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### **VIJAYA HEADS NZ'S** THIRD-LARGEST CITY

Sangeeta Anand

Renowned senior manager Vijaya Vaidyanath will soon lead New Zealand's third-largest city-Waitakere. Currently, she is the chief executive of Rodney District.

The Global Indian magazine featured Vijaya in 2004, in this magazine's flagship feature "The Global Indian of the Month".

She will take over from Harry O'Rourke who retires in March next vear. She became the first Indian to be the chief executive of a local authority when she was named chief executive of the Rodney District five years ago.

With the latest appointment, she is the only woman CEO in the Auckland region, and will manage a city with 168,000 people, mostly European.

She is currently on a well-deserved holiday, after a five-year stint that saw Rodney become the fastest growing city in New Zealand.

Waitakere Mayor Bob Harvey took the



"Vijaya is one of the most respected officers in local government with impressive credentials and a truly visionary approach." Waitakere Mayor Bob Harvey

opportunity to welcome Vijaya. "After a nation-wide search and sifting through future." many quality candidates we were pleased to be able to offer her the job,

and just as pleased that she was willing to accept and step up to the challenge.

"Vijaya is one of the most respected officers in local government with impressive credentials and a truly visionary approach."

Vijaya has an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh and is a Senior **Executive Fellow of Harvard** University.

She is current chair of the Auckland CEOs' Forum, and has worked previously with the South Taranaki District Council and Palmerston North City Council.

Rodney's mayor, John Law, says that Mrs Vaidyanath's decision was accepted "only with reluctance" and with sincere regret.

He says that councillors and council staff were united in wishing her well and understood fully her desire to pursue new challenges.

"Waitakere is getting a superb CEO. who will contribute greatly to its

(Next page: Our earlier interview with Vijaya.)





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After her MBA, Vijava was equipped with all the resources to make it big in the world's largest economy—the US. "However, my husband Gopal and I wanted to move to a smaller country - clean, green and beautiful - where our children could grow up with no fears of an environment riddled with crime and violence," recounted Vijaya during her interview with The Global Indian in 2004. "New Zealand was my husband's choice and we came here first in 1992, then finally in 1994." Interestingly, Waitakere, where Vijaya takes up her new role, is known as New Zealand's eco-city.

Back in the 1980s, while with the Reserve Bank in India, she was selected from a national pool to pursue higher management studies overseas with full scholarship. Not just in India, Vijaya's capabilities were quickly recognised in New Zealand too.

A month after her arrival in New Zealand, Vijaya joined the South Taranaki District Council as director of corporate services, based in Hawera. "This new style of living

suited our goal of absorbing ourselves into mainstream/rural New Zealand and since then I have never looked back." The journey took Vijava to Palmerston North before moving to New Zealand's fastest growing district - Rodney District. Chennai born, Calcutta bred, Bangalore educated and with career postings all over India, she never imagined that she would land in New Zealand one day.

So, what's her recipe for this success? "A combination of hard work, tenacity, adventure, social integration, good timing, determination, sacrifices, family support and very strong family values," Vijaya asserts. "I am prepared to challenge the status quo and am pushing myself to not only think, but implement solutions outside the box."

If hard work and tenacity are Vijaya's recipe, there is a third ingredient to Viiava's achievements. "I connect with our communities - business, residential, political - not only because of the leadership role that I play but I have an innate passion, people skills and commitment to

interact with our communities in a less than formal manner."

Staying connected is her mantra and she walks the talk. Every weekend Vijava is out listening to several hundreds of residents and integrating their feedback into Rodney's long-term sustainable strategies. "I also speak at several Rotary Club, Lion's Club, Probus meetings, sharing, listening and learning along the way," Vijaya informs. She is professionally aligned to the Society of Local Government Managers, New Zealand Institute of Management, Local Government New Zealand and is also a leading participant in the Auckland CEOs' and Mayoral forums, " to feel the pulse and have an understanding of the greater community of Auckland."

Of course, this high-pressure job entails a lot of sacrifices. "My success is largely due to Gopal, my mother and my in-laws who have exhibited family values and encouraged me to practise these values. Also, my children are my source of strength and inspiration."

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#### **WOMEN ON TOP**

Sangeeta Anand

Indian women are becoming increasingly visible in the international sphere in media, entertainment, business, IT, politics, literature, sports and entertainment. The smart and savvy female professional or entrepreneur is replacing the stereotype Indian woman.

And New Zealand has its own success stories of Indian women. Vijaya Vaidyanath who

migrated to New Zeland from India in 1994, has just been appointed chief executive officer of Waitekere City Council.

Sukhinder (Sukhi) Gill was the Mayor of Dunedin, New Zealand, from 1995 until her retirement from the position in 2004. She was notable as the first Green Party mayor in New Zealand.

Pooja Chitkopikar who won Miss India New Zealand 2002 was the first runner up in Miss India Worldwide 2003 and Miss Auckland 2002.

If we look at the past, Mahatma Gandhi worked towards liberating



With the appointment of first female president (Pratibha Patil), Indian women have come full circle.

Indian women from the clutches of 'purdah' and other social evils. He brought them out of their confinement and made them

#### **60 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

The Global Indian looks at achievements of global Indian women, on this special occasion.

> participate in the fight for the country's independence. He believed that women should share the responsibilities of the nation. With the country welcoming its first woman president, Gandhi's vision seems to have come full circle.

Today, Indian women form the largest group of professionally qualified women in the world. And India also has largest population of working women in the world.

And if leaving their mark on this earth was not enough, they have invaded

the space too. Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian woman astronaut in space, was the member of Colombia Space Shuttle that exploded on its way back to the earth. Following her footsteps, Sunitha Williams has become the second woman of Indian descent to have been selected by NASA for a space mission. She holds three records for female space travelers: longest spaceflight (195 days), number of space walks (four), and total time spent on spacewalks (29 hours and 17 minutes).

In the corporate sector our women hold important positions. Kiran Majumdar Shaw, Managing Director of Biocon India, is the undisputed corporate queen of India and the country's richest woman.Indra K. Nooyi, the chief executive of PepsiCo America is one of the most powerful women in corporate America.

Also of international acclaim is Vidya Manohar Chhabria who leads Jumbo Group, a Dubai-based US\$1.5 billion business conglomerate.

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Continued Entertainment industry has made a huge contribution to the Global platform in recent years.

Aishwariya Rai is a name known in every overseas household. Not only is she the most beautiful Indian woman, she is also the ninth most beautiful woman in the World, according to Harpers & Queen's list of the world's 100 most beautiful women. Bipasha

Basu recently compered a

celebrity-studded event in Lisbon, Portugal, held to announce the new wonders of the world. Bipasha's beauty was compared to Shilpa Shetty, the harassed participant of Big Brother has made waves in the UK by successfully winning the TV competition and conducting herself with extreme poise and dignity through the events of racial discrimination and bullying.

And if you thought that beautiful Indian women were as delicate as wax, think again. They have made their mark in fields traditionally reserved for men. Bali Beneka, a 21year-old Delhi girl made history in the US by becoming not just first Indian, but first Asian woman, to join the

American Army in 2000. She joined the 82nd Airborne Division of the US Army after graduating from the famous West Point Military Academy as a full-fledged lieutenant following a grueling four-year training. Yes, she hails from the same country that has dominated global beauty pageants for years.

In music, Lata Mangeshkar entered

#### **60 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

#### A Global Indian special report continued.

Guinness Book Of Records in 1974 for singing the maximum number of songs in the world. The Royal Albert Hall, London has recorded, on computer, a graph of Lata's voice, which is described as by far the "most perfect" in the world. Lata has been awarded an honorary doctorate by six global universities.

Norah Jones, daughter of famous Indian musician Ravi Shankar, won eight Grammy Awards, the most for any artist, at the 45th annual Grammy Awards in Germany in 2002.

Not far behind are Indian literary contributors. Arundhati Roy, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri are household names not just in



India, but internationally. In fact, Arundhati Roy won the Booker Prize in 1997 for her work "God of Small Things". Kiran Desai received the same prize in 2006.

And they shine in sports too! Indian women have achieved great laurels for the nation in every sport. Indian women cricket team won Asia Cup in 2004 and 2005. Some women sports icons recognised globally are P.T. Usha (Athletics), Kunjarani Devi (Weightlifting), Diana Edulji (Cricket) and the most talked about Sania Mirza (Tennis). Sania made it to the WTA top 50 rankings very early in her career. No doubt, the global Indian women are here to stay.

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# INDIANS GOT 'IT' RIGHT!

Vaibhav Gangan

Some of India's achievements may seem insignificant on a global platform, but when put in the context of the country's past, these are pretty significant milestones for a country that was manipulated by an empire for two-hundred years for commercial and political gains. But even when we ignore the past, many of India's achievements stand quite high on their own.

One such area is its technological advances. Of course, India is known for snake-charmers and computer geeks. But really, what does it mean when international businesses look up to India for IT solutions? Why businesses in the western world partner with Indian companies for their technology needs? Is it just outsourcing or much beyond that? And where does New Zealand feature on India's growth map, if at all? Let's look at some of these interesting equations.

For starters, India's emergence as technological superpower was not



Infosys' Narayan Murthy reversed the trend of job losses for the US.

overnight. What we see is, in some sense, tip of an iceberg. When the Americans welcomed computers in their workplaces, Indians were still using manual typewriters. Well most Indians! But there was a quiet class

#### **60 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

The Global Indian pays tribute to one of India's well-celebrated strong areas—technology.

of Indians that was early adapter of technology. In fact, this group adapted and adopted the technology faster than many in the US. And this was not deliberate. Good old Indians were only chasing the American dream. In the process, they infected themselves and their immediate circles of influence with this technology bug. Then came companies like Infosys which saw the opportunities and made a small beginning, with remote knowledge that what they started in garages will soon pave way for a revolution much bigger than their own company.

Today, Nasdaq-listed Infosys employs 75,000 people worldwide. While there was a hue and cry about American jobs going overseas because of outsourcing, Infosys reversed the trend by setting up offices in the US. The US\$3 billion group was recently applauded by Wired magazine for turning the outsourcing myth around and bringing jobs back to the US. No wonder that Waters, a leading IT publication, named Infosys the "Best Outsourcing Partner".

Then Internet happened. Hundreds of web-based businesses were set up in a country which was still 65 percent rural. Venture capitalists invested in multi-million dollar online businesses.

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many people

relied more on money that good business ideas. The internet bubble burst. Many businesses went belly up. Once the dust settled, vision became clear. Entrepreneurs now had a clear idea of what could work. rather what could not! Indians jumped on the bandwagon again. In its wake, Indians have created some of the most successful online trades like baazi.com (India's equivalent of TradeMe) which was later bought by eBay.

One such dreamer was Chandigarhborn 39-year old Sabeer Bhatia. As a non-resident Indian, he saw the need most Indians have – to communicate with their loved one. International calls were very expensive. Sabeer was sure that there would be a cheaper way to communicate. That's how Hotmail was born in 1996. Sabeer set up this free internet-based email service. Very soon, the idea spread like wild fire, and Hotmail became the oldest and largest email service in the world, which was bought by Microsoft in for US\$400 million, making Sabeer a millionaire in less than a year at the age of 29. In owned by India's oldest and most the same year, Sabeer was named

Unfortunately. Entrepreneur of the Year in the US. Today, Sabeer is exploring an idea of creating a nano city in India, which will replicate America's silicon valley, and benefit many Indians.

> And this love for technology seems to be inculcated at a very early age in India, according to a global study on youth and technology, conducted by MTV and Nickelodeon in association with Microsoft. The survey found that 20 percent of 14-24-year-olds actually loved technology and were concentrated in India. Brazil and China.

> How is New Zealand faring in exploring technology options in India? We are getting started. I know of a leading New Zealand publisher who wanted to revamp their website. They first tried Kiwi developers, then Americans and finally Indians. It was Indians who offered them what they were after, at less than half price, in a lot less time, and with very high customer service standards.

Another example is Massey University which has partnered with a communities to explore the options. leading IT company in Mumbai. CMC Technology (formerly IBM India) is respected business

conglomerate - the Tata group. Together, the joint venture will market New Zealand technologies in the Indian market. The venture, known as CMC Technology Export Centre and based in Auckland's north shore, has bagged five contracts so far - Jade Software, QLBS, Sonar6, SMX and Digital Learning Systems, amounting to millions of dollars of expected earnings over the next year. according to a report.

And there is a seat on the Indian bus for more blue-eyed Kiwi entrepreneurs. But the ride is not for the faint-hearted. New Zealand businesses will need to be less sceptical of Indian suppliers. Of course, there will be some rotten fruits in the basket, but the time has come for us New Zealanders to partner with Indian companies more extensively not only to become competitive, but also to sustain ourselves. That's the beauty of globalisation - like it or not, everyone has to play a part. Kiwi companies can call on New Zealand's Indian

As a recent Asia:NZ report said, it's a wake up call!

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#### **NZ WITNESSES RATH YATRA**

Staff correspondent

Auckland's BAPS Swaminarayan temple organised rath vatra (procession of holy chariot) in July. Though this festival is celebrated all over India, it originated in Jagannath Puri on the eastern coast in India. Every year the deities of Jagannath Mandir – Lord Krishna Balaram and Subhadra – are traditionally installed on huge chariots. Devotees pull the chariots in a yatra (procession) through the streets. The local king used to serve by sweeping the road ahead with a golden broom (did you visualise our mayors on our streets?).

In Auckland, over 250 devotees participated in the procession. The idol of Shri Harikrishan Maharaj was placed in a beautifully decorated chariot. The procession went around the temple five times in a ritual known as 'pradakshnia'



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# BSA APPOINTS ETHNIC PANEL

The Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) appointed a community advisory panel made up of ten members from different backgrounds, ages and ethnicities. The panel is not involved in the complaints/decision-making process but has the role of giving the BSA advice and feedback about wider issues relevant to the community.

The BSA's job is to approve codes of broadcasting practice and run a public complaints system. The BSA adjudicates on complaints from members of the public after they have already complained to the broadcaster and been dissatisfied with the response.

The BSA wants a greater two-way dialogue with ethnic communities to find out what issues are most relevant to them when it comes to what they see on television and hear on the radio.

For example, the panel were asked for their views on last year's South Park 'Bloody Mary' episode which generated 35 individual complaints about good taste and decency and denigration.

The panel has representatives from the Maori, Samoan, Pakeha, Chinese and Indian communities, and members include a retired school principal, an environmental planner, a student and a carpenter.

#### THE I-PHONE PHENOMENON

Macophiles and Apple loyalists can't wait to get their hands on the latest Appple offering – iPhone which is a mobile phone and MP3 Player combined. With a big rush outside Apple store in New York's Fifth Avenue, some people are offering to stand in the queue for a fee.

America's online message board craigslist.org is flooded with posters offering to strand in line at various Apple stores in the US, to buy iPhone. Amanda, one of the line waiters writes: "I am a responsible and unique college student who prefers to take classes at the crack of dawn than sleep in. I have never slept through an alarm clock or missed an important event. I have an amazing bladder that can with stand hours without needing to be empty (10 hours...plane toilets freak me out) I have plenty of reading to do for summer school so I will be amused forever. Now for my offering, I am willing to stand line in at the Apple store so you have the pleasure of enjoying the day. Then about an hour before then go on sale, I will trade spots with you so you can receive the iPhone. The price to some may seem steep but remember this is the whole day without moving."

Some 'professional waiters' have already joined the queue in anticipation of business. "We are in line right now at the Downtown Apple Store at Stockton & Market and will sell our spots to the highest bidder. We are numbers 3 and 4 in line. They told us that at this store you can buy up to 2 iPhones. Come on down and place your bid. We set up our Peepshow Minigolf hole (http://www.peepshowminigolf.com) for everybody's entertainment waiting in line and will not be buying any phones for ourselves, so you can buy our spots. No email access for us in line, so you have to come down. Even if you don't buy our spots, come play some minigolf. keep your eye on the hole!"

## **FOREIGN-BORN DOCTORS UNDER SCANNER**

TGI correspondent

Some patients at Wanganui Hospital cancelled surgeries after they learnt that they will be operated upon by foreign-trained doctors, the Dominion Post last month reported.

Clinicians have been subjected to racial abuse, and there has been an increase in the Official Information Act requests for career details of foreign-trained doctors.

Close to half of the doctors employed at the hospital are foreign-trained.

The issue was also debated in the Parliament when New Zealand First MP Barbara Stewart asked whether there was growing lack of confidence in foreign-trained medical professionals.

Readers of the publication condemned the racist behaviour, and showed confidence in country's doctors. "This is very disappointing for me as I am a New Zealand citizen (currently living abroad). My wife is not from New Zealand and quite frankly reading of events like this is a concern for me as we are considering settling in NZ," Rob Kilgour, a reader, wrote on the website. "We live in a global society folks and many of us are foreigners in the countries in which we live! And how do we survive? Tolerance and understanding of other cultures."

NZ people are, beyond any doubt, racist, wrote Elizabeth Ullberg. "Every foreign professional who has ever tried to get a job in NZ could attest to that. Human Resources don't tell you that you weren't hired because they gave the job to a white New Zealander. It would be ridiculous had it not been so tragic."

However, some also raised concerns over the standards of our medical profession. "With a number of high profile cases that have been highlighted it's no wonder that people are sceptical about their doctors," wrote Kate Bennett, another reader. "Racism is an overused word and most of the time it's the only word used by people from overseas who can't get jobs here in New Zealand."

### INDIAN PARAKEETS IN **AUCKLAND**

Indian ringneck parakeets have been sighted in Auckland recently. These migratory birds, mostly found in Asia and Africa, migrate to as far as the UK and the US.

New Zealand's Department of Conservation is concerned that these birds may be harmful to local bird life. Though there is widespread belief that these birds also damage crops, there is little evidence to support this.

The Department of Conservation

wants to stop these species from being established, so as to protect New Zealand's local bird life.

Asian birds are believed to be more aggressive (physically and vocally) than their New Zealand counterparts who struggle to defend their territory from these migrants.

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#### MIGRANT NUMBERS TO FALL

TGI correspondent

The New Zealand Residence Programme for the coming year has been set in a slightly lower band to take account of the continuing strong economy, says Immigration Minister David Cunliffe.

"The number of migrants being sought under the programme in 2007-08 has been set in the range 45,000 to 50,000," Mr Cunliffe said.

### INDIAN FINED FOR **POISONING TREE**

An Auckland man was caught disrespecting New Zealand's environmental laws and has been made to pay for it. Rajesh Kumar Patel, a resident of Mount Albert. pleaded guilty to charges of poisoning a protected tree on neighbouring land.

The environment court has been fined \$3500, in addition to \$1500 towards expenses, a NZPA report said. Rajesh drilled holes in gingko The range for the 12 months to June 30 was 47,000 to 52,000. "Current indications are that about 47,000 people will have been approved for residence during that year," the minister added.

People who wish to migrate to New Zealand must apply under one of the programme's three residence streams: Skilled/Business, Family Sponsored, or International/ Humanitarian.

Each stream is allocated a percentage of the total number of residence places. The Skilled/

tree at the Horticulture and Food Research Institute, and pushed weedkiller through it.

Fortunately, the tree has survived the attack. Had the tree died, he could have been fined up to \$15000, the judge said.

Property owners should always contact their council if they are unsure about a tree on their land. Resource consents for trees are free of charge.

Auckland City Council has two levels of tree protection. The highest

Business Stream approvals account for 60 percent, Family Sponsored 30 percent and International 10 percent.

"As I have said on a number of occasions recently, with the economy strong and New Zealand competing in a global market for skilled migrants, our top priority at present is ensuring we get high quality migrants while not adding to inflationary pressures.

"At the same time, many employers continue to report skill shortages. Temporary migrants can also be used to fill immediate skill shortages."

protection is given to trees that have historic, botanical or cultural value. The council also has general tree protection rules, where resource consent is required to remove, prune or work on a native or exotic tree.

As a general rule, if a tree is about the size of a two-storey house then it is likely to be covered by the general tree protection rules.

Property owners do not need a resource consent for minor trimming or maintaining of trees, removing dead trees, or dead parts of a tree and removing certain types of trees.

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#### KRISHNAN RETURNS

TGI correspondent

According to the Chinese horoscope, 2007 is the Year of the Pig. For a Kiwi drama production company, it is the Year of the Dentist. In October, Indian Ink, producers of the popular play Krishnan's Dairy, will take the wrapping off their new play, The Dentist's Chair.

The new play is provoked by the idea that 'life makes cowards of us all.' Fear can control our actions and we have set our new work in that most terrifying of locations - the dentist's chair. It was a dentist who developed anaesthetic from a desire to ease the pain of the world. It was also a dentist who invented the electric chair.

The Dentist's Chair will have its first season in Hamilton in October and then tour to Tauranga, New Plymouth and Napier. "Next year we will tour Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin," say Justin Lewis and Jacob Rajan, the men behind the play.

This production will be twice the size of The Pickle King,



their earlier play. "We have a big cast: five actors and two musicians, and a dramatic set," the duo adds. So we will miss the masks then? "We have continued to develop our use of masks but with in The Dentist's Chair we are also seeking out new theatrical frontiers for us to explore with use of projections and song."

And they are attracting international attention too. In January they took The Pickle King to Singapore where more than 7000 people came along to see the play.

At the moment, they are negotiating with an international producer to make a clone production of Krishnan's Dairy that will tour Asia.

But Justin and Jacob like to reserve the best news till the end. They are now working on the film version of Krishnan's Dairy. "Traditionally, it takes us about 2 years to put a new play together and we always thought

that was a long time. Turns out 2 years is nothing when it comes to making a film and that is something we have had to get used to."

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The Girl Child

P. R. Lakshman

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#### **SORRY, IT'S A GIRL!**

Sangeeta anand

While most people use their skills to earn a living, some also put them to use for a social cause. Freelance writer P R Lakshman, or Princess (her first name), has published her debut novel which addresses the issue of female infanticide and foeticide in India.

The New Zealand author's work of fiction is based on true life events, and deals with some parts of India's obsession to have sons only. The practice of killing unborn or newlyborn female children is common in some

rural areas, though guite unheard of in urban India. According to most recent census (2001) India's female to male ratio is as low as 933 women to 1000 men. Harvana

> has only 861 females to 1000 males while Chandigarh has 773. Daman and Diu record the lowest at 709.

While modern Indian makes strides towards technologydriven growth and promises to be one of the top economies of the world, her record with female infanticide is saddening.

The methods used for killing the infant are not only barbarous, but also inhuman. "Traditionally, unwanted girl children are fed milk laced with either yerakkam paal (poison) or paddy husk as soon as they are born," Gita Aravamudan

writes on Redif.com. "The husk method is more cruel; it slits the tender gullet with its sharp sides as it slides down the tiny throat. The more 'modern' families use pesticides or sleeping pills. Sometimes, they just suffocate the infant with a pillow."

Ultrasound foetus sex determination tests. though illegal, are common in India.

shackled by the mores of the past."



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Ironically, it is older women who are involved in the crime - mostly new mothers, their mothers-in-law or their own mothers. The mothers feel they are doing good for the child, as they don't wish their daughters to lead the same hard life they are living. There are many government programmes in place to address the issue which is quite gigantic even with many

Even New Zealand's Fijian and Indian communities are not unaffected. An Auckland lawyer says cases of domestic violence against wives who could not conceive a male child are not uncommon in New Zealand.

charities working in this area.

The Pakuranga writer's new novel, The Girl Child, describes the story of Priya, a Fiji-New Zealand young woman, who fights to keep her

unborn daughter alive.

In an interview to a local newspaper, Princess hopes that book will educate others and lift the lid on a practice "most people would not imagine still



exists in modern India.

The Indian-origin author was born

and raised in Fiji, while being educated in Australia and New Zealand. Her interest in Avurveda and love for her Indian husband took her to India in 2002, her website says. While in India she gave birth to a girl child. She now lives in Auckland.

Being a full-time mother, Princess started writing. With her first novel, she has also become a publisher, since she could not wait for a year to take up the offer from a publisher to publish her novel.

She is currently working on her second novel and feature articles for various New Zealand publications.

Visit the author's website: www. thegirlchild.com



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## **DON'T BLAME** MIGRANTS FOR **HOUSE PRICES**

TGI correspondent

Immigrants should not be blamed for high house prices or related economic woes, according to the New Zealand Institute for Migration & Investment (NZAMI).

The migration advisers' representative body has also warned against immigration becoming a political football in the lead up to next year's general election.

"Just how small a part immigration has in fuelling housing demand can be gauged from the fact that, in April this year, the number of permanent and long term arrivals entering New Zealand exceeded departures by just says. 100 people," says the NZAMI's Chairman, Bernard Walsh.

"Even assuming that all the new arrivals purchased real estate, this would hardly account for the ongoing surge in house prices. But, the truth is that many newcomers prefer to rent, particularly if they come from countries where home ownership is

comparatively rare. And, of course, 100 individuals does not mean 100 households. The figure includes parents and children who typically live under the same roof.

"The bigger picture is not all that different. In the year to June 2007, our net gain in long term arrivals was only 2,600, a figure which includes international students and young people from the United Kingdom, here on working holidays.

"All the signs are that house price inflation is being fuelled not by migrants but by New Zealanders' own inveterate preference for putting their money into real estate and by the perception of overseas fund managers that, for the moment at least, New Zealand is a good place to make property investments," he

Mr Walsh adds that, in the long term, the only way New Zealand can escape from the grim choice of rising inflation or punitively high interest rates is to raise productivity and gear our economy for exporting.

"We can't achieve these goals without skilled migrants. Not only do we have chronic skills shortages in

many crucial areas. It's a fact of life in a small, well-educated, Englishspeaking country such as ours, that our brightest and best will be easily lured away by enhanced opportunities and higher salaries elsewhere in the world.

"Whilst every effort should be made to train and retain skilled New Zealanders and to attract them back from overseas, it's flying in the face of reality to imagine that we can fill all the gaps without a substantial infusion of new Kiwis, keen to build decent lives here for themselves and their families.

"Given our skills deficit, it's certainly hard to see the economic logic behind the reduction of immigration targets from 47,000-52,000 to 45,000-50,000 for the current year. as announced by Immigration Minster David Cunliffe earlier this month.

"Short term political considerations or mistaken fears about the relationship between immigration and the housing market should not be allowed to jeopardise this goal," he adds.

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RACIST ARTICLE

#### RACIST ARTICLE

Sangeeta Anand, publisher and editorial director of Auckland-based The Global Indian magazine, welcomed press council's decision about the Asian Angst article. "The decision underpins the fact that journalists' freedom of expression is not absolute," she said.

She was commenting on the Press Council's recent decision about a story titled "Asian Angst: Is it time to send some back?" published in the North & South magazine in November. The council withheld the complaints that the article breached principles of discrimination and accuracy.

Deborah Coddington, who wrote the

### **CONFERENCE SEEKS BETTER COVERAGE**

A recent New Zealand conference wants to see better training in intercultural understanding for journalists; developing media campaigns to combat discrimination; and, working to increase the number of youth exchanges and youthorientated websites that "speak in constructive ways about the

cover story, argued in the article that Asian crime was on the rise. The statistics in the article said that in 2001 Asians made up 6.6 percent of the population but were responsible for 1.7 percent of all criminal convictions, and added "However, according to Statistics New Zealand national apprehension figures from 1996 to 2005, total offences committed by Asiatics (not including Indian) aged 17 to 50 rose 53 percent from 1791 to 2751."

The council ruling said that freedom of expression is not unlimited. "Amongst other things, it is subject to the prohibition on discrimination in the Human Rights Act," the ruling said.

"The key issue is the absence of challenges facing young people today."

One of the topics discussed by conference delegates was a United Nations initiative to overcome cultural and social barriers between mainly the Western and Muslim worlds. The initiative presented its report to those at the conference.

The inclusion of media-related recommendations is indicative of the

correlation between the Asian population and the crime rate. It is abundantly clear... that the rate of offending is dropping pro rata. To then talk of a gathering crime tide is therefore wrong."

Ms Anand says that there is a need for more balanced reporting on ethnic issues and hopes to see more cultural diversity in New Zealand's media industry. "This also highlights the need to have more ethnic journalists in the newsrooms of large publications in New Zealand," she said.

Both, Deborah Coddington and the editor of the North and South have left the publication, soon after the council's decision.

understanding of the important part that media plays in improving communication between cultures. and equally that all cultures have a right to be treated fairly by media. However, the media and the organisations in it are not always good at responding to the needs of various ethnicities and some organisations are looking at how they can do better in this area.

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#### **WILL INDIA GET A KIWI COACH?**

TGI staff

After Graham Ford's last-minute withdrawal from his new role as coach for the Indian cricket team, India has re-launched the search for the most difficult cricket job in the world. The Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI), the richest cricketing body in the world, has received applications for the top position from three international coaches, including a Kiwi.

Canterbury coach Dave Nosworthy, currently coaching New Zealand A for the Emerging Players tournament in Australia in July, has applied for the



the Times of India.

Another Kiwi, former New Zealand coach Steve Rixon, who reportedly turned down the offer to coach Pakistan, is not keen for the India job. "I do not want to be in a situation where there are five of us," Rixon told

the newspaper.

It looks like no one wants to wear the crown of thorns, after former Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer's death during the World Cup in West Indies earlier this year. In a country where cricket is just short of religion, coaching Team India is regarded as one of the most stressful jobs in the global cricketing industry.

Insiders also believe that overpoliticisation of the team selection process and regional conflicts are some of the factors that dampen the spirits of foreign coaches in India. The wait is not yet over to find out who gets in the hot seat which Greg Chapel (pictured) occupied until recently!

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### **PRISON FOOD TOO GOOD TO ACCEPT** BAIL

Inmates of an Indian prison are reportedly refusing to apply for bail because the food is so good. Parappana Agrahara prison in Bangalore is crowded with 4,700 inmates, more than twice its capacity.

Criminals are refusing to apply for bail to get out while juvenile offenders are lying about their age to get in, reports the Bangalore Mirror.

The paper says the reason is healthy food being served by ISKCON, or the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, a Hindu evangelist organisation.

ISKCON, commonly known as the Hare Krishna movement, started serving its pure-vegetarian fare in the jail in May under contract from the

prisons department.

Lunch and dinner typically include piping hot rice, two vegetables and a lentil dish called sambar and buttermilk.

A dessert is added on festival days and national holidays like Independence Day, and also once a week.

Prisoner Raja Reddy, who has been arrested 20 times in 30 years for theft, robbery and burglary, said "When we are getting tasty, nutritious food three times a day here, why should we go out and commit crimes."

### **POLICE FIGHT INDIA'S ALCOHOLIC RATS**

Rats are gnawing at beer cans and making holes in caps of whisky bottles stored in police storehouses in eastern India and apparently

getting drunk, authorities said on Wednesday.

The rodents' love for liquor has the police department in Bihar state stumped as it tries to store hundreds of bottles seized from illegal sellers from across the state in Patna, the state capital, said Kundan Krishnan, a senior officer.

"We are fed up with these drunk rats and cannot explain why they have suddenly turned to consumption of alcohol," he said.

The problem costs revenue as the seized liquor is usually sold through auctions, he said.

Rats were also attacking people near the police buildings, nibbling at their toes, although it was not clear if they were under the influence, officials and witnesses said.

Source: weirdasianews.com



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### **LIFE-SAVING** COMBINATION

A mixture of Honey and Cinnamon cures most diseases.

#### **Arthritis**

Take one part honey to two parts of luke warm water and add a small teaspoon of cinnamon powder. Make a paste and massage it on the itching part of the body slowly. The pain should recede within fifteen minutes in most cases.

In a research done at Copenhagen University, it was found that when the doctors treated their patients with a mixture of one tablespoon honey and Make a paste of one teaspoon of half a teaspoon of cinnamon powder before breakfast, they found that within a week, out of the 200 people treated, 73 patients were totally relieved of pain within a month.

#### Hair loss

Apply a paste of hot olive oil, one tablespoon of honey, one teaspoon of teaspoons of cinnamon powder cinnamon powder before a bath and keep it for approximately 15 minutes, and then wash the hair.

#### **Bladder infections**

Take two tablespoons of cinnamon



powder and one teaspoon of honey in a glass of lukewarm water and drink it. It destroys the germs of the bladder.

#### **Toothache**

cinnamon powder and five teaspoons of honey, and apply on the aching tooth. This may be done 3 times a day (daily) till such time, that the tooth has stopped aching.

#### Cholesterol

Two tablespoons of honey and three mixed in 16 ounces of tea, when given to a cholesterol patient, reduces the level of cholesterol in the Contributed by Brian D'Silva, blood by 10% within two hours.

As mentioned for arthritic patients—if

taken three times a day, it lowers the cholesterol level.

#### Colds

Those suffering from common or severe colds should take one tablespoon of lukewarm honey with 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon powder daily for three days.

#### Infertility

If impotent men regularly take two tablespoons of honey before sleeping, their problem will be solved. In China, Japan and the Far East, women who do not conceive have been taking cinnamon powder for centuries. Women who cannot conceive may take a pinch of cinnamon powder in half a teaspoon of honey, and apply it on the gums frequently throughout the day, so that it slowly mixes with the saliva and enters the body.

#### Stomach upset

Honey taken with cinnamon powder cures stomachache and also clears stomach ulcers from the root.

Auckland

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#### **OUT OF OFFICE?**

- \* I am currently out at a job interview and will reply to you if I fail to get the position. I may be a little moody so be prepared. \*
- \* You are receiving this automatic notification because I am out of the office. If I was in, chances are you wouldn't have received anything at all.
- \* Sorry to have missed you, but I am at the doctor's having my brain removed so I can be promoted to our management team.
- \* I will be unable to delete all the unread, worthless emails you send me until I return from vacation on 4/18. Please be patient, and your mail will be deleted in the order it was received.
- \* Thank you for your email. Your credit card has been charged \$5.99

for the first 10 words and \$1.99 for each additional word in your message.

\* The e-mail server is unable to verify your server connection and is unable to deliver this message. Please restart your computer and try sending again.

(The beauty of this is that when you return, you can see how many in-duhviduals did this over and over.)

- \* Thank you for your message, which has been added to a queuing system. You are currently in 352nd place, and can expect to receive a reply in approximately 19 weeks.
- \* Hi, I'm thinking about what you've just sent me. Please wait by your PC for my response.

### **BROKEN LAWN MOWER**

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed.

But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first: the truck, the car, e-mail, fishing, always something more important to me.

Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors.

I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house.

I was gone only a few minutes.

When I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. "When you finish cutting the grass," I said, "you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

Contributed by Brian D'Silva, **Auckland** 

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