse population that is the world's second largest. Indeed India's strength is its human capital. Indian corporates are increasingly influential on the global scene.

The scale of India can be hard for Kiwis to grasp. Its tertiary institutions – for example - produce over 100,000 engineering and two million non-engineering graduates a

year. That's half the total population of New Zealand.

The number of Indians studying in New Zealand has steadily increased

New Zealand exports grew to \$337 million in the 2006 calendar year. India is now our second fastest growing market.

over the last few years. Based on the number of student visas issued, we expect the 2006 figure to be over 3,000.

The Government has also established an education counsellor position at the New Zealand High Commission in New Delhi. The new counsellor, Perya Short, whose role will be to promote and advance the opportunities offered by New Zealand education, will start work in New Delhi next month. We have also strengthened our capacity at the High Commission to promote the trade and economic relationship.

Over the last 12 months, more than 20,000 Indians have visited New Zealand - up 14 percent from the previous year. This includes a significant number of Indian

honeymooners - no doubt inspired by some of the popular Bollywood movies made in New Zealand. There have been visits by over 120 Indian film crews in recent years, with positive spin off for New Zealand's profile in India.

To facilitate tourism traffic we have signed an air services agreement. This would allow for direct flights between Auckland and Mumbai, and code sharing between most major centres using Singapore or Australia as an intermediate point.

The improvement in tourism is part of a bigger picture of huge potential in the new economy – IT, biotech, tourism, film making and education.

New Zealand exports grew from under \$200 million in 2004 to \$337 million in the 2006 calendar year. India is now our second fastest growing market – though this is from a low base.

Our main exports are coal, wool, wood pulp, machinery, hides and skins. As India invests heavily in infrastructure and new manufacturing capacity, New Zealand technology companies are finding India an increasingly attractive marketplace.



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We need to increase the breadth and intensity of our interaction with India across the board. I was pleased to learn recently of the formation of the Auckland-based India Trade Group. It joins the India – New Zealand Business Council in providing support for businesses involved in, or wishing to enter, the Indian market. Plans are underway for New Zealand to host the next meeting of the New Zealand - India 'Joint Business Council', back-to-back with officials' trade talks.

The New Zealand Institute of International Affairs itself is developing institutional links with its counterpart, the Indian Council of World Affairs.

We also have the benefit of a growing and active Indian community that makes a very positive

contribution to New Zealand. This is particularly so in my own electorate of Mt Roskill where many of my schools have Indian enrolment levels of more than a third of their students. The annual Diwali festivals are increasingly popular, as are Indian cultural events and cuisine.

I will be visiting India in two weeks time and my focus will be on how to advance New Zealand's trade interests in India.

Of most concern are the non-tariff barriers that impede our dairy and meat trade. New Zealand meat and dairy products will not flood the Indian market but they could make a valuable contribution to the hospitality and emerging retail sector there.

India is an important emerging market for New Zealand forest

products, worth just over NZ\$50 million at the end of 2006. But so far, India's high tariffs on value-added products have been a damper on the potential for this market.

It's not a matter of 'if' we seek an FTA with India, but rather 'when'.

I am scheduled to meet the Indian Defence Minister Anthony in New Delhi next month, and to call on the Indian Navy. We are keen to broaden cooperation. The Indian Defence College will visit New Zealand in May. Early next year the Chief of Army plans to visit India to explore cooperation among our ground forces.

(Phil is New Zealand's minister of trade. He was speaking at the NZ Institute of International Affairs seminar on relations with India, in Wellington.)

INDIAN ON AMERICAN IDOL

Amid growing protest from anti-Idol groups, Sanjaya Malakar has reached the next round of American Idol. The 17-year old long-haired contestant "moved a 13 year-old girl to tears on national television,

inspired a one woman hunger strike, smiled through vicious comments from Idol judges and delivered almost as many different hair-dos as off-key notes," says a Reuters report.

American Idol is reportedly watched by 30 million Americans, and is one of the most popular shows on American television despite its falling

popularity.

Despite judges' adverse comments, Sanjaya seems to be gaining more and more popularity. Some suggest that heavy voting by America's large Indian population could be a major reason behind Sanjaya's success so far in the reality game show.

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NEW ROAD RAGE STANDARD

Standards New Zealand has announced the development of a new Standard to deal with road rage. The Standard (titled MORRON or 'Management of Road Rage Over-reaction Nationally') will guide drivers on how to express their concern about driving behaviour without resorting to abuse or violence. It will also contain useful tips on how to minimise the risk of upsetting other drivers, and how to compliment other drivers on courteous behaviour.

Standards New Zealand Chief Executive Rob Steele says that considerable research has been conducted, and it is fairly conclusive that abuse directed at another driver has absolutely no impact on improving their driving skills.

"Abuse typically results in counter abuse and no change in driving

behaviour whatsoever. The Standard will apply the principle that polite, constructive criticism and positive feedback, are much more likely to change driver behaviour and therefore improve road safety."

The new Standard will propose a combination of headlights, horn and hand signal techniques to express specific messages. For example, a short tap on the horn, a quick flash of headlights and a slow and deliberate shaking of the head would indicate to another driver that you are concerned about their driving behaviour. "Long blasts on the horn and the use of one or two finger salutes are expressly prohibited," says Mr Steele.

The Standard will also specify signals to facilitate courteous driving. "For example, the well recognised circle, formed by the thumb and forefinger, will indicate 'that's ok'. And a sweeping hand across the windscreen will indicate that you are

inviting someone into a line of traffic."

The committee is also looking to identify an appropriate signal for drivers who wish to apologise to another driver when they know they have made a mistake. Mr Steele says this particular signal is proving difficult, but the committee is considering a range of options.

The Standard will also contain information about potential warning signs of bad driving. "A driver wearing a hat is generally a concern, and should be treated with great caution. But drivers who wear caps are not likely to be a problem as they are protected from sun strike, which is a common cause of poor driving."

However, caps worn backwards are an entirely different matter, says Mr Steele. "Backwards cap wearers should always be viewed with suspicion, both on and off the road. Car colour is also a useful indicator, with bright colours being of most concern. However, drivers of silver cars have been shown to be a bit impatient, and we are therefore proposing that all silver cars be given right of way whenever possible.

NZ's No. 1 Indian publication Website*

Source: Alexa, an independent website ranking agency based in the US.

www.theglobalindian.co.nz

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ENGLISH SIGNS

In a Tokyo hotel:

Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are not a person to do such a thing is please not to read notis.

In a Belgrade hotel elevator:

To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order.

In a hotel in Athens:

Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 A.M. daily.

In a Japanese hotel:

You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from Russian Orthodox monastery:

You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers, artists, and writers are buried daily except Thursday.

DEEP THOUGHTS

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.

Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else?

No one ever says "It's only a game"

when their team is winning.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

CONTRARY PROVERBS

All good things come to those who wait. BUT Time and tide wait for no man.

The pen is mightier than the sword. BUT Actions speak louder than words.

Wise men think alike. BUT Fools seldom differ.

The best things in life are free. BUT There's no such thing as a free lunch.

Look before you leap. BUT Strike while the iron is hot .

Contributed by Brian D'Silva



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INDIAN OVERSTAYER NUMBERS DECREASE

The number of overstayers from India has significantly decreased, while those from Great Britain have increased recently, according to figures released by Immigration Minister David Cunliffe.

"Department of Labour figures estimate there were 17,400 overstayers at 31 October 2006, compared with 19,100 six months earlier," Cunliffe said.

"This drop of 1700 marks the continuation of a steady decline that has been apparent since 2004, when the number of overstayers was approximately 21,000."

Countries with significant estimated decreases are Tonga, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Brazil.

Those with no significant decrease are Samoa, China, Great Britain, Malaysia, Tuvalu, Philippines and Czech Republic.

The four countries with the highest overstayer numbers are Samoa, China, Tonga and Great Britain.

"This continuing welcome trend is due to a number of measures taken by immigration officials and by overstayers themselves.

"For example, immigration officers are mounting rigorous compliance operations where they seek overstayers living and working in the

community. More overstayers detected by such operations are choosing to leave New Zealand voluntarily.

"Another reason is that immigration officers based at our posts overseas are asking harder questions of some people seeking visas to come to New Zealand, meaning fewer people coming here who are likely to overstay.

"I am advised that visitors are also taking note of warnings about the penalties for overstaying, which include being barred from New Zealand for five years if they are caught and removed."

Reach out to New Zealand's Indian community

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FEEDBACK

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