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FIJI PM ACCEDES TO DEMANDS

While going to press (30 Nov 18.30NZT), the Fiji Government had acceded to demands made by the country's military leader after a two-hour meeting in New Zealand, easing simmering tensions in the Pacific Island country.

Fiji's prime minister, Laisenia Qarase, said that his government would try to avoid a coup by withdrawing legislation opposed by the military commander who has threatened to oust the government, an AP report said.

According to another report in the Fiji Times, the Government was suspending three controversial legislations - the Reconciliation, Tolerance and Unity Bill, the Qoliqoli Bill and the Indigenous Claims Tribunal Bills - that the military is against.

Military commander Commodore Frank Bainimarama has said the bills must not go ahead and has repeatedly threatened to force Qarase to resign if they did, the AP report said.

Bainimarama, an indigenous Fijian, said the coastal bill is racist and would wreck Fiji's tourism industry, which depends on idyllic palm-lined beaches.

A joint Government-military public relations team will tour the country "on an information campaign to show that the acts of 2000 (the coup and attempted mutiny at the army camp in Suva) were wrong", the report added.

"The suspension will be effective pending a detailed legal examination of these items of legislation, to determine their constitutionality," another report quoted the prime

minister.

"We would not submit for Parliament's perusal, any law that was unconstitutional."

He said New Zealand had offered their legal expertise.

Qarase said he will respect the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions and police on whether or not to pursue charges against the commander and his senior officers, a report by Fiji Live added.

Earlier in the day, an extensive military exercise brought calm in Suva that locked down the city for three hours. The exercise began at midnight and ran until 3am, the Fiji Times report said.

Troops secured strategic sites such as the Vodafone building and the FEA headquarters and parliament house.

Armed troops patrolled the city centre while mobile patrols circulated in the wider Suva area.

Close to half of Fiji's population is of Indian origin, and racial tensions have plagued the island of less than a million population for years.

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OPEN YOUR MINDS TO IMMIGRANTS

One of Auckland's senior recruitment consultants is challenging employers to put their money where their mouth is and start opening their minds – and jobs – to immigrant applicants.

Kim Smith, Senior Consultant at Robert Half Finance & Accounting, says a recent international survey by parent company Robert Half International reflected very favourably on New Zealand employers' attitude to immigrants.

In the survey of over 2500 finance professionals across 13 countries, 81% of New Zealand respondents thought immigrants added cultural diversity to the workplace, and 28% believed immigrants often had qualifications and skills that could not be gained in New Zealand.

But the day-to-day reality simply didn't match these lofty ideals, said Kim Smith. Even highly skilled migrant

applicants faced enormous hurdles finding employment in New Zealand.

"I constantly hear employers saying 'But they won't understand how we work' or 'They are not going to fit in with our team,'" she said.

"It is astonishing that at a time when those same employers are complaining about a lack of skilled workers they are out-of-hand rejecting highly qualified and capable applicants purely because they were raised in a different culture.

"These are people who have actually chosen to live in New Zealand – they are highly motivated to 'fit in' and learn the work culture. They are also often very technically sound, very smart and a much underutilised resource in New Zealand."

On the whole, employers were not reluctant to hire Australian, American or British immigrants, but hesitated over those from non-Western

countries, and frequently raised language as a hurdle.

Kim Smith said New Zealand employers should think carefully about the survey and start putting in practice

Employers were not reluctant to hire Australian, American or British immigrants, but hesitated over those from non-Western countries.

mentoring and, where necessary, language training. "Let's stop putting up unnecessary hurdles and instead look at how these highly skilled migrants can help New Zealand companies innovate and grow," she said.

On a more positive note, Kim Smith agreed with the survey's findings that New Zealand companies were open to working in a global marketplace and were confident about holding their own against low-cost countries such as China and India.

the sentiments expressed: actively trying to integrate migrant workers by offering them training,

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NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OPENS OFFICE IN INDIA

Tapping into one of the largest growing markets in the world is Hamilton-based Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec) which is setting up an office in India. Wintec, New Zealand's third largest institute of technology, has also become the first to set up an office in the sub-continent.

Wintec had over 60 Indian students enrolled at its three campuses in

Hamilton this year, says to Wintec's internationalisation director, Mark Pearce. "New Zealand's more open immigration policies and active Government support makes New Zealand an attractive study and work option for Indians."

Wintec offers degree specialties in Business, IT, Nursing, Media Arts and Sports and hosts international students from nearly 50 countries.

India born Monica Malhotra has been appointed India Regional Manager and she is due to leave for New Delhi in December. Monica has worked at

Wintec for over four years in the international student recruitment and marketing area.

Wintec has been actively involved in the Indian market. Its executives formed part of the education missions led by the then Education Minister, Trevor Mallard, for the past two years. Wintec's chief executive, Mark Flowers, was in India in September with a team of Wintec staff for Tsunami relief work under a Habitat for Humanity relief scheme.

Contact: Monica.Malhotra@wintec.ac.nz

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LIC SETS SAILS FOR DOWN UNDER

Indians seem to be in the buying mood. And its not just private players with deep pockets. India's largest life insurer, Life Insurance Corporation of India, is looking eastwards, Down Under to be more specific, to buy an insurance company in New Zealand or Australia. With one of the largest distribution networks, and huge cash reserve, buying a Kiwi or even Australian company will be a minor buy for LIC.

While the plan is still on the drawing

board, if approved, LIC would become the second public sector financial institution, after State Bank of India, to acquire a company abroad, a Indian financial daily reported. LIC already has well-established operations in Fiji. If our readers would recall, another insurance company New Indian Assurance opened its New Zealand office last year.

To finance any acquisition, LIC has to pay in cash. LIC's financial advisors, Deloitte & Touche Tomatsu advised it to have a strategic business unit (SBU) to focus on international

operations, the Economic Times reported. LIC expects to earn at least 15% of revenues from overseas operations.

Despite the entry of private players in the 1990s, LIC still controls over three quarters of India's life insurance market.

But its UK operations have not been able to grow at the expected rate. "The public sector giant should change its focus from targeting NRIs and truly become a global player," industry watchers were reported by the newspaper.

BRITANNIA NZ MAY SPUR CHEESY GROWTH

If Indian companies like LIC, Bank of Baroda are eying Kiwi markets, New Zealand companies are hoping to get a pie of India's growing consumer base. Britannia NZ Foods Pvt Ltd, a joint venture between New Zealand's largest company Fonterra, and India's leading consumer foods company Britannia Industries, is hoping to sell more cheese to Indians. This is not surprising, since

currently on 5% of Indians eat cheese, and Fonterra is obviously hoping that Indians will change their habits soon.

According to Anupam Dutta, head, dairy business, Britannia New Zealand Pvt Ltd., the cheese market is poised for a growth. "And we want to expand our market, too," he was quoted in a Mumbai newspaper. "Since we are doing this through retailing and not through institutional sales, we are acquiring more shelf space at the modern trade," he told the DNA.

Interestingly Britannia is aware of market dynamics of competing with Amul, a household name for dairy products in India, which is a co-operative brand like Fonterra is in New Zealand.

"If you are pitched against a dairy behemoth like Amul, you can't fight a price war. Instead, we are adopting a three-pronged strategy of freshness (lower pipeline stock), availability (improve distribution network) and visibility (more shelf space at modern trade)," Dutta said.

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LIP SERVICE TO TRADE TALKS

Staff correspondent

Developing New Zealand trade links with India dominated discussions when Trade Minister Phil Goff met with visiting Indian Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram, in Wellington recently. Chidambaram indicated that India may be interested in negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with New Zealand (and Australia), according to a release from Phil Goff's office.

"Significant opportunities with India exist in a number of sectors. Our exports to India have increased by \$100 million this year alone and for the year to July 2006 were worth \$322 million and there are substantial opportunities for New Zealand business in this rapidly growing market," Phil said.

"India is now New Zealand's fastest growing major export market. We have seen significant growth in coal to supply the Indian steel industry, a wide range of machinery, electrical equipment and software.

"India is investing significantly in infrastructure development and manufacturing capacity, both areas of growth which make this an increasingly attractive market for New Zealand exporters.

The number of Indians studying in New Zealand has also been steadily increasing, there were 3,346 Indian students studying here during the 2005 calendar year. In recognition of the importance and potential of this market, an education counsellor, who will promote and advance the opportunities offered by New Zealand education, will start work at the New Zealand High



Commission in New Delhi next year.

The relationship between India and New Zealand has developed a pleasing momentum and there is further potential for trade expansion in a number of areas notably IT, film production, tourism and biotechnology.

"A key factor inhibiting the growth of trade in goods with India is the extensive use of tariff and non-tariff barriers, particularly relating to biosecurity concerns, by India," Phil said. "It is in both countries' best interests to review these barriers and how the issues they raise can be addressed for mutual benefit. There is a significant market for New Zealand timber opening in India but until these barriers can be overcome the potential for this market will go untapped by New Zealand timber exporters.

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ETHNIC CONTACTS A CLICK AWAY

In an attempt to bring New Zealand's over 100 ethnic and mainstream communities together, a re-launched website attempts to create a platform for multi-cultural communication.

The website, www.ethnicaffairs.govt.nz, has been developed by the Office of Ethnic Affairs to provide a resource to individuals and communities.

"Today, around one-in-ten New Zealanders identify with ethnic groups other than Maori, Pacific Island, or Anglo-Celtic," said Ethnic Affairs Minister Chris Carter while launching the website. "Within fifteen years the figure will be almost one-in-five.

"New Zealand as a nation is enriched by the contribution of our many ethnic communities, but as we move forward we must keep talking with each other. This website provides a valuable tool

to assist with that communication.

The website contains a directory of ethnic communities and their representatives.

"The number of contacts listed in this database illustrates the breadth of the cultural landscape of modern New Zealand. Making this information available online will enable communities to get in touch and share ideas.

AMERICAN MADE – IN INDIA

Indians are a key factor in the success of US entrepreneurship especially in the technology areas. According to a latest study, Indians account for 28% of all foreign-founded private start-up companies in America.

The study titled, 'American Made: The Impact of Immigrant Entrepreneurs and Professionals on US Competitiveness', a first of its kind, found that over the past 15 years, immigrants have started one in four US public companies that were venture-backed, representing a market capitalisation of more than US\$500 billion (NZ\$800 billion).

After India, they are the UK (11%), China (5%), Iran (4%), and France (4%), according to a Rediff report.

Interestingly, close to half of the entrepreneurs arrived in the US as students. Over half of the founders started their businesses within 12 years of migrating to the US, a ContentSutra report added.

Reach out to New Zealand's Indian community

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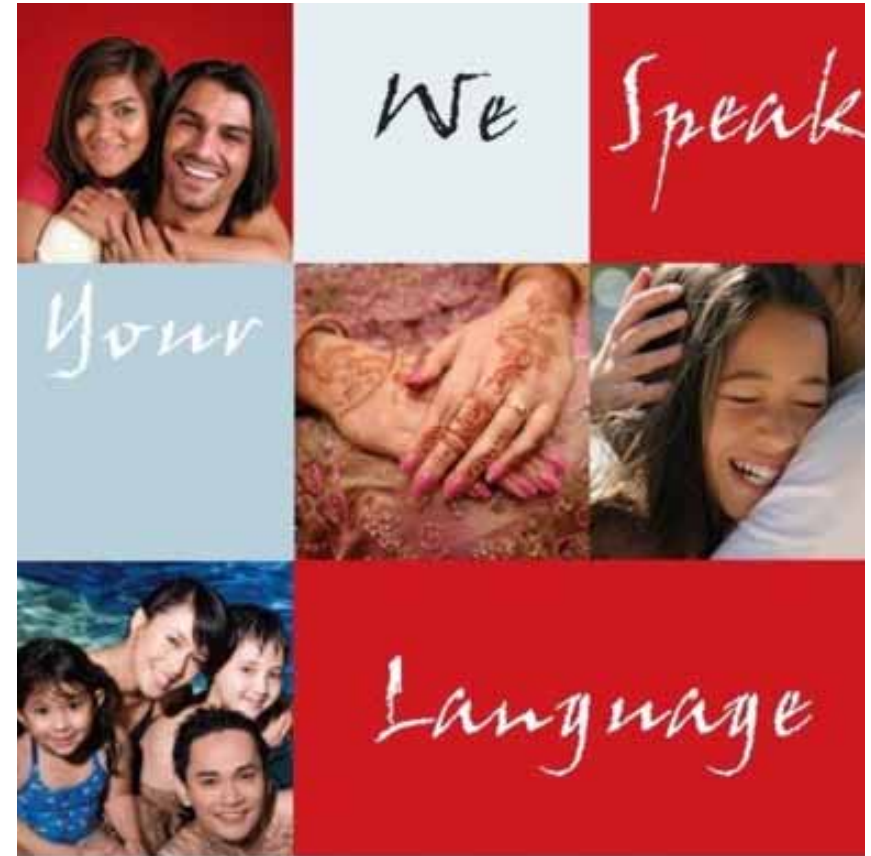
21ST CENTURY BELONGS TO ASIA— PM

With economic might comes regional and global influence. “While the 20th century belonged to the US and Europe, the twenty-first century will probably belong to Asia,” Prime Minister Helen said recently. She was addressing Reuters’ Newsmakers Seminar for British journalists in London.

The prime minister acknowledged that Asia provides half of New Zealand’s top 20 export markets, and is a significant source of skilled migrants, tourists, and international students. “We cannot afford to stand aloof from Asia, and we do not.” Japan and China are major world powers, and India too is emerging as a key global player.

Within the next 20 to 25 years China will become the world’s largest economy, overtaking that of the US. “India on current projections will not be far behind,” she said. Countries within the region are repositioning themselves in response to these changes. India is looking east, with one commentator there famously describing India and New Zealand as the bookends of Asia.

The most significant recent addition to the regional architecture has been the establishment of the East Asia Summit. It brings together the ten ASEAN countries with their ‘plus three’ partners, China, Korea, and Japan, and includes India, Australia and New Zealand.



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NZ TRIALS TASER

Staff correspondent

Peace-loving New Zealand has earned the distinction of being one of the very few countries in the world to allow use of Taser guns by its Police force.

In one of the first instances of the use of these controversial guns in New Zealand, a 44-year old male was shot in West Auckland last month. The Districts Operations Manager Inspector Paul Marshall says the incident was a classic case for which police are fully trained in use of Tasers.

On a Monday afternoon last month, the 44-year old male called 111, stating that he wanted Police to come to his house in Massey because he wanted to slit all their throats. Several Police officers including a dog unit went to the address but the man refused to come out.

The offender was agitated and shouted at police. He threatened the officers with two knives and a hammer. When Police entered the house, the man charged at an officer



with a knife in his hand. The Taser was deployed and the man was immediately subdued and arrested. He is now receiving specialist health care.

"Without question the use of tasers in incidents such as these is influential in saving the lives of both police and offenders," says Inspector Marshall, the officer responsible for overseeing the trial of taser weapons in the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney Police District.

The government's decision to allow the use of Taser guns had attracted many protests in New Zealand earlier this year. Many human rights organisations have expressed concern over the use of Taser guns, which send an electric current to the victim's body.

Nearly 200 people have died in the US in the last five years after being shot by a Taser stun gun. The US Department of Justice has announced that it would review these deaths.

Taser's stun guns shoot a maximum of 50,000 volts into a person's body through two probes, thereby disrupting the target's electromuscular system. The probes are connected to the Taser gun by insulated wires, and can deliver repeat shocks in quick succession. The probes can pierce clothing and skin from a distance.

In 1974, NASA scientist Jack Cover invented the first stun gun, which he named the TASER, or 'Thomas A. Swift Electric Rifle,' after Tom Swift, a fictional inventor from early 20th century adventure novels.

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MIGRANT WOMEN'S EXPERIENCE OF BIRTH IN NZ

Migrant women who become new mothers in New Zealand say their cultural needs are often not met or understood by health professionals.

The report *New Spaces and Possibilities: the Adjustment to Parenthood for New Migrant Mothers* was funded by the Families Commission Blue Skies Fund. The researchers interviewed 40 Chinese, Korean, South African, British, American, Indian, Palestinian and Iraqi women about their experience of pregnancy and birth in New Zealand.

Report author Ruth DeSouza of AUT University's Centre for Asian and Migrant Health Research has made a range of recommendations as a result of the study. These include making improvements to support services and communication, providing translations of relevant information, and more training in understanding cultural needs.

"Many of these women felt that they

had poor communication with health professionals and that their need for support and information was not always met," she says.

"There was also sometimes a lack of understanding about their cultural needs; for instance some Muslim women were concerned that male staff would come into the hospital room without warning, not allowing them time to put on their hijab. For Korean women there was sometimes an issue about not being able to keep warm and eat only warm food after birth as is their custom."

Some women also felt pressured by the emphasis on breastfeeding and said that not enough advice and support was provided, nor was there enough information provided about formula feeding. Introducing babies to solid food was another issue with some women saying that no information was provided relating to ethnic food.

"Iron deficiency, for example," said one Korean woman. "We don't know

what to feed our babies for this."

The women said they often felt isolated and alone and badly missed the support of family and friends. But some also said they felt much more empowered and self-sufficient because they had to actively seek out the information and support that they needed. Some also said their partners became more involved in the pregnancy than would have happened in their home country.

INDIAN ARTISTS AT WOMAD

Next year's WOMAD festival in New Plymouth features a selection of artists from Asian countries including a father-son duo from India, according to a *Asia:NZ Foundation* newsletter.

Shivkumar and Rahul Sharma play the santoor and the jugalbandi. The santoor is a Kashmiri instrument that has become a key instrument in Indian cinema soundtracks.

The WOMAD New Zealand Festival will feature up to 300 performers from 16 countries. It is on from March 16-18 at New Plymouth's Brooklands Park and TSB Bowl. More information is available at www.womad.co.nz



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IMPROVE STUDENTS' ACCESS TO JOB MARKET

If Labour was serious about making New Zealand more attractive to international students it would make it easier for them to gain work experience while they are here, says National Party Associate Education spokeswoman Pansy Wong.

Her comments follow recent reports of one Auckland employment agency's move to charge international students 20% of their first year's salary for job placement.

"The fact that some students were willing to go along with this shows just how desperate they are to gain work and life experience while they are in New Zealand," Pansy said.

"International education agencies in Australia and Britain acknowledge the importance of work experience and residency possibilities as factors for students looking to

study abroad.

"As we face the worst skills shortage in a quarter of a century, the Government is mad not to increase international students' access to the labour market.

"If they want to work and are capable of working, we should make it easier for them."

Pansy said some of the barriers facing international students seeking employment are:

The six month open job search visa which is too short a duration for jobseekers;

Lack of a 90-day probationary period to encourage employers to give these students a chance; and

Employers' general lack of knowledge and confidence in the Immigration Service to provide timely decisions where work and residency visas are concerned.

INDIA'S MEGASOFT PARTNERS WITH TELECOM

Xius, the telecom division of Megasoft, will provide roaming and interoperability solutions to cellular operations of Telecom New Zealand International (TNZI). The partnership will cover technologies to provide roaming footprint, and pre-paid roaming solutions, the company said.

Megasoft MD &CEO G.V. Kumar said the company will also partner with TNZI to provide similar services to emerging mobile network operators and Mobile Virtual

Networks Operators (MVNOs) globally.

Commenting on the deal, Anthony Briscoe, General Manager of Telecom New Zealand mentioned, "This deal has strategic significance for TNZI in our efforts to meet the international needs of mobile operators. With maturing mobile penetration in many markets, there is a growing interest in revenue enhancing segments such as roaming and MVNOs".

Kumar said, "We can expect revenues of the order of US \$2million-3million from the initial installations itself while we are targeting revenues of the order of USD 5 million in the first year of the relationship itself".

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RAIN OR DRY, INDIANS CELEBRATE

Saji Sebastian

It was a wet day. The big bosses at Wellington had predicted it too.

Who cared? Not the brave sea gulls over the pacific, not the Marathon runners over the Harbour Bridge and not at all, the young and the old, the male and female of New Zealand's Malayalee Samajam who had gathered for Kerala Piravi Celebrations in Auckland.

The this fascinating sports event, all participants were divided into four different houses. A colourful march past, salute to the first president of the Samajam- Prabhakaran Chullian, 100 metre races, shot put, 4x100 m relay, and football kept us busy. An

occasional munch at the food stall, A 'Thee Kayal' by the hot gas stove kept us fed. We have ventured 'Edavappathi' - what to talk of the silly shower over the Mangere Domains? Who would believe we had four heats for 100 m race for children and 15 participants for the ladies' shot-put?

Organisers had it all wrong when they decided to sell fish curry only with Kappa. Again, people's will dominated and Kozhikodan style was the rule of the day - Porotta-Fish, Kappa- Fish and even Fish-Chicken.

The crowd then moved to the Mangere War Memorial Hall and we had all eminent personalities on stage - Indira Gandhi, VS Achuthandan, Sugatha Kumari, KS Chitra, Mammooty, Shakunthala, Fish Vendors, street beggars and

many more.

Who thought the Quiz Master would ask about the date and day on which Vasco De Gama landed in Kerala in 1498? That was just the beginning of Kerala History and Geography revision (Thanks to those boring lessons in 8A Classroom).

A nostalgic journey through the melody and sweetness of Malayalam Poetry - Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiry, Madhusoodhanan Nair, Kavalam Narayana Panicker and many more of our favourite poets made their presence on the stage next. With Dumb Charade, Drawing Competions for children, hot tea, cutlet and vada, what else did we want?

Saji is the secretary of the NZ Malayalee Samajam

THEY SAID IT

"A few months ago the Washington based Foreign Policy published its grading of 146 countries according to the degree of their failure as states. A distressing feature of this survey for India is that almost all its neighbours are in the category of failed states. Among the top 25 failed states, Pakistan ranks 9,

Afghanistan 10, Burma 18, Bangladesh 19, Nepal 20 and Sri Lanka 25. The dangers of having so many failed states as close neighbours are obvious, but equally disturbing is the fact that some of the factors which caused their failure are relevant in India also."

Dr P.C. Alexander (The Asian Age 22 November 2006).

DID YOU KNOW?

23 percent of India's forex reserves - US\$32 billion, are deposits made by NRIs.

Cash sent back by overseas Indians, US \$22 billion last year is the highest remittance. Source: World Bank.

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BANK OF BARODA TO ENTER NZ

So it's not just Tatas and Mittals who are on an international expansion spree. It's the turn of our babus (public servants) to take the Brand India overseas. Close on the heels of LIC of India's announcement of its further overseas expansion, Bank of Baroda is following suit. The bank, which describes itself as India's international bank, has obtained

approval from the Reserve Bank of India, to start operations in New Zealand and nine other countries including Australia and Canada. The bank's chairman and managing director, Anil Khandelwal said that the bank would start wealth management services in India and abroad soon. It is raising NZ\$300 million to boost its overseas presence, according to a report by IRIS.

Currently, a third of the bank's profits

come from overseas operations. One of the major focus areas of expansion is the Gulf region. Bank of Baroda is the only Indian bank present in the UAE, with six branches. It intends to open a branch in Kuwait.

It has been a long journey of almost a century across 21 countries for the bank. It started in 1908 with Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad's foresight into the future.

FIJI WOOS INDIAN BUSINESSES

Fiji, a country where close to half population is of Indian origin, is hoping to attract Indian businesses. Indian entrepreneurs can use Fiji as the launch pad for the entire Pacific region, Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade Kaliopate Tavola said during his visit to New Delhi last month. He was speaking at a conference organised by India's apex trade body – the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). He was also accompanied by a Fijian trade delegation.

"If you do business in Fiji, you will be

looking at the entire Pacific region and not just Australia and New Zealand," Kaliopate said, according to a report in the M&C News.

Fiji's 800,000 population too offers a good market for Indian businesses, the minister said. Fiji is planning a trade negotiating machinery in consultation with other countries of the region, the minister informed.

Referring to Fiji's efforts to sign a trade pact with European Union, Kaliopate said that Indian businesses could also use Fiji as a path to regions like China and the Europe.

"India is a very prominent figure not only in Fiji, but also in the entire Pacific region," he told the gathering

of Indian businesses and media.

And it's not just a political talk. Fiji has already started taking steps in that direction. "Both our countries have agreed to a double taxation avoidance pact."

This is a change in traditional stance that Fiji had for so many years. "Earlier we were basically looking towards New Zealand and Australia for trade relations. But now, we have a 'look north and a look east' policy.," Kaliopate said.

Interestingly, current trade between the two countries with similar cultures is minimal. Just over 1% of Fiji's imports in 2000 were from India.

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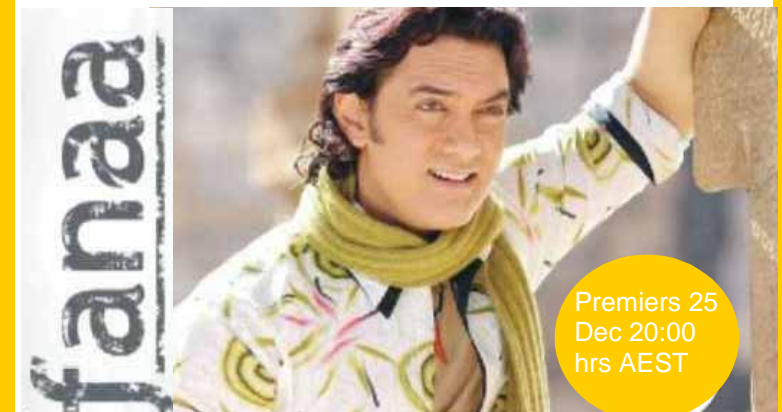
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BAABUL

Balraj Kapoor (Amitabh Bachchan), or Baabul, is a loving and devoted husband, father and father-in-law. His sheer presence in a room makes people sit up and listen. He would do whatever it takes, even throwing away traditions and superstitions, to make a relationship work.

Avinash Kapoor (Salman Khan) is Balraj's son. To win girl of his



dreams, Avinash may have to add lies to his charm, but he would die if she were to shed a tear of unhappiness.

Matriarch Shobhna Kapoor (Hema Malini) laughs as she playfully says that both Balraj and Avinash are hopeless. Yet, her world revolves around them.

Rajat Verma (John Abraham) is the silent lover, whose pent up emotions are expressed through songs. A heart-broken after losing the love of his life, he is more concerned for her happiness than that of his own.

Malvika Talwar (Rani Mukerji) is a painter, a fighter, a lover, and the object of two men's affection - Avinash and Rajat. Believing that love and marriage only happen once in a lifetime, will the choice that is made for her, be the right one? Look out for Baabul releasing this November.

RANI MUKERJI

STAR OF THE MONTH

Let's meet Rani Mukerji, a beautiful Bengali girl whose grey-green eyes and warm, infectious smile have graced the silver screen for some time.

Before films, she appeared in commercial advertisements ranging from Lux Soap to Fanta's Orange Soda. Her film career began with the Bengali film 'Biyar Phool'. Her Hindi film career, however, began in

1997 at the age of 19 in 'Raja Ki Aayegi Baaraat' with Shadaab Khan (late Amjad Khan's son). She has been in several films opposite the other famous Khans as well - Shah Rukh, Aamir, Salman and Saif Ali Khan.

With 37 films, (33 so far and four to go), her awards are numerous. The most popular of which include awards for 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai', 'Saathiya', 'Chalte Chalte',

'Hum Tum', 'Yuva', 'Veer-Zaara' and 'Black'. She is the first and only actor to ever win both the Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress trophies in a single year (2005) at the Filmfare.

Written by Judi Silva, 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.



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BOLLYWOOD MOVIE PREMIERED ON NET

Sandeep Chandra, Auckland

Given India's reputation for its IT prowess, it is not surprising that India is now probably the first country in the world to release a Bollywood movie online. Yes, we are talking about Vivah, the latest addition to the 'too-sweet-to-be-true' storylines from Suraj Barjatya.

Rajshri Media Pvt Ltd, one of India's oldest film production houses premiered their movie on www.rajshri.com especially targeted at broadband users.

Though there are only a million of India's 20 million Internet users are broadband-enabled, Rajshri are

targeting 25-million strong Indian community leaving outside India.

Rajshri have plans of evolving the website into an entertainment portal. According to media reports, Rajshri have access to 300 movies, TV shows and documentaries. Future plans include content covering yoga, management seminars and spirituality.

The website contains Microsoft's copyright software (Digital Rights Management or DRM), which will prevent content-copying.

Barjatya told media that people can experience free live-streaming or download a movie for US\$9.99 with a limited 72-hour licence.

NEW TV CHANNELS BIG OPPORTUNITY FOR ETHNIC PEOPLE

The coverage of ethnic communities on New Zealand television should significantly improve following a \$79 million funding package for TVNZ, Ethnic Affairs Minister Chris Carter said in a release.

"Two new channels are to be created offering greater opportunities for ethnic community programming," Chris said.

"Ethnic communities make up a rapidly growing proportion of New Zealand's population, and it is crucially important that broadcasting becomes more inclusive and reflective of them," the minister added.

Two digital channels are to be launched by TVNZ supported by \$79 million from the government. The release from Chris Carter's office did not give any specific details about how ethnic communities will benefit from this funding. Political spin, aye?

The first channel, to be called TVNZ News 24, will be a factual channel with extended news and current affairs coverage, reports and interviews, documentaries and special interest programming

The second channel, TVNZ Home, will carry a high percentage of New Zealand content, and will include children's programming, family factual and entertainment programmes, and an evening showcase of local and international drama, comedy, arts and culture.

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Priyanka Bhartia, Mumbai

He was to complete his education with IIM Ahmedabad, the most sought after MBA school in India. His destiny was paved out to be rich and successful but he chose another path, a path carved by his intense passion to change the frugalities of the



masses belonging to the lower income segment in India.

“ Why should a garage mechanic’s son not get an opportunity to study while a dumb rich kid have the private schools vying for him,” he thought. His beliefs and ideologies moulded Give India in 1999 – a platform for donors to fund the cause they wish to champion but with the added facility of allocating it to the right NGO.

Meet Venkat Krishnan - a man who followed his thought with deep conviction and today stands as the

proud founder member of Give India.

After a tooth-and-nail examination of over 1000 NGOs in India, about 100 of them have been selected by Give India for us to bequeath. For a Rs. 750 (NZ\$25) one can steer a child’s education for six months and what more! You’ll also be given a feedback on the use of your funds.

Starting barely as a dream in 1999, Give India today has 30,000

individuals and 150 corporate donors across the world, including Taj Group of Hotels, Godrej, ICICI, Bombay Stock Exchange to name a few. It has generated over Rs250 million (NZ\$8 million) in the last six years, impacting over a million lives.

Another feather in its cap are the Marathon events held annually in Mumbai and Delhi. It alone mobilised over Rs50 million (NZ\$2 million) this year.

With revolutionary ideas such as payroll giving, internet donations and

“Why should a garage mechanic’s son not get an opportunity to study while a dumb rich kid have the private schools vying for him?”

volunteer teams, Give India is set to grow; it just needs your faith and contribution.

To surely and safely donate a part of our incomes to the growing needs of our country, Give India undoubtedly offers one of the best options.

To donate online: www.giveindia.org

Priyanka Bhartia is the head of product development and PR for Vijesh Marketing Pvt. Ltd. in Mumbai and volunteers for Give India in her free time. She is a post graduate from the Times School of Marketing New Delhi.

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INDIA - THE RIGHT CHOICE

Renuka Kapadia, Bangalore

I migrated with my family from India to New Zealand in 2000. Arriving into the Land of the Long White Cloud, we were mesmerised by its beauty and decided to give it our best to make it work.

Despite having had a legal background in India, I had to re-qualify in New Zealand. I completed a legal executive course with the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand. Getting a job in spite of this was easier said than done.

I had no New Zealand experience. This led me to do a voluntary job with the Community Law Centre. Now, I had finally gathered my Kiwi Experience. This led to a job with a law firm and later with a global bank.

My husband too had to do a local course in real estate to be able to work in New Zealand. However, most real estate jobs in New Zealand were on a 'commission only' basis.

However, the frustrations of living in a small economy coupled with a

feeling of stagnation finally began to take its toll and led us to look at better choices outside of New Zealand. We did not have to look too far. The talk at every social gathering was India's progress; the media covered almost all of the excitement and we had made up our minds.

What an exciting journey it has been coming back home. Finding the right job did not take much time and the overseas experience we had gathered made it even easier to get good offers.

There are ample websites for good jobs and one is able to now tie up an offer from anywhere in the world. With its growing economy and the competitive market, the opportunities are endless.

Living in Bangalore, India is now a global experience. I was pleasantly surprised to have a French neighbour on one end, a Korean neighbour diagonally opposite to my house and hold your breath... a Pakeha Kiwi neighbour on the right.

Like us, many NRIs are relocating to India and the city and schools cater to our lifestyles. Of course, it did take us some time to get used to the



Living in Bangalore, India is now a global experience. I was pleasantly surprised to have a French neighbour on one end, a Korean neighbour diagonally opposite to my house and hold your breath... a Pakeha Kiwi neighbour on the right.

'organised chaos' of the city.

We are very proud to be part of the revolution that we see today. There is a definite change in the mindset of people and everyone is gung-ho about India.

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FROM NEPAL TO NEW ZEALAND

Gyanendra Pradhan

In Kathmandu I was always surrounded by lots of people, including my friends and family. Nepal has a population of thirty million, so you just see people everywhere. Many festivals take place in Kathmandu; I remember so much colour and a mood of festivity.

People in Nepal live for the food. It is a symbol of prosperity to be fat, and so people often greet each other: "How are you? Oh you are so fat!" – meaning "you are looking well and healthy". I still laugh.

I worked assembling TVs and then had my own TV repair shop. A friend of mine had a tourist shop and that's where I met my Kiwi wife. The first part of our romance was in sign language.

Arriving in New Zealand was a shock. The space, the peace and so much green, I couldn't believe it. We lived in Kaikoura and the isolation there made me learn English.

Loneliness feels like you are shutting

down in your own self. It's the lack of having your own people to talk with in your own language, and eat your own sort of food.

A Nepalese migrant follows his Kiwi wife to New Zealand, but homesick Gyaney soon decides to return to Nepal. Which country did he finally choose? Read to find out.

We were missing Nepal, and so went back, but it wasn't as we had expected. When you have lived away it's hard to go back and accept all those customs. You are not the same person anymore.

We started to feel like strangers there. In addition to this, the violence made it an unsafe place, with guns pointing at you, and up to 200 people killed a day. We planned to spend a year or more there, we lasted only six weeks.

Starting again in New Zealand was better. I cut my umbilical cord with Nepal then I felt a sense of belonging here. We came to live in Christchurch and I found more Nepalese people. A



community was formed. Finally I could have a little bit of both worlds.

With three friends we decided to form a football team. After playing soccer together our community started to get really close.

I am currently training for the NZ Police. It would be nice to give something back to this country that has given me so much.

Interviewed and photographed by Cecilia Guridi, Ethnic Advisor, Christchurch

Courtesy: the Office of Ethnic Affairs

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CHRISTMAS: A TIME FOR CHEER NOT FEAR

The Family Violence Co-ordinator for the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney Police District is urging everyone who witnesses or is a victim of domestic violence, to always call

Police without hesitation.

Senior Sergeant Dave Ryan says with the Christmas festive season fast approaching, the incidents of domestic and family violence increase dramatically. Often there is reluctance by persons to call police through fear of reprisal, or other related reason.



"Christmas is an expensive time for many families. The impact of these costs is sometimes psychological. More often it becomes a time for fear, when it should be a time for happiness and cheer," he said.

'Christmas is the busiest period for agencies dealing with the casualties of domestic violence and children are the biggest victims. Often it is the children who don't understand what has happened, why it happens, and how to prevent it happening.'

'Domestic violence is

often escalated by arguments over money, relationships, and access to children, and visiting relatives.

'Police have released suggestions to assist people to have an enjoyable Festive Season. They are:

Set aside money to cover bills in January and February.

Don't spend more on Christmas than you can afford.

Moderate your own drinking.

Don't drink and drive. You will be caught.

If your situation has become tense, heated or stressful - take time out. Go somewhere quiet for a few hours.

If you are feeling afraid, vulnerable, talk to someone you trust.

If you share joint custody of children - come to an agreement before Christmas, so that all the children get to spend time with each of you.

For more information, contact Senior Sergeant Dave Ryan, District Family Violence Co-Coordinator on mobile 0274 - 965 406

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SANIA IS HERE

Indians in New Zealand are in for a treat this January. India's star tennis player, Sania Mirza, will be in Auckland, playing the ASB Classic which begins on the New Year's day.

The event is expected to attract a lot of attention, as four of the top 20 tennis players are playing in the tournament this year.

Sania is the apple of the eye of a billion Indians after she became the first Indian to win a WTA tournament. The 20-year old is ranked 67 in the world and is expected to bring more laurels to a country not traditionally associated with tennis. Sania is often seen modelling in many television commercials in India and had also attracted criticism from India's conservative Muslim community, for her modern dressing style.

SRINATH TO VISIT NEW ZEALAND

India's former pace bowler Javagal Srinath will be visiting New Zealand in December, according to a release by

the International Cricket Council. He has been appointed match referee for Sri Lanka's tour of New Zealand.

He'll oversee a two-Test and five One-Day International series between the host team and Sri Lanka.



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LET'S REWIND AND REJOICE

Jasbindar Singh

New Year is a time when we naturally start to look ahead. We think and dream about what we want to achieve. New Year is linked with new beginnings and it's a time when we feel energised, motivated and focused, especially with a summer holiday behind us! Many of you may be setting new goals for your personal and professional lives. Before you do that however, I would like to invite you on a little journey with me.

Cast your mind back to 2006 and reflect on all the good things that have happened in your life. Write these down. What have been some achievements that you feel proud of? How have you grown this year and what are some lessons you learnt along the way? And how about the ordinary, everyday life events, which helped sustain your mind, body and spirit?

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



Your recollection and recording of these events may range from the award or recognition you received to the ongoing love and commitment of your family and friends and or to your good health.

This orientation and focusing on "what is going well in your life right now" embraces the SQ (spiritual intelligence) principle of appreciation and gratitude. Sometimes we neglect to honour and acknowledge those

little things that fuel and support us in our daily lives. Instead the seduction of 'more and more' takes over when in reality it can be a bottomless pit.

We need the foundation and balance that being grateful and appreciative in the here and now provides. By

Cast your mind back to 2006 and reflect on all the good things that have happened in your life.

focusing on what is working well, you are able to build on this foundation by linking your past and present into a more meaningful and creative future. Whatever you put your attention to, grows.

As a wise person once said "Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny."

Dr. Martin Seligman's work in the area of positive psychology states that the mind-set of 'gratitude' is a key component of being happy in life. The other two are using your signature strengths more often and in new ways, and exercise! (Okay couch potatoes, it is time to move!). So as you go about planning for the future, don't forget to 'count your blessings' now.

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NZ GETS ITS FIRST NEPALESE RESTAURANT

Anshu Thapa has brought a piece of his homeland to a new dining room in Auckland plush location - Parnell. A native of Nepal, Thapa says that he wanted to offer New Zealanders the taste of an extraordinary place. "Nepal is a country close to the Kiwi heart thanks to the expedition of Sir Edmund Hillary and the breathtaking travel opportunities of the region," Thapa says.

"What many people don't know is the very special cuisine from the pure land that is crowned by the mighty Himalayas."

As New Zealand's first Nepalese restaurant, Thapa has brought with him a five-star chef from one of the best hotels in Nepal. And to further stamp the authenticity of the food, Thapa has imported herbs and spices found exclusively in Nepal.

"In the land of Everest, chefs toil to create fresh cuisine as unforgettable as the landscape itself. Throughout Nepal, the aroma of steaming Momos, meats barbecuing and sauces brewing

fill the air. When people come to our restaurant, I want them to feel engulfed by that feeling."

Nepal could not be blamed for being under culinary pressure for it is located between the great taste masters of India and China.

Thapa explains that the difference lies in the fact that the art of Nepalese food is subtle and lighter but full of flavour. "This is a new cuisine for the New Zealand dining scene."

Himalaya Restaurant offers a smart-casual dining type experience, probably at Parnell prices. It is located at 123 Parnell Road.

Fine dining at an award-winning restaurant



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PAKISTAN: FROM BURQA TO BIKINI

This year has been a history-making year for Pakistan in beauty pageants. The country hosted the first Miss Bikini Pakistan; Pakistan won four titles in international pageant in just three years, and now there is a new addition to the beauty pageant scene: the youngest Miss Pakistan is making history in the World Miss University 2006 pageant - Sonya Zia.

Lahore's Sonya is the youngest Pakistani girl to participate in a beauty pageant. At a young age of 18 years, this student of Law and Security represented Pakistan at the World Miss University 2006 pageant. She fast tracked her high school education, and received her high school diploma at the age of 16 and has also supported many fund-raising events.

"I would like to carry out my Pakistani culture and represent my country around the world," Sonya says. Earlier, she won the Miss Photogenic 2006 title in the Miss Pakistan World 2006 pageant. Sonya is now preparing to take part in more pageants representing Pakistan.

According to the president of Miss Pakistan World, Sonia Ahmed, this year has been a rewarding year for Pakistan in terms of beauty pageants. "We started with only one pageant in 2003 and now we have sent our girls to four international pageants this year," Sonia says. "Sonya Zia has proven once again that Pakistani girl at the age of 18 can contribute to society and spread harmony and peace."

These are indeed changing times for a country regarded so far as one of the most conservative. "Pakistan is changing at a very fast pace. I have started getting calls from Pakistan, inquiries made by girls there, who are relating to these beauty queens. This it self, is an excellent sign of change." (Source: Miss Pakistan World)



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LION OR...?

In a poor zoo of India, a lion was frustrated, as he was offered only 1kg meat a day. One day the lion thought its prayers were answered when a US Zoo Manager visited the zoo and requested the zoo management to shift the lion to the US Zoo. The lion was pleased and started thinking of a central air-conditioned environment, a goat or two every day and a US Green Card.

On it's first day, the lion was offered a big bag, sealed very nicely, for breakfast. It opened the bag quickly but was shocked to see that it contained only a few bananas.

Controlling it's anger, the lion thought that may be they cared too much for him as they were worried about his stomach. The next day the same thing happened. On the third day

when the lion saw the same food bag, he was furious. It stopped the delivery boy and blasted him, "Don't you know, I am the lion, king of the jungle. What's wrong with your management? "

The delivery boy politely said, "Sir, I know you are the king of the jungle but, do you know that you have been brought here on a monkey's visa?"

Moral: Better to be a Lion in India than a Monkey elsewhere!

Submitted by Sudipto Dasgupta, Singapore

KIDS SAY THE DAMNEST THINGS

One day an old lady came to drop off little Johny at the school. "Is that your grandmother?" teacher asked. "Yes, " Johnny said. "She's come to visit us for Christmas." "How nice," teacher

said. "Where does she live?" "At the airport," Johnny replied. "Whenever we want her, we just go out there and get her."

Little Johnny went with his dad to see a new litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens." "How did you know that?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."

The math teacher saw that little Johnny wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, "Johnny! What are 4, 2, 28 and 44?" Little Johnny quickly replied, "NBC, CBS, HBO, and the Cartoon Network!"

Contributed by Brian D'Silva, Auckland

HEARTBEATS

Heartbeats, a group of singers and musicians, is bringing alive the 70s on stage on 9 December at the Dorothy WInstone Centre, Auckland Girls Grammar School. The show will give Indian cinema-lovers a glimpse into the music of the golden era of Indian cinema. Performing at the show are Arpita Chanda, Chaitra Ravishankar, Shriram Iyer, Arun Khotkar,

Paramjit and Om Shrivastava along with talented musicians like Hemant Thaker (Keyboard), Madan Mohan (Keyboard), Sundeep Kale (Rhythm and Tumba), Basant Madhur (Tabla), Peter Paul (Dholak) and Sanjay Chand (Base Guitar).

Tickets, at \$10 (\$15 reserved) are reasonably priced. There is free entry for under 7s and a kids corner for tiny tots. Contact Roopak at 8180514 for more information.

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HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

I complement Anjum Rahman, Labour Party list candidate, for defending her party for misusing the public funds for their election campaign last year.

The fact remains that all the political parties were warned in advance as to what was allowed and what not. At least, one party - Jim Anderton's Progressive - knew the rules and complied explicitly and can rightly claim to be the most honest.

Since the Attorney General's position on the issue has now been vindicated and all parties "caught short" have accepted the need to refund - even though few wish to seek further rulings - there is no need to "justify" the error. Honesty is the best policy.

I agree that all expenditure, personal or otherwise, should be accounted for by every political party to ensure a level playing field. Moreover, every party (whether small or large) should be equitably funded from the public purse and audited accounts of expenditure submitted to an independent authority for verification after every election.

NZ's No. 1 Indian publication Website*

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

www.theglobalindian.co.nz

Politics is now becoming the preserve of the wealthy and the powerful and hence the increase in apathy by the common voters. Look at the recent voting trends; particularly the local government elections.

Thanks to MMP smaller parties are making huge differences; now even the bigger parties are listening to the street people for their valuable votes.

Finally, this is not a criticism of Anjum; she is a caring and a "down to earth" person who can be a very effective politician provided she is not "corrupted" by the powerful pulling the strings from behind the curtains.

Gul Zaman, Auckland

NEHA WHO?

Sandeep's assessment of Neha's recent antics here (November issue) was splendid but still a bit too polite

and generous.

I was aghast to see her interview with Carol on TV3's Campbell Live. Not only did she display a total lack of vocabulary with her most annoying "you know" but totally destroyed the golden opportunity to showcase our industry on prime time National TV by her immature presentation and unprepared, silly responses. Such media hungry "to-be stars" should realise we are not idiots who would be in their awe and gobble up whatever they dish out in their international (mis)adventures. Wonder who would invite them here anyway?

PS: I would be sadistically delighted if she and the Bollywood population get this feedback

Anup Shah, Auckland



FEEDBACK

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