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“DIFFERENCES MAKE US UNIQUE” – TAYYABA KHAN

Sangeeta Anand

Any world affair such as the France riots has something to be learnt from for everybody else, according to a young Muslim girl in Auckland. The history and development of the French as a society show the importance of successful integration for the newcomers to a country. “This successful integration not only encompasses financial stability via employment, but a

“We as a society have grown into such structured human beings who find it difficult to step out of the box now.”

warm welcome to the host country, and an extended hand of long term friendship so bridges are built and understanding of differences can take place,” says Tayyaba Khan, who won Sonja

Davies Peace award for promoting peace through four-year old Auckland Muslim Girls' Association (AMGA). AMGA's Azoorah Ali was also honoured by Prime Minister Helen Clark with the peace award, established in honour of late Labour MP Sonja Davies. “It is indeed disheartening to see the violence in France and we hope that this is never going to be something we face here in Aotearoa,” says Tayyaba with a promise in her eyes, in an interview with The Global Indian. The \$2500 award money will be used for furthering AMGA's activities.

Tayyaba feels nice to be “the one to break certain stereotypes” that exist about Muslims and Muslim organisations. “We as a society have grown into such structured human beings who find it difficult to step out of the box now.”

Thinking about others is what AMGA is about. “We certainly hope to get stronger in representing the voice of young women on a national scale. These young women can be the global voices of tomorrow,” Tayyaba informs.

OPEN EYE

Imagine a scenario - you are trying to buy a house in your favourite suburb, but can't afford because it's in Mt Roskill Grammar Zone, or you drive a taxi and you are robbed at gunpoint, or you are constantly abused by your spouse. You ask, why me? Let's be tough, because life is. We'll ask tough questions to powers-that-be, to get the

answers for you. The Global Indian, in association with Mirchee TV, brings to you—Open Eye, a weekly programme on Triangle TV and Mirchee TV, starting December 7, every Wednesday at 7.00pm on Mirchee TV, and every Sunday on Triangle TV. If there are issues that concern you, write to us: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz Because we refuse to sit on the fence!

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ATTITUDE, APTITUDE, ALTITUDE

Sangeeta Anand

If Indians' skills in information technology are well-known, there are a few Indians who take it a step further and achieve superlative success. Ravi Kumar Dasari is one such example. Working for Emerio Corp in Singapore as Chief Quality Officer, Ravi won Gold and Star National Excellent Service Awards for two straight years – 2003 and 2004. He is the first IT professional of Senior Project Management cadre in Singapore to receive the award, giving him a place in Singapore Book of Records. He's also involved in the development of software applications for voluntary and welfare organisations which saw his company becoming a market leader in Singapore in that sector.

Being an Indian gave him an edge as Indians are known for their IT prowess.

Born in Hyderabad, a city known for Charminar, biryani (fried rice), Irani tea, pearls and of course, information technology, Ravi developed interest in computers at a very early stage. "Right from my childhood, I had immense passion for IT. I am living my childhood dream of using computers," Ravi recalls. After graduating, he knew IT was where he wanted to be. "This decision was largely because of my passion for IT synergised by the IT boom and rapid developments in the field of IT."

Desire for better life brought Ravi to Singapore. "It offers excellent infrastructure, security, cultural harmony and opportunities," he says. He did not face much difficulty in settling down in the multiracial and multicultural society that Singapore is. "People are very courteous, friendly and disciplined." But he misses the festive



environment in India. Being an Indian gave him an edge as Indians are known for their IT prowess. He explains, "It gave me a competitive edge at the crucial juncture of my career. But since the expectations are high, the quality of services delivered should also be very high."

Continued...

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Continued... Ravi was greatly influenced by his late father – his role model. “Despite belonging to a poor, agricultural family, my father completed his Masters and PhD. He paid for his education with scholarships and part-time jobs,” Ravi exerts. “He was an active volunteer in various social service activities intended to help the underprivileged families.” Like his father, Ravi too is involved in community work, and hopes to start an orphanage and provide scholarships to needy students. He’s involved in organising blood donation drives, raising funds to help underprivileged families and for victims of natural disasters. “I strongly believe that giving back to the community is a noble activity.”

He credits his mother for imbibing time-tested values. “The way she handled the family matters after my father passed away in 1994 was amazing. I admire her capabilities,” he recalls. Ravi’s wife Teja, a post-graduate in computer science has been great support for the hardworking professional.

The key ingredients for success in a foreign land are education, attitude, flexibility, technical aptitude and altitude, according to Ravi. “Do your home work, learn to accept other cultures, inculcate self-respect and respect for others and give your best in whatever you do,” he concludes.

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

WANT TO NOMINATE?



CHARITY NIGHT SUCCESSFUL

Over 400 South Asian music-lovers were treated to melodious ghazals in

Auckland recently. As the event co-ordinator Pavitra Roy informs, “Ghazal-singer Mertoza Shueb (pictured) and co-singers Sandhya Rao and Gopal Bhatia mesmerised the audience, ably supported by local artists Peter Paul and Partha Kanjilal on tabla (Indian percussion drum), Hemant (synthesiser), Saeed (rhythm guitar) and Sanjay (bass guitar).” Food stall served biriyani (fried rice), mouth-watering Kebabs, sweetmeats and Indian masala tea.

The show was organised to raise fund for treating Shihab Fahim, a four-year old boy, who came to New Zealand last year. As reported by *The Global Indian* earlier, Shihab suffered a brain stroke in March, which left him paralysed. He can’t swallow or speak properly. The cost of his 21 days’ stay at the hospital comes to \$37,500. If you would like to help, contact: Abdul Barek Mia, Acting President, Bangladesh Association New Zealand Inc., Ph: (09) 8152248/021-776261; Ashrafuddin Khokon, Ph-09 8282076.

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AGE NO BAR

Sanjay Verma

‘Remember to pick up flowers’ Apurva Roy Choudhury tapped into his telephone. With his wedding approaching, he found himself using the SyncNotes application more and more for such snippets of information. The handy little programme allowed him to create and read virtual sticky notes on either his personal digital assistant (PDA) or any PC he happened to be using. It wasn’t exactly surprising to Apurva that SyncNotes was so useful—after all, it had been built and was hosted by his own company - Cynapse, based in Mumbai, writes Philip Andersen, director, International Centre for Entrepreneurship.

The 26-year old chief executive is one of the few examples in India where age is not a barrier to success in its advanced IT industry. But Apurva’s story is also about his fight to make it big against all odds. At a very young age, he suffered from asthma, which kept him away from many physical activities. Instead, he played long hours with an electro-magnetic set, designing and building devices such as burglar alarms and water pumps. Starting with website-development even as he was completing his engineering studies, Apurva moved to application development, before setting up Cynapse.

Set up in 1996, Cynapse has grown from a small group of friends with a dream to invent and build products, to a



set of business-savvy professionals with a passion for invention and innovation. Until a few years ago, Cynapse was forced to develop software solutions to sustain itself. Today, it is also expanding into more challenging areas like consulting clients for product design and investing in and acquiring other technology companies.

Indian software product firms have the ideas but find it challenging to commercialise a new technology. As Apurva says, “Indian entrepreneurs should try to concentrate on building products that people want.”

For young achievers like Apurva, the whole world is a platform for success. “Apurva has an uncanny ability to impress and attract leaders not only in India but worldwide. He does business with all his honesty and that’s what makes him appealing to his peers and clients likewise,” says Sanjay Shetty, regional director, Microsoft, Western Region India.



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Vishal Singh

Delhi or India has added one more attraction to its list of 'must see' places. The Akshardham temple on the banks of the River Yamuna in Delhi was inaugurated last month by Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam.

The monument, built without steel, is entirely composed of sandstone and marble. It comprises 234 ornately carved pillars, 9 ornate domes, 20 quadrangle shikhars, a

spectacular Gajendra Pith (plinth of stone elephants) and 20,000 statues of saints and divine personalities.

The monument, a fusion of several architectural styles, was built after over 300 million man hours of services rendered by 11,000 volunteers and artisans over five years.

Spread over about 100 acres of land on the banks of the Yamuna, the complex cost around Rs two billion - funded by donations and contributions from about 10 million of BAPS' supporters worldwide.



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NEW ZEALAND

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

AUCKLAND—The Asia New Zealand Film Foundation-organised seminar on Asian representation and participation in New Zealand's media was a success, a release said. Filmmakers Rosanne Liang (Banana in a Nutshell) Zia Mandviwalla (Eating Sausage) and Amarbir Singh (1 Night) screened portions of their films.

During a panel discussion, AsiaNZ Foundation's media advisor, Charles Mabbett stressed the fact that due to increased migration, the mainstream media will have to reflect New Zealand's ethnic diversity to remain economically viable. "The Big Media needs you" he stated, "and if it doesn't yet know it, it soon will."

The conference concluded on a note that Asian communities need to get more involved with mainstream media so as to create a space for accurate representation.

INDIA

DNA FOR BASMATI RICE

DELHI - India is waking up to the need of protecting its agricultural property rights, which is a positive sign.

Indian scientists are hoping to map the DNA of basmati rice within the next two years, UK's *Independent* reported.

Scientists at the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) hope that the "fingerprinting" of India's intellectual property rights for the famous variety of rice will protect it from the western world.

What makes India's initiative unique is the fact that India is not patenting the brand but the product itself.

ICAR has already fingerprinted 42 varieties of chillies, 243 varieties of bananas, and 30 varieties of mangoes, including India's much sought after sweet Alphonso mangoes. It is planning to start work on spices.

WORLD

NAZIA HASSAN AWARDS

UNITED KINGDOM—The second annual Nazia Hassan Foundation awards held in Westminster honoured journalists and social workers, according to a report by AiM.

The awards, named after the late British Pakistani pop singer, were set up to promote individuals who "combine the best of East and West and who have made outstanding contribution to promote cultural fusion in their respective vocations."

In light of her philanthropic work and in their wish to help under-privileged children around the world, her family established the Nazia Hassan foundation to carry on her work.

Winners included Jamilla Massey (lifetime achievement award), Hardeep Singh Kohli (writer/director), and Anita Anand (broadcaster/journalist).

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2006: WHAT'S IN STORE FOR US?

Vaibhav Gangan

As we look back at 2005, we see a mixed picture. The election was a closely fought battle, and voters seemed to have favoured 'known devil over unknown God'. Indian community mourned the death of former prime minister David Lange, who was awarded honorary membership of the Indian community just days before his death. Bharatiya Samaj announced the launch of an Indian school to be set up in New Zealand soon. Hopefully the founders of the school will be aware of the danger of creating silos that isolate Indian youth from the mainstream society. If the balance is right, young Indian New Zealanders will develop more confidence in Indian culture and feel confident is relating to the western world while retaining their cultural identity.

The year started with steel magnate Laxmi Mittal becoming the uncrowned steel baron in the world. The US parliament passed a motion recognising the contribution of American Indians to the US economy and society. NRIs (non-resident Indians) remitted US\$21.7 billion to India in 2005, contributing significantly to India's forex reserves. For comparison, that's almost half of the size of New Zealand's economy.

The year was tarnished by man-made disasters and natural calamities for Indians worldwide - the earthquakes, bomb blasts and train accidents. The Indians have shown courage and composure in the hour

of crisis and after. The recent Delhi blasts did not dampen the festive spirit of Hindus and Muslims alike.

What's in store for Indians in 2006? The Asian Development Bank expects India's GDP to grow at 6.8%. "The recent infrastructure initiative by the federal government is expected to buoy activity, particularly in fiscal 2006," according to the 2005 Asian Development Outlook. It's not-so-good-news back home in New Zealand where economy is expected to slow down. Housing market may lead the trend by stabilising housing prices. Asian students are preferring other destinations over New Zealand. Strong Kiwi dollar is affecting the export sector. Recent strikes by Starbucks, KFC and Fairfax workers are an indication of pressure of inflation on salaries as ordinary Kiwis struggle to make ends meet. Property prices in India have grown anywhere from 50% to 200% in major cities in the last year. New Zealand's property market has recorded a moderate growth between 8% and 20%.

Hopefully, these factors may form the basis for a New Year resolution for many Indians in New Zealand, who have been postponing the 'big' decision.

LET'S TAKE A BREAK!

As Christmas, shopping, and holidays are on everyone's mind, The Global Indian team takes a break (for the first time since inception) next month. We'll be back with a vengeance with our February issue.

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

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COMING UP



NEAL N NIKKI

Yet another NRI (Non-Resident Indian) movie!

The Yash Raj Films' second attempt at comedy (following *Salaam Namaste*), this is a story of two young Indians born and brought up in Canada. As they bump into each other many times in Vancouver, they develop a bond (sounds familiar?). The movie is about comedy of errors as they try to figure out this love-and-hate relationship. Worth the money!

DEEWANE HUYE PAAGAL

If Akshay Kumar accidentally discovered his talent for comedy in *Hera Pheri*, he's only getting better at it with every movie. The Vikram Bhatt-directed and Akshay-Shahid Kapoor-Paresh Rawal-Suneil Shetty starred movie portrays a battle between Akshay and Suniel (this time, not for



money, but for a woman). Shot in Dubai and the good old America, the movie is already becoming popular!

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ALU VADHA (POTATO FRITTERS)

Ashok Kumar Parmar

These are made of potato filling in chick pea flour - deep fried.

Batter Ingredients

150g pea or chick pea flour

100g white flour

½ teaspoon chili powder, turmeric, salt

1 teaspoon green herb stock, ground cumin, ground coriander

2 teaspoons crushed garlic, crushed ginger, garam masala

1 tablespoon soy sauce, oil

2 cups oil for frying

Filling Ingredients

3 large boiled potatoes

½ teaspoon chili powder, turmeric

1 teaspoon green herb stock, ground cumin, ground coriander

crushed garlic, crushed ginger, garam masala

Method

Mix all the batter spices, flour and oil with water into a thin runny dough. Mash the boiled potatoes and mix with the filling ingredients in another bowl. Make into round balls (about 2 cm in diameter).

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



Dip balls into batter ensuring they are completely covered with the batter. Deep fry on medium heat until golden brown.

If the filling comes out while in the oil, the batter is too runny - add more flour.

Serve hot with chutney or raita. Alu Vadha also goes well with beer and salsa dips.



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DOES HE, DOES HE NOT?

Sanjay Karhade

After much - wanted or unwanted - brouhaha, Sourav "Maharaja" Ganguly has been reinstated in the 15-member Indian Test squad. He is in the squad neither as captain, nor as a specialist batsman, nor as a specialist bowler but as an all-rounder. But, the important question is, does he or does he not deserve a chance?



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

His presence in the squad would mean a few obvious things. One, considering his experience he will have to be played in the final eleven. Two, this also implies dropping an youngster. Three, if Ganguly performs well the dropped youngster will have to wait for his turn yet again for no fault of his. Now, isn't it ironical that only a few days back Ganguly himself stepped down from captaincy in a Ranji Trophy match against Maharashtra to give chance to younger player, Deep Dasgupta, to lead Bengal? Is it ironical or just weird or simply typical of Ganguly?

Ganguly lost his place in the one-day side after the famous riot of words with coach, Greg Chappell. By now, everyone is convinced about the genuineness of either side.

Ganguly was wrong in making public a mere suggestion

made by the coach. More incorrect was Ganguly's timing - he spilled the bins only after three days and scoring a hundred against a mediocre Zimbabwe outfit.

So be it, my answer to the contentious issue is in the firm affirmative. Yes, Ganguly deserves this chance for a few reasons. One, he has been the most successful Indian captain and should be able to bid goodbye to cricket in a healthier manner. Two, he gave a new face to Indian captain. In him Indian cricket fans found a leader who

“Ganguly was wrong in making public a mere suggestion made by the coach.”

would do anything to win - fight with opposing players and captains; bog them down with sheer attitude; take on administrators, umpires, referees alike; use divide n' rule policy within the team etc. - absolutely anything. But, he did all this in his own inimitable style. Three, he built his own battalion. Also, remember the names he backed and you will find there was hardly a player from West Bengal in his brigade. He travelled long distances to shield his soldiers. No Indian captain has done this before. He has got a few runs to boast too! Yes, Ganguly deserves a chance.

Of course, Sourav "Dada" Gaunguly now has to make sure he runs riot of runs, not words, on the wicket...

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HUMILITY IN LEADERSHIP

Jasbindar Singh

It is a few months now since our major cities were flooded with bright red jerseys, sporting the ever-proud Lion moniker. That magnificent first game and the remarkable victory of the ABs when the Lions were so comprehensively beaten.

The build-up to the second test was tremendous including

Sir Clive Woodward's pronouncement that the Lions were going to come roaring back and assert their superior skills. Indeed the first 5-7 minutes of that game were grippingly hair-raising. But the AB supporters need not have clung to their beers with such white knuckles as the game plan changed very rapidly. By demonstrating a potent mix of individual excellence, great teamwork and a winning strategy, the ABs took the test and the series, and the rest, as they say, is history!

But something bothered me from a leadership perspective. I could not help but be very disappointed by the attitude of Sir Clive Woodward. I thought he was undeservingly meagre and stingy in his acknowledgement of the All Blacks proving to be a better team at the time and having their deserving win.

“Losing with grace and humility is a heck of a lot more attractive than being pig-headed, arrogant or in denial.”

Where was the grace or graciousness in losing to "take it on the chin" as it were?

Why not give credit where it was due? Wouldn't this be more empowering ultimately before working out where one's own weaknesses, blind spots and pitfalls lay?

The SQ lessons that got reinforced for me were:

Losing with grace and humility is a heck of a lot more attractive than being pig-headed, arrogant or in denial.

Acknowledging your own failure does not make you smaller; just more human and endearing.

To grow and learn, we sometimes have to go beyond our "ego self."

SQ Application

In our business environment and in leadership where we esteem values like success, excellence, toughness and extroversion, the quieter and subtler virtues like grace and humility get overlooked and tend to be under-rated. What is interesting though is that we very much take notice when they are conspicuously absent!

Where in your life or relationships right now might there be a call for greater grace or humility? What might you do differently as a result of reflecting on this issue?

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





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THE TREATY AND US

Ruth DeSouza

Two interesting events occurred in November, one was the anniversary of the Sikh presence in New Zealand and the other was a symposium organised by the Human Rights Commission and the University of Auckland to discuss the relationship between Asians and the Treaty. Dr Kumanan Rasanathan and I attempted to present a South Asian view about the Treaty of Waitangi which was signed in 1840 by Tangata Whenua (people of the land) and the Crown. It's the founding document of New Zealand and defines principles of partnership, participation, protection and equity.

As migrants to New Zealand since 1810, Indians have had an important role in the development of this country. From gorse and scrub cutting to create farmland to finding gold in Tuapeka as 'Black Peter' did. Initially the largest populations of Indians came from Gujarat or the Punjab. Later we had people from Fiji and in 1972 refugees from Uganda. Between 1916 and 1966 'race aliens', in particular 'Indians' or 'Hindus', rose from 181 to 6,843 and in the 2001 census 60,213 people identified as Indian and 1,983 as Fijian Indian. The New Zealand Indian Central Association was established in 1926 to fight oppressive legislation and immigration policy, and to promote harmony between Indians, Maori, and Pakeha. It was also a response to the White New Zealand League's motto

(started in 1926), which was 'Keep New Zealand a White Man's Country'.

So what is our place? We are not signatories of the Treaty. We make

“We have the second highest median annual income among the Asian ethnic groups.

up 26% of the Asian population, and 29% of us are New Zealand-born. We fare well on the home ownership front at 41%. We are highly qualified and more likely to receive income from wages and salaries than the total New Zealand population, and equally likely as the New Zealand population to receive income from self-employment. We have the second highest median annual income among the Asian ethnic groups (\$16,000) and are nowadays largely in white-collar employment.

We need to know about the Treaty because part of belonging to a country means that we need to know about its history to have an ethical relationship with it. In the same way we want our history and contribution to be understood (as the Sikh community are requesting). We need to find a way to understand our relationship with Tangata Whenua and Pakeha to be able to participate in national conversations about the identity of this country.



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

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WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, BUT...

Lynette Saldanha

Have you felt at some point in your life that you would like to give something back to society? I have come across a rainwater harvesting project just 150km from Mumbai which meets all my criteria of helping villagers to help themselves, to change their lives through access to clean water round the year.

Rainwater harvesting is the capture and storage of rainwater and is particularly effective in rural areas which receive good rainfall. One such area is Raigad District in the Konkan belt near Mumbai. During the monsoon, they receive heavy rainfall, but due to a sloping terrain and increasing deforestation, the water runs off quickly towards the sea. When the monsoon ends, for three to six months of the year the area is starved for water.

SCESA (Mumbai's Sophia College Ex-students/staff association) has been working in this area with an NGO (Non Government Organisation) called SHARE(Society to heal, aid, restore and educate) in Raigad and Thane districts since 2003. So far, 36 villages with over 12,000 people have been helped to become self-sufficient in water. We supply the expertise and capital to build ponds, gabions, dams, to store water and to recharge the groundwater and villagers supply their own labour. The commitment of the entire village to the project is essential.



Women no longer have to walk up to 7km a day in search of water. They are now helped by us to engage in income-generating work. The men can now grow a second crop of pulses which puts nutrients back into the soil and also slows down migration to the cities.

I visit the projects every 3-4 months to see the work first-hand. So far our sponsors include Rotary Clubs, HSBC, Citi Group and the Dorab Tata Trust. My dream is to have more villages sponsored by the people of New Zealand. One village has already been sponsored by a generous family of Indian origin. The cost involved per village would be between NZ\$3000 and NZ\$7000. For more information, email me at lynettesaldanha@gmail.com.

Cambridge-educated economist Lynette is a resident of New Zealand and a consultant dividing her time between Auckland, Singapore and India.

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CONGRATULATIONS TAYYABA

I would like to congratulate Tayyaba Khan and the Auckland Muslim Girls' Association team for winning the Sonja Davies Peace Award. She makes all of us very proud. Isn't the New Zealand Government sending mixed signals by harassing Muslim travelers at airports, by singling them out for intensive security check?

Suresh Mendes, Christchurch

LESSONS FROM THE RIOTS IN FRANCE

Following racial riots in France, there is need for more strategic changes to the immigration policy of many countries, instead of being complacent that "it will never happen here." Conflict between migrants and host community needs to be taken seriously, before things go out of hands. We need to revitalise our emphasis in ensuring better integration of new migrants. There should be voluntary programmes for not-so-new migrants to assess their settlement progress. This can be done after a year of migration. Media too can play a vital role.

Surjit Bhalla, Sydney

BHATNAGAR CLUB

It was nice to see New Zealand's Bhatnagar community coming together to form a Bhatnagar *Sabha (club)*. In early 2005, perhaps a common site in large cities in India, but seems to be a unique form of association in New Zealand.

The Bhatnagar *Sabha* met on special occasions, the first being Holi. Many families came together to enjoy games, and exchange delicious *Kayasth* dishes, with a chance to explore the Bhatnagar family tree. This organisation aims to provide a means by which all those with the family name of Bhatnagar can come together and form a larger family.

The Bhatnagars' are traditional people who successfully represent the Indian culture while remaining open to 'new ways of thinking. Since the first meeting in early 2005 to the latest one held in November 2005 for the occasion of *Diwali*, the group grew by two families.

Purva Bhatnagar, Auckland

Letter of the month

Surjit Bhalla wins "Letter of the Month" award. The winner should contact us within 15 days from the publication of this issue, to claim his surprise gift.

If you would like to win, send your letter to editor: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz



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FEEDBACK

We welcome your feedback. Please write to us at editor@theglobalindian.co.nz. All communication to the editor will be considered for publication, unless otherwise requested.

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