

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

GOVERNMENT SAYS:

The Department of Labour predicts that by 2021, one-quarter of the workforce will be overseas-born, one of the highest proportions of foreign workforces in the OECD. And that while today eight in 10 workers are Pakeha New Zealanders, by 2021 only two in three will be.

WE WANT YOU

More new migrants will be welcomed under the New Zealand Residence Programme during the next 12 months in response to continued skill shortages, Immigration Minister David Cunliffe says.

Effective from 24 July, work experience in countries considered non-comparable labour markets, such as India and China, is recognised in areas of absolute skill shortages.

"This includes occupations such as IT professionals, plumbers and engineers, and will mean we don't miss out on these types of highly talented people, no matter where they're from," says the minister. Really?

There will be 52,000 places available for the 2006-07 year—the highest number since the 2001-02 year.



When we read the government announcements, and put it against a recent report by Hudson, we are confused. Tell us what you think. Best email will win a FREE gift. Email: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz

EMPLOYERS SAY:

Some 22,000 migrants leave New Zealand every year because their expectations are not met. Here are some findings of a recent survey of over 1700 employers, by one of New Zealand's largest recruitment firms Hudson.

Many companies are reluctant to make use

NO, WE DON'T!

of one of the most skilled pools of labour talent: migrants. Migrants find it difficult to find work, and those who do are often placed in jobs well below their skill level. Unemployment among migrant workers tops 10%. Almost eight out of 10 employers believe that there are barriers to migrants participating successfully in the NZ workforce.

Hudson Christchurch General Manager Roman Rogers says that for many smaller companies, the process to employ migrants "appears confusing and in the too hard basket. Anecdotal feedback indicates that people prefer to have someone who is more assimilated - Kiwi, in other words." The biggest challenge that most employers perceive is not around technical skills, but around the non-technical skills, predominantly interpersonal communication. (hudson.com)

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

INDIAN COMMUNITY SHOWS GRIT

Vaibhav Gangan

Following the seven blasts that rocked Mumbai on July 11, the city has come out the winner on more than one account - empathetic helpfulness, religious maturity and a pragmatic attitude towards life.

New Zealand's Indian community almost mirrored that courageous behaviour. The initial feelings of fear, horror and shock were soon replaced by mixed feelings of anger, sympathy and grit.

People were angry at the cowardly act of a handful of extremists with misplaced faith. Messages of condolence and offers of help crossed regional boundaries. Internet images of Good Samaritans gave much-needed confidence to the peace-loving community who had frantically been trying to contact friends and relatives in Mumbai.

For many New Zealanders, the blasts

were one of the news items in the world section. For Indians here, there was an insatiable hope that no one they knew was hurt in the blasts.

Within a day, a common feeling was manifest. There was no attempt to blame anyone.

An email addressed to the terrorists circulated in New Zealand's Indian community. It said: "We are not Hindus and Muslims or Gujaratis and Marathis. We are Mumbaitees. We will not allow you to disrupt our life like this.

"We live like brothers in times like this. So do not dare to threaten us with your crackers. The spirit of Mumbai is very strong and cannot be harmed."

The feeling of sadness was soon replaced by anger, and many questions were raised, the most common being: why did they do it and what did they achieve?

One Indian suggested that jealousy may have been the reason.

Also read:

[Who is safe?](#)

[Readers comments](#)



But Mumbai showed maturity. Instead of communal tensions, Muslim and Hindu groups were seen marching together on the city streets to express their solidarity.

New Zealand's Indian community, as well, stuck together like a family.

Immediately after the London blasts, the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand condemned the attacks, probably to pre-empt a backlash against the Muslim community. Despite that, some mosques in New Zealand were vandalised.

(This is a part of the article that was published in the New Zealand Herald on 18 July)

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

WHO IS SAFE?

Vaibhav Gangan

It was a dreadful afternoon. The year was 1993. The world had known of terrorist attacks only in countries with civil war. I was going about the motions of the day at work, when Dattu, the office assistant, ran in shouting "there's been a blast"! Almost at the same time, the door of the air conditioning plant of our building threw open with a bang. There was panic as reports of more blasts started coming in – most of which were brushed off as rumours. Our office manager closed the office. But when I joined millions of commuters on Mumbai's local train that afternoon, I could see worried faces everywhere. The blasts were for real – and in different places of the city – increasing the likelihood of my family and friends being affected. Reaching home and finding everyone safe was a great feeling of relief.

I relived that fear last month - though I was 12000km away from the city

that brought me up. The images of disaster reminded me of the London bombings and the ill-fated 9/11. But many in the western world think of the Mumbai blasts as part of internal strife. The reaction of some was that of indifference. It seems not much has changed since 1993, in terms of world's understanding of terrorism.

After the 1993 blasts in Mumbai, the Indian intelligence agencies had warned the world of the increasing threat of global terrorism. The Mumbai police asserted that the 1993 blasts were work of outsiders, not of local people.

The links of the suspects were far reaching and were in fact found outside India. But global leaders, especially the US and the UK, regarded the blasts as manifestation of India's internal conflicts.

But it took 9/11 as a wake up call for the US, and the London blasts for the UK to finally acknowledge that the threat is global. No borders are safe. The early signs from last month's

Also read:

[Indian community shows grit](#)

[Readers comments](#)



Mumbai blasts are indicating a similar possibility. A terrorist outfit Lashker-e-Qahar has claimed responsibility for the blasts in Mumbai and also claimed that the outfit was associated with the Lashker-e-Taiba (apparently founded by Osama).

The message is clear – the whole world is a playground for terrorists. Their fight is not against a particular government.

That's why war on terrorism should not be the priority of just affected countries. We all are in it together – especially with our extended families spread around the world. Let's be in it together!

(This is a part of the article that was published on Scoop on 18 July)

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

Auckland correspondent

A commitment to 'all human rights for all people' together with an outstanding academic record will help Epsom Girls Grammar student Madhura Karnik keep her university student loan to a minimum.

Madhura won a \$15,000 contribution through the Progressive Enterprises (PEL) Scholarship offered to the children of PEL employees.

Madhura plans to study for conjoint Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Law degrees in 2007. A keen public speaker, Madhura sees her future in law or marketing. She immigrated to New Zealand from India with her family in 1995.

Madhura is a student mediator and has supported Amnesty with fundraising, public speaking and letter writing to overseas governments.

Madhura says her scholarship will help keep her student loan to a minimum as



Madhura with Dave Chambers-
General Manager, Foodtown,

well as take some financial pressure off her family.

"Dad has recently started a new accounting firm and of course mum works full time at Foodtown, so we are a busy family."

She plays the piano, coaches a junior debating team and plays netball and badminton. She has represented Epsom Girls Grammar at the Russell McVeagh Auckland Regional Debating Competition and has a small part time job one night a week for work experience.

SUPER-RICH ASIANS BECOMING COMMON

If World Wealth Report is an indicator, Asians are amassing wealth faster than Europeans.

According to the report published by investment bank Merrill Lynch, the number of "high net-worth individuals" (HNWI) increased by 21% in South Korea, 19% in India, and 17% in Russia last year, UK's *The Guardian* noted.

In Britain, the growth in the wealthy population was modest compared with the developing world. The number of HNWIs grew by only 7%, the leading publication added.

The authors of the report say this was probably because of a slowdown in the growth of the UK's gross domestic product and a weaker stock market performance.

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT!

Srishti Narayan

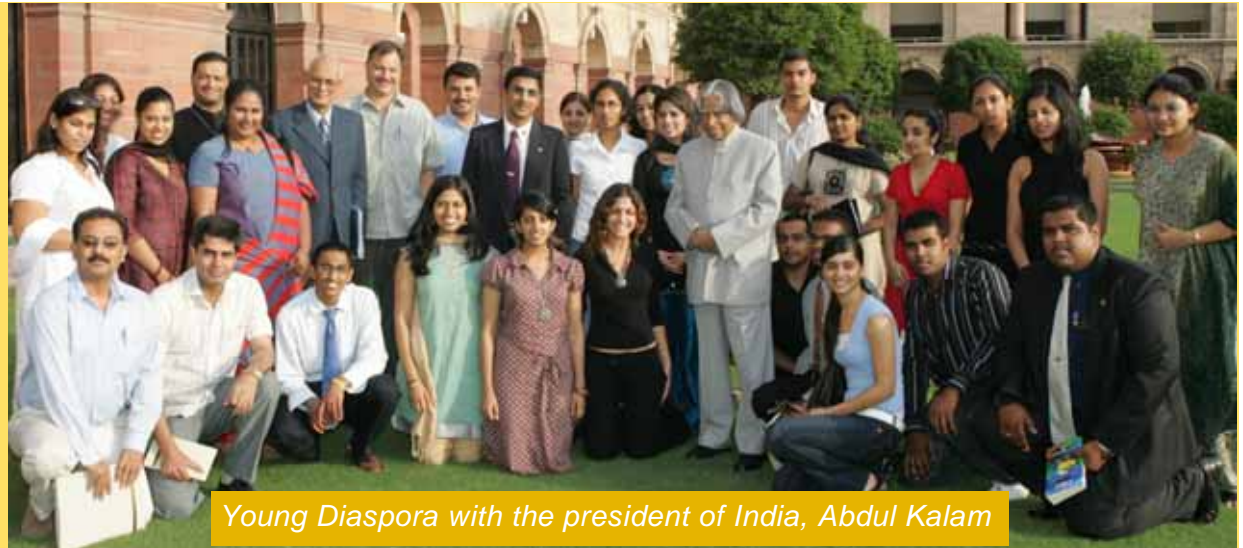
The meeting point for the 25 youth participants from the Indian Diaspora from many countries was the International Youth Hostel in New Delhi. After three days in Delhi

we endured a 13-hour bus ride to the hill town of Shimla, where we spent

Wellingtonian Srishti Narayan was part of the group of 25 NRIs that visited India under the "Know India" programme. She shares her experience.

the majority of our trip. From Shimla we departed for the village stay leg of the journey - what proved to be one of the toughest, yet one of the most rewarding parts of the programme.

At each village we were welcomed like movie stars – with garlands, speeches, drums, and entire village gathering to examine their new foreign neighbours. They were as



Young Diaspora with the president of India, Abdul Kalam

warm as they were curious. Through our stumbling Hindi, we managed to

have sometimes enlightening, and always hilarious conversations. I receive texts and emails from the people I met in these villages.

There were so many highlights, but near the top is meeting the President and Prime Minister of India. Both men engaged openly with us and their passion for the growth and development of their country was glaringly obvious. After meeting them

I have no doubt that India's boom will continue to leave other countries behind in its wake.

My group has become my extended Diasporic family and I have eight new countries that I can travel to without worrying about accommodation!

India is hard to get out of your system, whether you love or hate it. This trip only served to strengthen my love affair with the country. Our group has already begun plans for a reunion trip in Goa...

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

**RECREATING
CINEMATIC CULTURE**

Ashok Motvani, DNN

The founder chairman of Osian Film Festival, Neville Tuli, emphasized the role of arts and creativity in cinema, while inaugurating Asia's largest film festival in New Delhi on 14th July.

Opening film "Valley of

Flowers" (pictured) was a tale spanning two centuries, from the Himalayan Spice Route of the early 19th century to modern-day Tokyo. Entry of Jafar Panahi's "Off Side" was an entertaining sensitive comedy that



illustrates the fight for women's rights in Muslim world. Osian Film Festival started in 1999 with just 20 films; this year it showcased 120 films.

**INDIANS MORE AT RISK
FROM DIABETES AND
HEART DISEASE**

A new report analysing the current health status of Asian peoples in New Zealand will be used by the health sector to identify the needs of Asian communities in the future.

The report shows that Indian males and females have higher cardiovascular and ischaemic heart disease hospitalisation and mortality rates than the total population.

In addition, self-reported diabetes is over three times higher for Indian people than the total population.

**KIWI AUTHOR
LAUNCHED IN INDIA**

In what is believed to be the first New Zealand book to be published in India that's not about cricket, two books by Dr. Tom Mulholland were launched in India.

"Healthy Thinking", and "The Power

of Healthy Thinking" were launched to the Indian market at the New Zealand Embassy in New Delhi.

The Taranaki doctor's self-help books about developing healthy thinking patterns will be translated into Hindi and other languages, says Shobit Arya, Publisher, Wisdom Tree Press.

BRASH SPEAK

"New Zealand should be cautious about accepting immigrants who don't share the country's bedrock values. These values included an acceptance of democracy and the rule of law, religious and personal

freedom and equality of the sexes. We should not welcome those who want to live in New Zealand but reject core aspects of New Zealand culture. If you don't accept these fundamentals then New Zealand isn't the place for you." Dr Don Brash, National Party Leader

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

HOLE-IN-THE-WALL

Peter Horrington, New York

The gap between the haves and have-nots in India seems to be a result of disparities on social, economic and cultural levels, developed over many years. However, a major Indian initiative has not only thrown some light on the dynamics involved in deprivation but also positively suggested a way to providing education to India's (and world's) masses.

The year was 1999. Dr Sugata Mitra, chief scientist with NIIT - India's premier computer education provider, wanted to find a way to help bring basic education to India's 200 million children. Sugata installed a touch-screen computer in the wall that separates NIIT's headquarters from New Delhi's biggest slum. On the first day itself, poor kids were surfing the Internet.

Within days, street children were seen regularly using the Internet to access information. One eight-year

old googled on cancer to learn more about his mother's illness. Others read online newspapers, read horoscopes and some even searched for jobs for their fathers.

The initiative must have startled not only educationists but also policy-makers. As Pat Orvis wrote in a story



published by America's Foreign Policy Association, "Parents and teachers alike who doubt that children can learn on their own might want to take a page from India's Sugata Mitra." Second, it proved that if street children are given resources, they can learn.

Encouraged by the success, the Government of Delhi set up 30 learning stations in a resettlement

colony in 2000. In 2001, Hole-in-the-Wall Education Ltd. (HiWEL) was set up as a joint venture between NIIT Ltd. and the International Finance Corporation (a part of The World Bank Group).

HiWEL has since set up many learning stations in out-of-the-place locations. For example, it set up a learning station at an altitude of over 11000 ft in Stok, a village in Ladakh (pictured). The village has no electricity and temperatures go down to minus 30 degrees Celsius. The learning station is in fact run entirely on solar power.

In 2004, HiWEL reached Cambodia. HiWEL is now poised to scale up the idea to make a significant contribution to improving education of children across the world. Now, that's called scaling new heights!

watch what children are saying about the project: <http://www.hole-in-the-wall.com/Videos/Madangir.wmv> (1.7MB Windows Media Player file)

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

MIGHTY MITTAL

Venkatesh Venugopalan, Chennai

When Laxmi Mittal launched his takeover bid for Arcelor, many experts in the steel sector expected the deal to be anything but normal. European businesses are known for protecting their interests. Sir Jamshetji Tata had to persevere for almost two decades during the British Raj to be able to set up India's first steel plant. The businesses in the UK, who had influence in the government, did not want competition to their steel industry.

One could see history repeating with Mittal's takeover bid. Only this time, the tables were reversed. It was an Indian entrepreneur and world's largest steelmaker, wishing to gain control of Europe's largest steelmaker.

Arcelor chief Guy Dolle described Mittal Steel as being too "full of Indians". When the battle turned ugly, the European businesses and governments joined the chorus with



Arcelor, and the Indian government supported Mittal. It was no more a business battle.

Mittal won and India celebrated. As Swapan Dasgupta wrote in The Telegraph, "Apart from being seen as

“There are as many success stories in India as there are outside.”

a glorious chapter in the annals of Indian entrepreneurship, Mittal's triumph is also perceived as a successful assault on European prejudices. The gripping story of an Indian entrepreneur, who dared take on an entrenched establishment and win, is the stuff legends are made of." Critics of the deal described Mittal as a ruthless dealmaker. Most critics did

not know Mittal's background. He had grown his empire through acquisitions, rather than relying on organic growth. He had the Midas touch of turning sick steel plants into gold mines. Since steel companies are backbones of the respective economies, Mittal has, in the process, revived many economies around the world, saving the local governments from losing money in many instances.

And now Mittal has turned to India and China. After thanking the Indian government for their support during the Arcelor bid, Mittal – who is an Indian citizen - has announced major investment plans in India.

However, just as we take the last sip after raising the toast to Mittal's success, let's ponder to answer a pertinent question that Swapan asks: is this India's achievement or the achievement of an Indian? An immediate conclusion will be many of India's success stories have flourished outside India. I think there are as many success stories in India as there are outside. We as Indians need to celebrate our success.

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

MEDIA CAN PLAY A BETTER ROLE

After judicial activism, India's next hope is probably media activism, for addressing its chronic problems, if Indian vice president Bhairon Singh Shekhawat's recent speech is taken seriously.

Shekhawat appealed to journalists to sensitise their government to solve

India's deep-rooted issues, while speaking at a ceremony after conferring "Shailikar Samman" award on journalist Prabhash Joshi.

Shekhawat sited newspapers in the pre-independence period who championed the cause of independence. The message in newspapers was so strong that it could influence the masses for the cause of independence.

Across the border in Pakistan, similar sentiments were expressed. Electronic media could play a significant role in sustaining the ongoing peace process between India and Pakistan, besides strengthening democracy, Sindh Governor Dr Ishratul Ibad Khan said while addressing South Asian journalists in Karachi.

FROM SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

Santosh Vane, Sydney

If China and India are emerging markets, the trade between these two countries will likely boost their respective economies further. The opening of Silk Route which symbolises and also assist in the trade was widely reported throughout the world. The governments of both the countries started 2006 as the India-China Friendship Year, extending cooperation on economic, cultural and political fronts. The progress so far has been good. The

recent development has been bilateral talks between Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and India's National Security Adviser M. K. Narayanan. Interesting, trade between the two countries is expected to cross NZ\$35 billion by the end of this year. In a few years, India will be trading more with China than the US.

Both the countries have built on the bilateral relations rejuvenated by India's immediate past prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003. Of course, both the countries have still not agreed on the Line of Actual Control, but the recent talks

have shown some positive signs.

The opening of Nathula pass, or Silk Route as it is popularly known, has opened a road route that connects Tibet and Sikkim. Regions on both sides of the border are economically deprived because of difficult terrain and absence of advanced infrastructure. This deprived region is expected to benefit from the expected increase in trade via Silk route, which will complement the traditional sea route used by both the countries for trade. Kolkatta port will become more accessible to Chinese traders.

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

PUNJAB OFFICIALS VISIT NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON—A delegation of the Government of Punjab is visiting Auckland, Rotorua and Hamilton from 1st to 3rd August to explore business opportunities, look for institutional tie-ups, partnerships and interfacing with entrepreneurs interested in investing in the north-eastern Punjab. Chief Secretary K.R. Lakhjanpal is accompanied by Karan Avtar Singh, secretary, PWD, N.S. Kalsi, commissioner, NRI Affairs and Som Parkash, chief administrator, Punjab Urban Development Authority.

PRAY FOR BLAST VICTIMS

AUCKLAND—Auckland's St Margaret's Church is organising a prayer service for victims of Mumbai Blasts and to pray for peace on the occasion of Independence day. This prayer is on on 12 August at 7.30 pm at the church on 102 Hillsborough Road.

CRICKET FEVER

The official mascot Mello is ready to welcome cricket fans for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 to be played at 12 stadiums in nine venues in West Indies. Thousands of ticket applications were received via the tournament's website in the first week of the applications phase. Fans from over 100 countries logged on to www.cricketworldcup.com to secure tickets early with applicants from Australia, New Zealand, the UK and the US to name a



Mello

REACHING OUT TO MUSLIMS

AUCKLAND—New Zealand is one of the few countries in the world that takes steps to build bridges among its multi-cultural communities. In one such step, Waitakere's Ranui Mosque will host Waitakere Mayor Bob Harvey and councillors on Friday 11th August, at 1.30pm. after the Friday prayers. The council visit has been organised by the Waitakere Ethnic Board.

KIWI BENGALIS CELEBRATE

AUCKLAND—The annual choreographed Bengali Opera Rabindra-Nazrul Sandhya will be staged in Auckland at 5PM on 6 August at The Centennial Theatre, Auckland Grammar School. The event is organised by Probasee Bengalee Association of NZ Inc. and other Bengali and Bangladeshi groups.

It will be based on the works of Rabindranath Tagore (Indian Nobel laureate poet) and Kazi Nazrul Islam (a renowned Bangladeshi poet. It includes the play Debotar Grash ('The Sacrifice') and the dance-drama Mayar Khela ('The Game of Enchantment') by Tagore, and Adhhatwik Nazrul (Spiritual Nazrul), renderings from Nazrul's works. The participants include over 50 youth and volunteers from the community. Visit: www.probasee.co.nz

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

CHANGING COUNTRY, UNCHANGING MEDIA

Sangeeta Anand

“It has often been said that journalism’s role is to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted,” says Frank Vogl in ‘Journalism And Power: Why Ownership Matters’.

And Frank’s concern is well placed. An individual’s perception of reality is a manifestation of their own beliefs, which in this age, are, in many ways influenced by the media.

And how much do the mainstream journalists know about New Zealand’s largest trading region – Asia?

It reminds me of my initial days in Auckland when I was asked for the first time in my life how I managed to speak English so well, with an assumption that I must have been born in New Zealand to speak that way. I felt an adrenal gush while shirking the question. Being born and bred in the largest English-speaking country in the world, India, I was

dumb struck and fell short of words to hide my obvious embarrassment, while knowing that it was a predicament many others like me

If language is influenced by economic superiority (as exemplified by the US in the 20th century), no prizes for guessing which English will dominate the 21st century.

must be confronting often.

Well, this experience has been more regular than I thought, as I reminisce the words of David Crystal: “With an English-speaking population now likely to have surpassed that of Britain and the US, India with its dynamic variety of English, is set to become a linguistic superpower”. (The Guardian November 2004). Unfortunately, these words appear to be of minuscule relevance in New Zealand where it is an ongoing battle for most of us to diffuse some ignorant beliefs.

If we look at the reasons for this, ignorance of the South Asian culture comes up as a predominant factor. New Zealanders who are well travelled and have visited India know

Indians’ command over the language. But they don’t represent a majority of New Zealanders. Lack of exposure to the India’s corporate culture where

English is the only language of business has created

misinformed opinions. For example, most New Zealanders (on a good day) know about India’s Bollywood and IT industries, but how many know that India’s media industry is the largest in the democratic world?

As I write this, we received a request from a linguistic expert from Germany, wanting to research Indian English in New Zealand, and its influence on New Zealand English. If language is influenced by economic superiority (as exemplified by the US in the 20th century), no prizes for guessing which English will dominate the 21st century.

(A version of this article was published in Asia:NZ Foundation’s media newsletter, and many other publications worldwide)

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

WAKE-UP CALL ON ASIA

New Zealand needs to change its approach to Asia or risk being left behind as countries such as China and India come to dominate world affairs, according to a report from the Asia Knowledge Working Group.

The report, Preparing for a Future with Asia, says Asia will soon be the world's most important region, both economically and strategically.

"Within 20 years, China will be the world's number one economy in terms of purchasing power, with India and Japan not far behind," says Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, Asia Knowledge Working Group Chair and Associate Professor of History at Victoria University.

"Asia will come to influence our way of life just as the United States does now.

"Our future prosperity, and our ability to influence world events, depends on how well we deal with the region.

New Zealand can either ride the Asian wave or be left behind. At the moment, we're being left behind. Other countries are doing far better."

The report says if New Zealand adapts to Asia's growing importance, businesses will gain access to skills,

research and knowledge from some of the world's most advanced economies, as well as new market opportunities.

"This report is New Zealand's wake-up call on Asia," says Prof Bandyopadhyay.

GROOVY INDIAN

Business psychologist and *The Global Indian* columnist Jasbindar Singh with the managing publisher of Reed, Peter Dowling, at the launch of her book: "Get Your Groove Back". The book is available through Dymocks and Borders and an autographed copy can be obtained by emailing the author: jasbindar@sqconsulting.co.nz



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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

ANIMATED GROWTH

Bibek Sengupta, Calcutta

Bollywood seems to be reflecting the changing demographics of new India. As the Indian middle class grows, and Indians' disposable income increases, the ways in which they entertain themselves is also changing. With the rise in the number of multiplexes, Indians' cinema-going habits are changing. People have more movies to choose from when they visit a multiplex. Cinema halls are getting smaller. This is giving more

flexibility to smaller film-makers, as they are able to make profitable films, even while attracting very niche audience.

A recent NZPA story put the size of the Indian film industry at NZ\$2.5 billion, with a prediction that it will double by 2010 and reach NZ\$5.5 billion.

Also, its growing animation capabilities is not surprising, given India's prowess in the IT sector.

Some Hollywood companies are exploring the opportunities of

developing their films in India which is producing animated computer images at a quarter of the cost of that in the United States and Britain, the story added.

According to a FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) report submitted to Planning Commission, the animation industry will see further growth, boosted by increasing penetration of computers, mobile phones and Internet.

(with inputs from The Global Indian team in Auckland)



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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

MOVIE REVIEWS

KABUL EXPRESS

Yashraj Films' Kabul Express depicts a journey of five people from different worlds who travel together through a country ravaged by war. John Abraham (TV director) and Arshad Warsi (cinematographer) play the Indian characters, with Linda Arsenio (American actress), actor Humghum is from Afghanistan and Salman Shahid is from Pakistan. In Afghanistan, these people will not only feel the effects of the rugged and arid landscape, but also experience the horrors of what this devastating war has left behind. Who knows... maybe they will even come face to face with...Osama Bin Laden.

OMKARA

Passionate Omkara or Omi (Ajay Devgan) is the chieftain over a gang of outlaws, which include the crafty Langda Tyagi (Saif Ali Khan) and the loyal Kesu (Vivek Oberoi). When Omi appoints Kesu as his chief lieutenant instead of Langda, the storyline begins to take shape. Jealousy rages within Langda's heart. Therein, he formulates a plan where Omi's lover Dolly (Kareena Kapoor) and Kesu are falsely accused of having a love affair.

Langda even recruits the help of his wife Indu (Konkona Sen Sharma), and friend Raju, in his devious plan to poison Omi's mind. Love, jealousy and poisonous lies are a deadly mixture and are sure to result in horrific tragedy.



STAR OF THE MONTH

BIPASHA BASU

Born in Delhi, raised in Kolkata and now living in Mumbai, Bipasha Basu, affectionately called "Bips" started out as a model and won several competitions, including the Ford Supermodel of the World contest at the age of 17. The dusky, 27-year old has done innumerable advertisements. Her appearances in music videos have included 'Tu...' for Sonu Nigam's album, 'Kismat' and Jay Sean's 'Stolen'.

Her debut film was 'Ajnabee' (opposite Akshay Kumar). She gave outstanding performances in 'Raaz' and 'Jism' which were major hits. Her fans look forward to her roles in 'Fool and Final', 'Dus Kahaniyaan', 'Nehle Pe Dehla', 'Dhoom 2' and 'Omkara'.

This column is written by Judi Silva.

Judi is a US-based freelance writer, publicist and author. She has written for many Indian publications in the US. She brings Bollywood briefs for The Global Indian readers.



CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

WHEN 'WORK' IS 'LIFE'...

Jasbindar Singh

How do we best manage the multitude of demands made on us? How do we effectively juggle the different roles of work/life: as business-owner, spouse, student, and towards community and sporting interests?

As part of the cultural and societal revolution, we have also become 'highly wired and switched on' most of the time. While the positive spin-offs have been many, there is also a down side. Our bodies are not wired to be 'on' all the time. We need rest to recuperate.

Work/life balance can mean different things to different people. For some, this is about being able to spend more time with family, pick up kids from school, get away from work at a decent hour or have flexibility to work from home.

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



While it is encouraging that some organisations are taking positive steps towards providing work/life balance such as training programmes, flexible work hours, childcare support, wellness programmes, the responsibility also lies with us. It is important that we recognise what works best for us including identifying stress triggers early and taking positive action.

The SQ perspective on the work/life balance highlights two things.

Firstly, we talk about work/life balance as if our work is a separate entity from our life. Work is part of life and if we can live doing what we enjoy, and then work feels less like 'work' and more in flow with the rest of our lives. As Confucius says, "do what you love and you will never have to work again."

“Do what you love and you will never have to work again.” - Confucius

Secondly, it is not always about getting the 'balance' right but more about the quality of your experiences. What is your sense of presence when you are doing what you are engaged in at the time?

The opposite of course is being there in body but not emotionally; or spiritually your 'head space' is somewhere else. Take a minute and ponder on this "am I fully present and engaged right now?" You are constantly contributing towards the quality of your experience to the degree that you are present or not.

Finding balance is not a one-off event. Find out what works for you and make a commitment towards this at a foundational level such as living from your value base as well as in your everyday attitude and behaviour.

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

RULES OF LIFE

We received these rules through a newsletter from Richard Worth, National's spokesperson for justice. We thought they are worth sharing here.

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will not make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping: they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life has not. In some schools, they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to anything in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is not real life. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

LOGICAL THINKING

A good discussion is like a mini skirt, short enough to pertain interest and long enough to cover the subject.

No one has ever complained of a parachute not opening.

Work fascinates me, I can look at it for hours!

Living on Earth may be expensive, but it includes an annual free trip around the Sun..

Alcohol Kills Slowly! So what? Who's in a hurry?

Can you do anything that other people can't? Sure, I can read my handwriting.

My father is so old that when he was in school, history was called current affairs.

Divorce has become so common, that my wife and I are staying married just to be different.

Contributed by Brian DeSouza, Auckland

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

KAANDA POHA

Ingredients (serves four)

4 cups poha (thick beaten rice flakes)

2 t/spoon oil

1 t/spoon mustard seeds, cumin seeds

2 green chillies slit or chopped fine

1 curry leaves, 2 onions sliced fine

½ teaspoon turmeric powder

4 tablespoons chopped fresh coriander, salt, chopped coriander

Method

Wash poha in water thoroughly. Drain and Keep aside. Heat the oil in a pan. Toss in the mustard and cumin seeds. Fry till they crackle. Add the green chillies and curry leaves. Add the onions and turmeric powder. Stir-fry on medium / low level for about 4 minutes or till the onions are pinkish. Add the chopped fresh coriander and stir-fry briefly till they wilt.

Mix in the beaten rice and salt to taste. Mix in a few tablespoons of

water into the beaten rice. Cover and cook on low level for about four minutes or till the water has been absorbed by the beaten rice softening it and the flavours are well blended. Do not overcook the beaten rice as it tends to harden. keep covered for a few minutes before serving.

Serve hot garnished with chopped fresh coriander.

Contributed by: Manisha Bhide

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

BOMBING
BOOMERANGED

BOMBAY
BLASTS
SPECIAL

Is Mumbai the rudest city in the world? Did Reader's Digest really mean that? I'm proud of Mumbai and the way Mumabikars have responded to this tragedy. The recent bomb blasts in Mumbai were very inhuman but Mumbai hasn't lost its humanity. Mumabikars might seem rude to others, but when the time comes they help each others. I heard that within three hours of the blasts, long queues of blood-donating volunteers were seen outside various hospitals in Mumbai, where most of the injured were admitted. The next day, Mumbai was norm, trains and buses were packed. That's spirit of Mumbai.

**Rohit Kumar 'Happy', Editor,
Bharat-Darshan, New Zealand**

It was with shock and horror that I heard / read about it on Wednesday's NZ Herald when the same paper on the same day did a feature on Ambani and his empire of Reliance. I wonder how many of us

have recovered from the 1993 bomb blast that shook Bombay at its roots and ended some lives and families and changed others. I know I have not. I felt the ruffle effects of the 1993 blast all over India and its effect on many Indians living abroad.

However, I don't know whether I should say it with pride or with an overwhelming sadness that Bombay being Bombay and Bombayities being survivors as always sprang back to life and carried on business as usual to live up to its name of being the commercial capital of India.

And now this? Targeted at ordinary office goers, ordinary people who travel on local trains hanging on for their dear lives to bring in bread for the family table???? I don't know what to think? What did they want to achieve by doing this? Were these ordinary people who lost their lives, families and will remain scarred for life their enemies? Was it to seek revenge? For what? Was it to shock the world

and cripple India? Again to what end? What was gained by this? I really wonder.

A sadistic satisfaction at having executed a plan? And at what cost? Do lives of ordinary people have no value? Can lives of ordinary office

Why this when India is doing so well commercially and booming economically? Is this jealousy?

goers be sacrifices at what altar? I wonder at what the Government and politicians will do? Point fingers?

Use this as an issue to gain a political standing? Re enforce the policy of "divide and rule" ? Set up Inquiry committees etc to find out what we all know? Get front page coverage in newspapers all over the world for a couple of days?

Why this when India is doing so well commercially and booming economically? Why strike at the very heart? Is this jealousy? Revenge? How is this different

Contd...

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

Contd...

Were we celebrating India's independence from British rule or mourning the division of India and Pakistan and all the dead, bruised, injured and mauled, in the process of separation.

As Indians, can we cross our heart and say we are proud of an India that is a free independent republic, the world's largest democracy or do we cringe with embarrassment that us Indians, with so much potential, riches, talent, history and culture are so petty that we can't unite and rise above religious and cultural differences that make up the main fabric that is India.

Sonali Geo, Auckland

May we never experience such events here in peaceful New Zealand. I believe all of us settled here in New Zealand should start talking to one another and solidify our brotherhood and build bridges among differing communities to protect ourselves from such events ever happening here. The media has a great role to play, as well as religious and community leaders/politicians. There is no such a creature as an "International Terrorism". Most "terrorist" events have local political implications. However, sometimes there may be "co-operation" among various "terrorist" organisations towards achieving their objectives. Similar co-operation and alliances also amongst many nations to fight common for example the Americans, British and others fighting the locals in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Why this when India is booming economically? Is this jealousy?

Even though events such as in Mumbai, London, New York are condemned profusely by many, very few raise their voices at mass killings perpetuated (tacitly or actively) by "enlightened" nations, e.g. Gaza, Lebanon, Iraq and Afghanistan. The war crime now being committed by the Israelis is given free leash by the Americans who are objecting to the UN Secretary General from trying to stop the wholesale destruction of Lebanon.

Unless strong groups of people and nations adopt a firm, equitable and just policy towards all others, "terrorist" acts will not cease. Many glibly talk of peace and justice but how many of us really work on it diligently? Talk to your neighbours!

Gul Zaman (Email)

I have been quite disappointed in the mainstream media response to the event. It was extremely disappointing to watch the item on One News last night and the live telephone cross was to the India Rugby Coach - displaying that this was the most meaningful local contact that they could find. What happened to links with CNN and BBC that One News has? The television media portrayal has been dismal. It shows a lack of respect to the very large Indian Diaspora community in New Zealand. Everyone I have spoken to that is Indian, has family or friends in Mumbai, or travels through Mumbai, and therefore the impact of the event hits quite close to home for many Indians.

Name withheld on request

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
MONTH SPECIAL

UNWANTED MIGRANTS

INDIANS SHOW GRIT

WHO IS SAFE?

LAURELS FOR INDIAN STUDENT

SUPER-RICH ASIANS

INDIA: LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

MONTH IN NEWS

FILM FESTIVAL, BOOKS ETC.

WOOSH PLAN

HOLE IN THE WALL

MIGHTY MITTAL

INDIAN MEDIA'S ROLE

SEA ROUTE TO SILK ROUTE

EVENTS

EDITORIAL

WAKE UP CALL ON ASIA

ENTERTAINMENT

ANIMATED GROWTH

BOLLYWOOD

CULTURE, LIVING

MIND MATTERS

TEA TIME

GOURMET ZONE

READERS WRITE

ABOUT US

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