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AND PROMISES TO KEEP...

Vaibhav Gangan

“New Zealand’s Punjabi community has made a \$58,000 contribution to the Labour Party,” informed Hon Minister Chris Carter to a group of ethnic media at the first Multi-Ethnic Media Conference in Auckland in July. The conference brought together close to 100 editors, reporters

the climate of red tape. “Under labour, it’s easier to marry a guy next door than to hire and fire him,” Rodney said. Other focus area will be addressing the weaknesses of the benefit system and improving law and order. “We need ‘active’ policing. Right now, your kids are learning that crime pays.”

National’s Pansy Wong’s major attack was on labelling ethnic communities as migrants. “Ethnic communities do not equate



and photo-journalists from New Zealand’s ethnic media. The gathering was addressed by candidates of New Zealand’s major political parties, to share their policies for New Zealand’s ethnic communities in the forthcoming elections.

Speaking at the conference, ACT party leader Rodney Hide launched a major attack on Winston Peters and his anti-migration comments, and said, “We are pro-immigration.” ACT’s main agenda will be promoting entrepreneurs and hard-working people by revising tax structure and changing

to new migrants. Ethnic communities are fellow New Zealanders. The aspirations and concerns of migrant communities are same as those of any New Zealander.” Pansy said that there are some 600 Kiwis departing for Australia every week (yes, every week, and this figure was later questioned by Chris Carter.) National too wants to reform the welfare system, simplify taxation system (“Labour introduced 38 new taxes” says Pansy), and deliver the “one nation, many people, shared values” vision. *Continued...*

HELP THE CHILDREN IN INDIA



Child Relief and You (www.cry.org) is a non-profit organisation that works towards restoring basic rights to underprivileged

Indian children. *The Global Indian* is setting up Friends of CRY Club in New Zealand to raise funds for CRY. We are looking for people to join as CRY Club members or volunteers. Contact Vaibhav Gangan on +64 21 251 4924 or email editor@theglobalindian.co.nz.

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As Shadow Minister of Justice, National's Richard Worth is committed to scrapping parole system, increasing police numbers and introducing DNA testing in addition to fingerprinting . And yes, Richard seemed the most sincere politician (oxymoron?) in the room full of leaders from New Zealand's most political parties. National's Ravi Musuku, is another candidate who's soft spoken yet shows a desire to make a difference when he talks about the poor kids that he taught and metamorphosed them into bright students. "Ravi, you are making chicken curry out of brinjals," were the words of a Board member of the school that Ravi headed in India.

Speaking for the Labour Party, Chris Carter summarised the achievements of his government. "we have ensured the lowest unemployment figures. There are 100,000 people employed that were not employed five years ago. We have put an extra \$2 billion in education. We have paid off debts and yet achieved six excellent years of growth. At Parliament, we celebrated Diwali this year and for four years we have been celebrating Chinese New Year," Chris said before proudly adding, "We did not go to war with Iraq." He questioned National's policy on tax cuts and said, "If you want to cut taxes, then health, education and superannuation is where the big money will have to come from." Ashraf Chaudhary wants to make sure that "you are well-represented in the Parliament." He feels that Labour's budget is "Asian-friendly" as it promotes money-saving schemes and does not plan to borrow money.

Chris Carter dexterously avoided responding to The Global Indian's question "how do you plan to bring 300,000 people on benefit in employment?" and said, "During our government, the number of people on benefits has halved and there are more people employed." Apparently, ethnic unemployment rate has dropped from 9.7% in 1999 to 6.5% today. (this still compares unfavourably with New Zealand's overall unemployment rate of 4%). The unemployment rate for recent migrants from China is 9%, from India 13%, and from the Middle East and Sri Lanka 17% (2002).

Green Party's Keith Locke made some very sensible suggestions. "we want to encourage skill training. New Zealand should maintain manufacturing base. We can't totally rely on agriculture exports. We want to provide educate new migrants about New Zealand's history." Responding to The Global Indian's question about how he proposes to change New Zealand employers' mind-set about hiring migrants, Keith said, "there should be incentives to employers to hire migrants. Also, media should share success stories of hiring migrants, e.g. Radio NZ recently profiled employers successfully hiring migrants from Afghanistan."

Overall, the ethnic media's strength could be felt in the room. Even if one takes the speakers' promises with a pinch of salt in light of the election fever, many politicians showed the signs of awareness about New Zealand's ethnicities, which could not be ignored.

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It's often said, "Those who can, do. Those who can't, consult!"

Well, not in the case of Deepak Selvaratnam who has successfully co-founded Contact Solutionz, a business process outsourcing consulting company, and showed 'he can!' He consults in auditing and other areas within the contact centre environment.

Deepak counts on over 18 years in marketing and service centre environments having managed centres in New Zealand and many

other countries for companies such as British American Tobacco and Progressive Enterprises. He has a diploma from the Chartered Institute of Marketing in the UK, an MBA in communication, risk management and insurance from Sri Lanka and is a certified project management professional (PMP) from the US.

When I phoned Deepak for the interview, I was feeling a little guilty for not giving him enough notice. He was in the

"INTEGRATE WITH THE SOCIETY" - DEEPAK SELVARATNAM

Vaibhav Gangan



process of leaving for his Asia trip. We still managed to catch up for the interview, just as he was leaving for the airport. We got down to business straightaway and I asked him about the trip. "As I am trying to set up resellers in the UK, the US and Singapore, I'm currently travelling a lot, but hope that I won't have to travel as much once our overseas operations stabilise," he says. Deepak's day starts at 5.00am with meditation and then taking the dogs for a walk. Deepak loves animals, having reared all sorts of animals ranging from different birds to deer to even pythons (in Sri Lanka).

Born in Madras to an Indian mother and a Sri Lankan father he was brought up in Colombo in Sri Lanka. Then he went to the UK to complete his graduation, before coming back and completing his

MBA. After running his father's transport clearing and forwarding business. Later, he joined an insurance company, CTC Eagle (a member of the British American tobacco Group). "I looked after the risk and safety areas for the region." He then worked across the Middle East, East Africa and South Asia based out of Colombo before getting married.

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What brought him to New Zealand? "My wife. Unlike me, my wife was not used to the violence around her in Sri Lanka, since she is from Kenya. It was 1997. She was on the 18th floor of the Twin Towers when the Central Bank building bomb exploded underneath. For my wife, this was a horrifying experience. That was it," Deepak recalls. He then joined Progressive Group and dirtied his hands on strategy and planning stuff, before joining Might River Power as their product manager. Even as he was working all these years, he kept developing business process plans in the background. "In New Zealand, I sensed the need for auditing of contact centres. I found a market there." That's how Contact Solutionz was born.

Of course, it wasn't easy in the beginning. Jobs were difficult to find for a Sri Lankan /Indian amidst the white sea of Auckland's employment market. "Fortunately, my manager recognised my talent, since he was a well-travelled person and understood various cultures," Deepak says and quickly adds, "Well, there are prejudices here. But I have lived in other countries too, and there are more prejudices in the Middle East, East Africa and in India and Sri Lanka than in New Zealand."

Good weather, lack of a social network and the DIY work

were the highlights of New Zealand for Deepak and his wife during their initial days. "I don't have close relatives here and so had a lot less networks here when I came. But gradually I developed my network," Deepak explains. In fact, developing these networks is very critical to success in a foreign land, he adds. Having the right attitude is another important factor, as he explains: "Being able to integrate with the mainstream society and having an overarching need to contribute to the society go a long way."

Having experienced Sri Lanka's violent background means Deepak can value New Zealand's peaceful environment more than many of us. No wonder Mahatma Gandhi is one of his role models and has been a major influence for him. He was on the board of Progressive Credit Union for quite some time, before an increased work-load

made it difficult for him to do justice to the community work.

Looking forward, Deepak wants to spend more time with the family. "Since I was setting up this business, I haven't been able to give enough time to them" He also wants to start working on his PhD in operational processes around customer service.

Would you like to nominate someone as The Global Indian of the Month? Write to the editor.

**WANT TO
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NZ: BI- OR MULTI-CULTURALISM?

Mark Williams

September looks to be the month for serious reconsideration of where New Zealand is heading. The likely date of an election which may well see the end of the Labour Government and the longstanding consensus about biculturalism. So far the real issues have scarcely been mentioned, far less debated. Labour seems determined to protect itself against the charge of favouritism towards Maori by pulling back from biculturalism in education, health and welfare. Don Brash offers simplistic choices between Kiwi and Iwi, while trying to avoid the taint of racism by reiterating his possession of a Singaporean wife.

The month also begins in Christchurch with a conference hosted by the English programme at Canterbury University on the topic 'Biculturalism or Multiculturalism'. This will allow some real reflection on the issues by collecting writers and thinkers from Australia, Canada and the Pacific as well as New Zealand, where the terms have different histories and different meanings. Canada, for example, embraced a form of biculturalism and bilingualism in the 1960s, but one between the French and the Anglos. This collapsed as indigenous and immigrant groups objected to their inclusion and was replaced by the 'Canadian mosaic'. The conference will address the situation in New Zealand not by preaching or



Don Brash offers simplistic choices between Kiwi and Iwi, while trying to avoid the taint of racism by reiterating his possession of a Singaporean wife.

suggesting simple solutions to complex problems but by allowing more information into the local system and by lifting the level of debate. The origin of the conference, sadly, lay in a public lecture that Michael King was to give at Canterbury University on 'Biculturalism or Multiculturalism'. Michael's tragic death made this impossible, but the intention to help New Zealanders think about their cultural options for the future in stronger and more positive terms than those we find in newspapers or politicians' speeches remains.

Conference: Biculturalism or Multiculturalism, 1-3 September, Christchurch. www.engl.canterbury.ac.nz

Mark is an associate professor at the University of Canterbury where he teaches modern and postcolonial literature.

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NEW ZEALAND

MEDIA BLAMED FOR ISLAM'S IMAGE

AUCKLAND—In a recent meeting between members of Auckland's Muslim community and the government, New Zealand's mainstream media was blamed by some members of the community for creating misconceptions about Islam. The meeting was conveyed by the Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Hon Chris Carter, along with Labour MP Ashraf Chaudhary. Even as the Muslim and the wider Indian community in New Zealand are appreciative of the government's steps to ensure safety of minorities following the Waghela murder and the attacks on mosques in Auckland, voices of the community still portray that a lot needs to be done. Muslim woman Rana Sobh, referring to the current affairs show '60 Minutes', said "The message was to hate the religion and hate Muslims and be fearful," the NZ Herald reported on 21 July.

FIJI

JAIL FOR A BILLION DOLLAR DRUG CONVICTS

FIJI—The Fiji High Court sentenced six people to jail for manufacturing drup 'P' (metamphetamines) worth F\$1 billion, for four years and seven months, Fiji Live reported.

Trial judge Justice Gerard Winter said while the maximum eight-year term for such offences was far too low to be a deterrent to the underworld, Fiji had now increased the penalty to life in jail or a \$1 million fine. According to Fiji Live, Justice Winter said the judgment should stand as a clear warning to those who would exploit Fiji as an easy country within which to ply their miserable trade.

He warned people with the evil intent of making or trafficking drugs that they would receive a strong punishment, Fiji Live said.

WORLD

US TO PROVIDE NUKE TECH TO INDIA

NEW DELHI—In a major deviation from a long-standing position on nuclear power, the US has agreed to share civilian nuclear technology with India. In India, this is seen as a major victory for the visiting Indian Prime Minister Dr Singh; in the US, it is seen as a necessary step to befriend India which is growing in importance as a key international player in the global economic and political environment. Will the Pakistan President Musharraf be happy with this? Will the US Congress support this move? Why did the Bush administration move so quickly to change its stand instead of waiting till Bush's India visit next year? Is this America's tactic to counter-balance China's prominence in the Asian region? India would have access, for the first time, to conventional weapons systems and to sensitive US nuclear technology that can be used in either a civilian or a military programme.

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TGI EXCLUSIVE: JAIPUR GOES GLOBAL

Overseas correspondent



Shah Rukh Khan at the inauguration of India's first World Trade Park in Jaipur. From left: SRK, Jaipur CM Vasundhara Raje, WTP Chairman Sajjid Khan, Director Anoop Bartaria.

RAJASTHAN—Jaipur Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje unveiled a model of India's first World Trade Park at Jaipur, India, by laying the foundation with a golden brick. The WTP Jaipur Chairman, the US-based tycoon Sajjid Khan, has set an ambitious target of 700 days to complete this NZ\$117 million project. "It will be a great socio-economic booster for the whole region pushing the employment rate," Sajjid says. The WTP is expected to promote business tourism, and do to Jaipur "what Empire State Building did to New York." The project, a city in itself, will use 6000 tonnes of steel, 20000 tonnes of cement, and will include 32 escalators, 28 lifts, an underwater restaurant, 1100 car parks, a floating executive lounge, and two 10,000 sqft lobbies.

THE GLOBAL INDIAN ON AIR

AUCKLAND—The Global Indian's team was on air (990AM Auckland) on 28 July and spoke about current affairs and previewed the August issue of The Global Indian. "Starting this month, we'll preview our forthcoming issues every month on Apna 990," said Sangeeta Anand, the publisher of The Global Indian. "Readers outside Auckland can listen to Apna 990AM's webcast at www.apnafm.com," TGI Editor Vaibhav Gangan said.



**Air India wishes all happy
58th anniversary of India's
independence**

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TERRORISM - A GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Sangeeta Anand

It's painful to see that it took London blasts and September 11 for the West to realise the threat of terrorism. Bombay blasts in 1993 killed more people than the recent London blasts, but western media hardly took notice. To them, it was India's 'internal' problem, despite India's intelligence agencies proving international links to the blasts. Terrorism in India is not internal, it is international, as much as it is in the UK, or the US. Violence in Kashmir is sponsored by international terrorists. This is one of the misconceptions of western media and it promotes it to its readers. September 11, then America's war on Iraq, the London blasts, attacks on Auckland mosques are all pointers of the 'eye-for-an-eye' mentality which will not get us anywhere. Cultural understanding and tolerance is the only way of co-existence. It reminds me of a cartoon published in an American newspaper last year where two Martians are looking at the Earth from their powerful telescopes and one of them says, "Looks like pretty clever specie. But I can't understand why they blow themselves in crowds."

There's a subtle void among many cultures in New Zealand, and the attacks on mosques is one manifestation of it. Mainstream media can play a vital role in bridging the gap. I am not saying that media alone can or should. The many communities in New Zealand need to take conscious steps to come closer to each other culturally.



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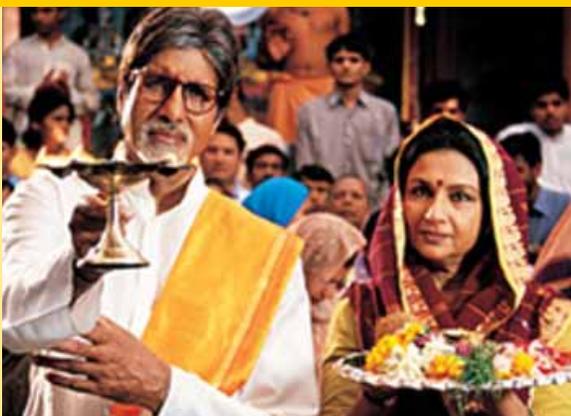
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VIRUDDH

Is 2004-05 a Big B year? Black, Waqt, Sarkar and now Virudh—all highly successful at the box office. Mahesh Manjekar's Virudh is just short of being a 'classic' film. Following Vaastav and Astitva,

Virudh touches the right chord with the audience with Mahesh's close-to-reality plot, reminding us of Saarang in many respects. **Our verdict:** go for it!

SARKAR

Bachchan arrives. Once again! Remember the Bachchan charm of the 70s and 80s when Bachchan's mere entry on the screen would get an applause? Sarkar rekindles the Bachchan flame—this time we're talking about Bachchan Jr. More about the movie—Sarkar is Ram Gopal Varma's tribute to Francis Ford Coppola's 'The Godfather'. Some say it's based on Bal Thackeray's life. **Our verdict:** Don't miss this year's most awaited movie. You won't be disappointed.

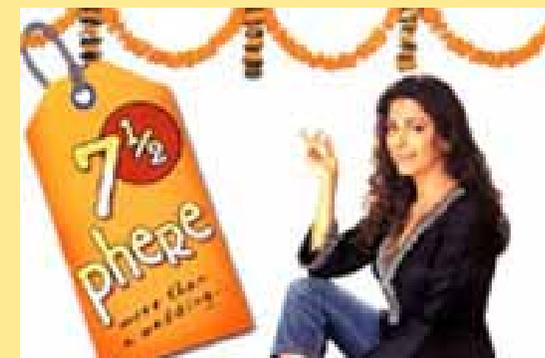


HOT MOVIES

Seher, The Rising, Warrior

HOT MUSIC

Fareb, Dus



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

7 1/2 Phere

Cast : Juhi Chawla, Irrfan Khan, Anang Desai, Neena Kulkarni, Lalit Tiwari

Director: Isshaan Trivedi

No Entry

Writer and director: Anees Bazmee

Cast: Salman Khan, Esha Deol, Anil Kapoor, Bipasha Basu, Fardeen Khan

Salaam Namaste

Director: Siddharth Anand

Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Preity Zinta, Arshad Warsi, Tania Zaetta

Movie guide compiled by: Vishal Singh

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SERIOUSLY SATEND!

Starting this issue, we'll introduce you to your radio jockeys on Apna 990AM. Let's set the ball rolling with Satend Sharma who's known for his sense of humour. Satend exclusively reponds to TGI's tongue-in-the-cheek questions:



The most difficult part of your job as a radio presenter: Keeping everyone happy.

Funniest moment on-air: Recently Anirudh Diwakar (Programmes Director, Radio Navtarang, Fiji) was interviewing a caller on-air. He asked her whether she was missing his programmes. She bluntly said NO!

What do you do when a listener requests a song you hate? I block my ears and play it!

If you were given a chance to sing a duvet, who would you like to sing it with? With my wife. She's terrible, so I will sound better!

When you are not on air, which radio channel do you listen to? I used to listen to Mai FM but being the programme director of Apna990, I have to listen to Apna990 to know what my announcers are doing.

Worst ever present received: Hundreds of glass tumblers received as my wedding gift; of course from different people.

Worst habit: Creating a humour out of everything. I hardly am serious about life!



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- Strengthen families as the core of our society
- Help you get ahead with lower taxes
- Reduce your cost of doing business
- Ensure a world-class education system for all New Zealand students
- Ensure welfare is a temporary hand-up not a permanent hand-out
- Re-establish law & order in our communities



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A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Hamish Patel



Buying your first home is always a good investment. For most, it's the biggest investment in their life and can become quite an emotional affair. Talk of house prices crashing down and interest rates moving up can have you feeling like you are going around in circles. But starting this month, our readers will benefit from latest information on home loans. Hamish Patel, an Auckland-based mortgage broker, will provide valuable information on home loans, exclusively for TGI readers. Consider this: we cannot predict the future with accuracy. What we do know is our current financial situation, our preferred lifestyle and what we would like to happen, in the following years. This is the information we should base

our financial decisions on. Buying a home involves three key aspects: finding a home, finding a home loan, and finding a lawyer to do the legal paperwork.

First, there is the real estate agent who is paid a commission. Although they work for the seller, a fair price can still be reached through negotiation.

Then there is a lawyer needed to facilitate the process. Try and pick one who has been used by family or

friends previously. To ensure that you don't sign an unfair sale and purchase agreement, get them involved early on in the process.

Some buyers first find a home and then look for a home loan, while most prefer to get a pre-approved loan, so that they can have a fair idea of their budget while looking for a house. A pre-approval, which doesn't cost you anything, is a formal indication of how much you could borrow, and generally lasts for three months. You could visit your banker, or call a mobile lending manager to your home. This will give you a good idea of the products available from the bank you approach. Another option is approaching a mortgage broker. Finding a broker who is a member of the New Zealand Mortgage Brokers Association will ensure that you are dealing with a person who has relationships with at least six lenders (most deal with up to 15). This is a great idea if you don't have the time to become an expert on all the products offered by different banks. Next month, we'll look at the criteria banks consider while processing a loan request.



If you are looking to buy your first home, investment property, or wondering if you are paying too much on your existing mortgage, please contact Hamish on P: +649 361 3693; M: +6421 625 693; email: hamishpatel@mortgagesonline.co.nz. www.mortgagesonline.co.nz

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BROAD BEAN CURRY

Ashok Kumar Parmar

Ingredients (serves four)

500 grams broad beans

1 large onion

½ teaspoon chilli powder

1 teaspoon black mustard seeds,

turmeric

2 teaspoons: green herb stock,

ground cumin,

Ashok was born in Fiji and lives in Dunedin, New Zealand. For a profession, he develops software, and for a hobby, he experiments in the kitchen. When he is not writing software, he is writing recipes for the readers of The Global Indian.



ground coriander, crushed garlic, crushed ginger, garam masala, ajwain/cumin/caraway

¼ cup: oil, green peppers, spring onions

Method

Thaw the broad beans (cover them with hot water for 10 minutes) if frozen. Remove the shell which is bitter (squeeze the bean between your fingers and the shell will pop.). Wash the beans after shelling. Slice the onions, spring onions and peppers.

In a pot heat the oil and the black mustard seeds. Keep covered and fry until the seeds pop (careful not to burn the seeds).

Add the onions and sauté until tender. Add all the spices except the garam masala. Fry for a few minutes. Add the beans. Mix well and lower heat to medium. Leave covered for 10

minutes.

Mix well again and if sticking to the bottom, add 2 tablespoons of water or oil. Cook on LOW for 30 minutes or until the butter beans are tender.

Turn off the heat, add the garam masala and leave for a couple of minutes before serving.

Finely sliced spring onions can be sprinkled with the garam masala at the end of the cooking.

A.R.M.S. TO SERVE ON SATURDAYS TOO

Auckland Migrant Resource Centre's Three Kings branch will now be open on Saturdays too. Many migrants who could not access the services during weekdays can now avail of workshops, a fortnightly free legal advisory service, a free JP service and other information services.

Contact 09 6252540.

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WHO'S THE BOSS?

Sanjay Karhade

Who's the boss?' is the question haunting me at the moment when I think about the Indian cricket team's selection for the triangular series to be played in Sri Lanka on one hand and its functionaries on the other. Sourav Ganguly has been banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) and is still included in the Indian squad. His selection puzzles me no end. The move gives birth to many a question. Let's count them.

Is the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) taking the ICC for granted? If yes, it is rubbing the parent body on the wrong side. If no, the selection



Sanjay Karhade has been writing on current affairs and sport in India for over two decades. He contributes to The Global Indian on the current and sporting front in India.

committee has blundered by selecting a player who has been banned by the ICC, for, I am sure, the selectors are aware that a player who's banned from playing a particular number of matches cannot take part in those many matches even if they select him!

And what about Rahul Dravid? Will he continue to lead Team India if BCCI's appeal to ICC to redeem Ganguly of the ban is acceded to? Or will Ganguly join back as the captain? In the second scenario it will be unfair to many

players - Dravid gets relegated to deputyship, Sehwag to a mere membership and one of the upcoming cricketers gets dropped from the squad. Is this the best way to appoint a new captain along with a new coach?

Greg Chappell's authority too comes under the scanner, for, he had talked about taking tough decisions only a few days back and he also is a de facto part of the selection committee. Obviously, he hasn't been able to put ICC's ban on Ganguly into perspective. And one can safely say that he's aware of the way any ICC-banned Australian cricketer will be dealt with by the Australian Selection Committee, whether or not the ban by the ICC has been appealed against. This also means Chappell's failure in convincing the powers-that-be in the BCCI and its selection committee on the issue. The defence that Ganguly's selection is 'provisional' would hold no ground simply because no 'provision' can be made for an ICC-banned cricketer in any manner.

One thing, however, is for sure. Kris Srikkanth, some time ago, had said that he will not include Ganguly in his team even as the 15th player. And the Indian selectors seem to be agreeing with him - they have selected Ganguly as the 16th player!

"Don't wait around for other people to be happy for you. Any happiness you get you've got to make yourself."
Alice Walker.

Contributed by Bharti Hira, Wellington

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THE ART OF GIVING AND RECEIVING FEEDBACK!

Jasbindar Singh

I still remember the day some years ago, the moment even, when I had just finished a 45 minute presentation and was approached by a member of the audience who proceeded to tell me all that was wrong with what I had said and done. I was gob-smacked as I had barely had time to recover my breath, leave along digest someone else's appraisal (irrespective of its value!).

Okay - so this is rather an extreme example as typically, giving feedback in our work setting is usually within a more formal or accepted context such as performance appraisal, manager and leader as coach, and specific skills training. However, the example above does contain some useful lessons: choose your time and place well; make sure that feedback has been asked for or that you have a relationship or context in which giving feedback is an accepted part of that relationship or process; giving

feedback is not about 'dumping on the other person'; be clear about your own intentions in giving the feedback; make it constructive

How to give effective feedback:

focus on behaviour, not the person; focus on observation and facts rather than inferences; focus on describing, not judging or giving advice; avoid

“Research shows that feedback has the power to direct behaviour and motivate performance.”

absolutes - "either/or", "always/never". Focus on descriptions of behaviour which are in terms of "more or less"; keep to specific examples in the "here and now" rather than generalising; focus on exploration of alternatives rather than providing the answers or solutions; focus feedback on the amount of information the person receiving it can use at the time, rather than all that you have to give.

Why is feedback so important?

Research shows that feedback has the power to direct behaviour and motivate performance. You might

Jasbindar Singh is a business psychologist and executive coach.
www.sqconsulting.co.nz



even recall a time when this happened to you. What made the feedback so useful or significant? What did the feedback provider do that made it easy for you to receive their message?

Receiving feedback: practise good listening; ask for clarification if you are left with a mixed message; ask for examples, if the feedback sounds general; you can share and say where you agree, disagree and why; ask for time for reflection and have a further advancing conversation later.

Over the coming weeks, become more conscious of: how you give feedback; how feedback is given to you; how you receive the feedback.

Take care and keep away from those nasty winter bugs (if you are in the southern hemisphere!).

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SHOULD YOU PROTECT YOUR LANGUAGE?

Ruth DeSouza

I read once that migrants stay connected to their culture through land, language and food. But many of us have lost both our land and our language. Often language is the first thing to be sacrificed to aid mobility or to avoid discrimination. Where, as in my case, the history of migration has been inter-generational, there can be an even greater separation. This e-zine is written in English and that is testament to the impact of what Irish writer Seaghán Ó Murchú refers to as “globalisation, imperialism, and practicality.”

This week I watched as Kenyan-born writer Ngugi wa Thiongo received an honorary doctorate from the University of Auckland. Ngugi is from the Gikuyu tribe and has made a conscious decision to write in his ancestral language, Gikuyu, despite this act being both unfashionable and life threatening. Ngugi sees language as

the a way of describing the world and as a way of understanding himself. He sees language and culture as inseparable and so the loss of the language leads to the loss of culture.

“Ngugi sees language as the a way of describing the world and as a way of understanding himself.”

Language carries culture. And culture carries, through conversation and literature, the entire body of values by which we perceive ourselves and our place in the world. Language then, is inseparable from ourselves as a community of human beings with a specific and shared form, character, history and relationship to the world.

What are we willing to do to protect our languages? The Human Rights Commission identified language as a key strategic issue and has initiated a language policy network to advance the discussion of language issues facing New Zealand. This includes Te Reo Māori, the Pacific languages, community and international

languages, ESOL, interpretation services, literacy and language discrimination. It is also working to promote International Languages Week.



Ruth is a researcher, educator and mental-health nurse.

How can we go about reclaiming or protecting our languages? The decision about what to pass on to our children and what to let go of is a difficult one for many migrants. Research shows that children who learn to speak two or more languages have many advantages. They know two cultures, have better thinking skills, are able to communicate with a wider variety of people and there are perhaps even future economic advantages. The language learned is unimportant. Becoming bilingual or multilingual is a treasure, or a taonga, that parents can offer their children. Like all gifts, thought and care must be put into the selection, preparation, packaging and delivery of that gift.

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RETURNING HOME...

Arun Jacob

It has been a fascinating returning-to-India experience for my family and myself. It was not easy letting go of the comfortable jobs and pace of New Zealand and getting back home to set up a business. It helped that we planned this for a long time. It was not a decision taken in a homesick moment in the midst of a typical rain filled day in Auckland!

Somehow the overseas experience seems to give a holistic view of life and work. I keep getting asked the question "Are you back in India for good or are you going back?" I guess it is inevitable when you have an indefinite returning resident's visa. Right at this moment I am enjoying building my company and I know it will take 3 to 4 years of committed work to see it acquire critical mass.

So I am in India for that kind of time definitely. Thankfully I still earn in dollars most of the time as my business involves dealing with New Zealand, and I spend in Rupees. It's an ideal financial situation for me. I also travel frequently to New Zealand and every time I land there it is like I have not been away at all. I am truly having the best of both worlds.

New Zealand taught me to slow down and smell the flowers along the way instead of rushing through each day like there is no tomorrow. Today I try and maintain that sedate pace in Hyderabad. I have also planned in such a way that I am insulated to some extent from the traffic and other irritants that we face back home. With proper planning it can be a great and rewarding experience to re-migrate to



“For some, migrating is a major step. But going back can take even greater courage. Here's our reader, Arun Jacob's experience...”

India. The opportunity to utilize the skills and experience acquired overseas and build a monetarily rewarding business or profession is immense. And if one creates the platform to get back overseas as and when required and without any restrictions (like an indefinite residency), it can be a case of having your cake and eating it too.

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tell-a-friend draw

The winner of the July surprise gift competition is **Sonali Geo**. Winner should contact us within a month. Would you like to win a gift? Just send us email addresses of your friends in New Zealand. They'll get our future issues free, and you will go in a draw to win a surprise gift. Entries close 20 Aug. Email: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz (Open to New Zealand readers. Email addresses should be valid and should be of people living in New Zealand. Management's decision will be final.)

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THE NZ HERALD MISQUOTED ME

I was misquoted in the *New Zealand Herald* article on 25th July on the rally for interfaith harmony. In my speech I did not say that the attacks on the Auckland mosques were politically motivated. What I said was that I was heartened by this show of support for the Muslim community, who were absolutely appalled by the killing of innocent people in the name of our faith. There is nothing in Islam that can justify such acts. I spoke of the importance of bringing people together, so that we can continue to preserve New Zealand values of fairness, tolerance and equity. In this context, I said that we need to start a non-violent jihad against those sections of the community who would use race and religion to pull us apart for the sake of a few percentage points in the polls.

Anjum Rahman, Labour Party List Candidate

WAKE UP WINSTON PETERS

Today (28 July) Winston Peters out-rightly attacked the Muslim community and disrespected the religion of Islam without any understanding of either. He's defined us as "Indeed these groups are like the mythical Hydra - a serpent underbelly with multiple heads capable of striking at any time and in any direction." I think Winston's lack of knowledge on issues is the reason behind his political failure. We - the Muslim community also sympathise with what happened on 9/11, in Bali, in Spain and in London. Such acts are inexcusable, and such motives pure evil. However Winston, have you obviously identifying yourself to the European 'balanced' experience sympathised with the millions dying in countries like Iraq, Iran, Palestine, or Afghanistan? Or are those dying in the Middle East not deserving of your sympathy? - **Tayyaba Khan, Founder & Executive Member of Auckland Muslim Girls Association**

The Global Indian
congratulates all the Indians
living across the world on the
**58th Independence
Day on 15 Aug 2005**

*"At the stroke of the midnight
hour, when the world sleeps,
India will awake to life and
freedom." Jawaharlal Nehru
(14 August 1947)*

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