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WHAT DID PBD OFFER?

Ashok Motwani, Global Organisation for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)

Many of you may have read a lot of negative media coverage about PBD 2006 (Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, or Non-Resident Indians' Conference) but here are couple of things which you missed out in the m \acute{e} l \acute{e} e. We had a lunch-meet with Minister for Overseas Indians Affairs, Oscar Fernandez, who was bombarded about the

“Hyderabad Film City is as good as Universal Studios.” wherein he responded extempore clarifying many issues along with a lovely number

on mouth-organ - the Rajeev Gandhi favorite: "Hum Honge Kaamyab" (we'll succeed). In the evening we visited mind-blowing Hyderabad Film City - I dare say its as good as Universal Studios. The cultural programme was much better than the three days of PBD where we got bored. Incidentally chief guest was Abdool Raouf Bundhun, Vice President of Mauritius and host was Ramaji Rao.

Regarding the previous day's award function controversy, my opinion which I shared with the India Today and the Times Group is - let them do what they want for 362 days but leave us alone for three days of PBD - no politics please. Instead of being over-critical for awards, let's

PBD 2006 HIGHLIGHTS

1350 delegates from 51 countries, a considerable drop from 1700 attending the first PBD

Almost half the delegates were of Andra Pradesh origin; largest delegation came from Malaysia

128 investment proposals discussed in areas like tourism, biotech, pharma, real estate, irrigation, roads and infrastructure

Chief Ministers or senior ministers from eight states attended

Rs7.5 million (NZ\$250,000) spent by the Andhra Pradesh Government (in addition to the Centre Government's expenditure)

The one-year old Ministry for Overseas Indians Affairs organised the event for the first time. The last three events were organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

Major criticism: poor logistics and housekeeping, absence of interactive forums.

participate in the process rather than harbouring a totally negative approach.

If we harass and insult the President's Office, no one needs to tell you what is coming next. Anyway, enjoy and prepare for PBD 2007 perhaps in Goa?

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PAY IT FORWARD

Sangeeta Anand

Three members of New Zealand's Indian community made it to the Queen's honours list announced on the New Year's Eve.

Among the award winners are: Daud Azimullah, who was recognised for his services to the Auckland Muslim community, especially through his work at the Avondale

Islamic Centre; Harish Bajaj, for his service to the New Zealand Indian community, particularly the work of Shanti Niwas Charitable Trust, and Robert L. Khan, for his long work with the Palmerston North and Wellington Indian communities.

"These individuals have all been recognised for their tireless community work," Ethnic Affairs Minister Chris Carter said in a release. "They have each made a significant contribution to strengthening the communities they come from, ensuring ethnic peoples maintain links to their own heritage, culture and mother tongue and integrate successfully into the wider New Zealand community. They have also worked to build links between ethnic communities and the wider Kiwi community."

Daud was the organiser of the first-ever reading of Quran in the New Zealand parliament on the New Year's eve. Fijian-born Daud came to New Zealand 17 years



WINNERS AMONG US

Robert L. Khan (right)

Daud Azimullah (left)

Harish Bajaj



the recipients of **Queen's New Year's Honour**

ago and is the president of the Avondale Islamic Centre.

Harish Bajaj was instrumental in organising dispatch of several containers of essential goods to Tsunami-affected areas of Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka earlier last year. India-born Harish came here from Kenya after political strife in that country.

Fijian Robert L. Khan is a management lecturer at Massey University and holds BA, DBA and MBS degrees. He's the father of Robert Khan, the managing director of an Auckland-based Hindi radio station - Tarana. The father-and-son duo have the unique distinction of being featured in The Global Indian of the Month section of this magazine. Congratulations to all the winners!

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

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LOOK EAST

E. Ahamed, India's Minister of State for External Affairs

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh went to Kuala Lumpur in early December to attend the annual summit of the ASEAN (Association for South-East Asian Nations) and the first East Asia Summit (EAS) in a rapid progression of a relationship that, in his words, was to develop "increasing inter-linkages and inter-dependence".

The visit was the reinforcement of a significant dimension of our foreign policy - known as the Look East policy - that seeks to intensify diplomatic and economic ties with countries of Southeast Asia that is represented by the 10-member ASEAN, a region that was demonstrating rapid economic growth and is becoming increasingly important in the global strategic calculus.

The Prime Minister made it abundantly clear that the Look East policy is not merely an external economic policy, but a "strategic shift in India's vision of the world" and a means to reach out to "civilisational neighbours" in that region.

The magnificent murals on the palace and temple walls of Angkor Wat in Cambodia depict scenes from the Indian epics Ramayana and Mahabharata; the images of dignitaries and warriors from the Majapahit empire in old Indonesia are of people whose forefathers came from the

subcontinent; the pagodas and temples at Ayuthaya in Thailand, at Pagan in Myanmar, at Luang Prabang in Laos, at Hoi An in Vietnam or at Borobodur in Indonesia reflect the spread of Buddhism from the Himalayan foothills in India. Islamic preachers from western part of India spread religious and cultural values of Islam in Singapore and Malaysia which helped the process of formation of the Sultanate of Temasek, the forerunners of modern Malaysia and Singapore.

The best aspect of renewed engagement between India and ASEAN is that both now recognize that each has something to offer to the other. The ASEAN region has an abundance of natural resources, manufacturing abilities and technological skills that can provide a natural base for the growth of synergies and integration between ASEAN and India - in both trade and investment.

The Prime Minister put the importance of ASEAN and East Asia in perspective when he said the region was a major "magnet" for the rest of the world. He said if its "largest saving surplus" could be channelled into investments for India, "we don't have to look West (for investment)".

"The art of acceptance is the art of making someone who has just done you a small favour wish that he might have done you a greater one." Russell Lynes

Contributed by Bharti Hira, Wellington

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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PAKISTAN QUAKE: 100 DAYS ON

Staff correspondent

Survivors of Pakistan's devastating earthquake still face dangers and difficulties 100 days after the country's worst natural disaster. "We're still in full lifesaving mode as this crisis shows no sign of abating. We've been very lucky that the heavy snowfalls have only just struck," says Farhana Faruqi Stocker, Oxfam's Pakistan Country Director.



Relief effort still struggling as second humanitarian disaster looms.

The difficult Himalayan terrain and rudimentary infrastructure have presented local authorities and relief agencies literally with a mountain to climb. Many roads were damaged during the quake and have been frequently blocked by landslides, or heavy snow.

Most tents rushed to the earthquake zone were unsuitable for winter conditions. Like many other aid agencies, Oxfam has been busy winterising the tents it provided as well as providing materials to build sturdier shelters. But Oxfam's warnings of a possible second humanitarian disaster still apply. Cold-related illnesses

such as pneumonia have risen. The struggle to stay



warm has posed its own hazards, with reports of several fatalities and injuries from tent fires that blazed out of control.

In Pakistani Kashmir alone, 80% of crops and half the arable land were destroyed and more than 100,000 cattle were killed. Attention must also be paid to the issue of land and relocation, especially for women, many of whom have been left widowed and without legal

proof of property. Moreover, these efforts must do more than return people to the dire poverty many suffered before the disaster - what is needed is "reconstruction-plus". The UN's relief operation has been hampered by a lack of pledges to the UN's earthquake appeal fund. Barely half of the funds appealed for—US\$300 million of the \$549 million required—has materialised to date. "The international community must support the Pakistani authorities and the UN to improve co-ordination and management of the relief effort," says Stocker.

Donate to Oxfam New Zealand's South Asia Earthquake Appeal. Call 0800 400 666 (from New Zealand) or visit www.oxfam.org.nz

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“IT’S THE ECONOMY, STUPID”

Richard Worth

During 1992 Bill Clinton and George Bush were fighting for the presidency of the United States. Bill Clinton was barely holding on to his place in the opinion polls. George Bush was pushing ahead drawing on his stature as an experienced world leader.

James Carville, one of Bill Clinton's top advisers decided that their push for presidency needed focussing. Drawing on the research he had conducted he came up with a simple focus for their campaign. Every opportunity he had James Carville wrote four words - 'It's the economy, stupid' - on a whiteboard for Bill Clinton to see every time he went out to speak.

Results from NZIER's Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion for the December 2005 quarter (released on 17 January 2006) show firms are the most pessimistic they have been since 1986. A net 61% of firms expect business conditions to deteriorate over the next six months compared with 32% in its previous survey.

The King of Thailand: This year one of the daughters of the King of Thailand, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, is visiting New Zealand as a guest of Government. On 5 December 2005, Thailand celebrated the 78th birthday of

its King Bhumibol Adulyadej. He is the world's longest reigning living monarch.

His many talents include the invention of an aerator for wastewater treatment and the design of small sailing boats which were later used in international competitions (the King himself was a successful competitive sailor). The King is also a gifted musician, both as player and an internationally renowned composer of jazz/blues music. In 1964 he was chosen as an honorary member of the Academy for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria. He was the 23rd member and the first Asian to be so honoured for his music. His composition *Blue Night* featured in a Broadway production in the 1950s and 1970s.

Fruit Falls Foul Of Sugar Guidelines: A new set of draft rules for the advertising of food says apples and pears cannot be marketed as healthy products. The assessment of nutritional health and related claims is intended to make it easier for consumers to pick better food. Under the draft rules anything above a set sugar level, which includes apples and pears, cannot be marketed as healthy.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand says it was not intended for this to happen and it is looking at ways to get around it. So it should.

Richard Worth is National Party's justice spokesperson.

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WINSTON FOR ASIANS

AUCKLAND—Unless Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters backs up his latest change of heart about Asia with funding and policy, his comments will be received with cynicism, National MP Pansy Wong said in a statement.

“Why, when he extracted promises of extra police and increases in superannuation in the supply and confidence agreement with Labour, did he not seek more funding towards organisations such as the Asia NZ Foundation, to encourage New Zealanders to improve their ‘Asia-literacy’, or policies such as increased learning for Asian languages and history in our education sector?”

“Unless we see him back up his claims with policy and funding in the near future, they will be dismissed as an empty gesture to appease his master, the Prime Minister,” the Asian MP added.

INDIA

INDIA-CHINA FRIENDSHIP YEAR ‘06

NEW DELHI—The governments of India and China have developed an extensive plan to enrich their relationship in 2006.

Visit of Indian Defence Minister to China, continuation of defence exchanges at various levels, sporting activities between the two armies, Mutual translation of literary classics, workshop on education cooperation by major universities of India and China, exhibition of Indian books in China, MOU on science & technology cooperation, Inauguration of the Indian-style Buddhist Temple in Luoyang, Inauguration of the Xuan Zang Memorial in Nalanda, reciprocal hosting of film festivals and encouraging joint production of films, establishment of friendship cities in both countries, participation of Liaoning Peking Opera Troupe in India's National Opera Festival, shaanxi Culture Week in India.

WORLD

MAKE LINE OF CONTROL IRRELEVANT

Davos—Pakistan President Musharraf called on India to join Pakistan in working out a solution that could lead to self-governance and make the Line of Control “irrelevant”, Pakistan’s leading newspaper *The Dawn* reported.

Musharraf, while speaking with reporters on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, urged a step-by-step approach that would start with defining Kashmir’s borders and end with a joint cross-border administration, the newspaper added.

“I am extremely flexible, and I am bold enough to go for an out-of-the-box solution,” he told reporters.

“But we cannot clap with one hand. I expect India to join.”

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JOB LOSSES

Vaibhav Gangan

Imagine coming back from a Christmas break only to be told that you don't have a job anymore! That's the fate of 340 New Zealanders who have lost their jobs in the first month of this year. New Zealand's economy is in for a rough ride. It's likely to last the whole year if not more. Whether it'll extend to the next year will depend on many factors but primarily on how the government handles the situation.

Prime Minister Helen Clark is downplaying the job losses. "To put it into perspective, we are talking about 300 or so lay-offs in the last few days against a background of 264,000 new jobs created in the economy in the last six years," she says. "Treasury's forecasts on the current dip

In 2005, housing market provided 13.4% returns while stock market lagged behind at only 10%.

Bank governor Dr Don Brash blames Labour's ideological blinkers for the economic downturn. "Instead of growing the economy, by promoting increased productivity and high-value exports, Labour has set about redistributing what we already have."

I am amazed how misguided political and media opinion

is. Our politicians, businesses and media seem to blame strong dollar and high interest rates for the economic slowdown and job losses, which to me, is only part of the picture - or rather smaller part of the picture.

The over-dependence on exports, existence of bottlenecks for growth (like scarcity and cost of labour) are stronger factors inhibiting growth. Political agenda is myopic and policy-makers are aiming binoculars at the wrong mountain. Warnings of slowdown were in the air as early as at the beginning of last year. Yet, Reserve Bank of New Zealand Governor Dr Alan Bollard insisted on increasing interest rates as many as nine times, blaming the housing market for buoyancy in the market. Well, the housing market is strong because the other popular investment option—stock-market—is under-performing in New Zealand. In 2005, housing market provided 13.4% returns while stock-market lagged behind at 10%.

We're in a highly vulnerable economy with heavy dependence on bank debts and primary sector, as Dr Bollard rightly pointed out last year. New Zealand's per capita income (GDP) is only US\$1958 a month, compared with America's US\$3133. Even a marginal erosion of that income will start pinching immediately.

Only time will tell if we have seen the worst yet. In the meantime, let's wear our seat-belts, hold tightly to our seat, and hope for the storm to weather out by the end of the year.

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NOW SHOWING



fighters, she visits Delhi but is faced with challenges to cast actors from modern India who could relate to the patriotism of India's revolutionaries. The movie switches gears between pre-Independence India and today's India. Will the two Indias ever meet? Watch Rang De Basanti to find the answer. Our verdict—a must watch!

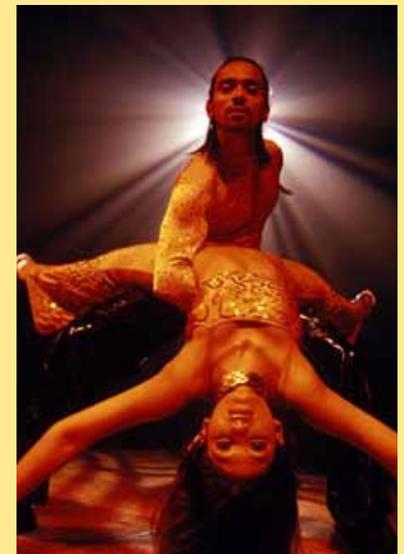
RANG DE BASANTI

It's a misnomer! The movie is not related to India's freedom-struggle. The story starts with an English film-maker whose grandfather had served in the British police force in India in the Raj era. On her new venture to make a film on India's freedom-



MERCHANTS OF BOLLYWOOD

After Sydney, Melbourne and Wellington, it was Auckland's turn in December to rock with the 30-strong group of Bollywood dancers. The musical was woven around the story of grandfather-granddaughter pair of choreographers and the ethics in film-making. As the show peaked, so did the music, with the beat reaching its pinnacle in the final moments. If Ishita Arun (left) and Arif Zakaria's lead roles, and Vaibhavi Merchant's exceptional choreography were the highlights of the show, Salim and Suleiman Merchant's music topped it all well. A memorable night!



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YOU'VE GOT E-MAIL

A man left for Florida a vacation. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send her a quick e-mail.

Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he did his best to type it in from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter and his note was directed instead to an elderly

preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint. Hearing the scream, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen:

"Dearest wife, just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow."

TECH SUPPORT

Tech Support: "What does the screen say now?"

Person: "It says, 'Hit ENTER when ready'."

Tech Support: "Well?"

Person: "How do I know when it's ready?"

Contributed by Taral Choksi, Sydney

Retro Cricket

In 1981 India faced up against New Zealand & Australia in the Benson & Hedges World Series of Cricket. They may not have won but Kapil Dev & the boys certainly looked great in their retro shirts.

Now it's your chance to wear a piece of history.

Order your retro cricket shirt at www.retrocricket.com

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KUNG PO CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

350 gm chicken thighs - skinned and boned

1/2 egg white - lightly beaten

1/4 tsp salt

2 tsp corn-flour - mixed with water

1 green pepper - cored and seeded

4 tsp vegetable oil

3—4 whole fresh chillies

1 spring onion - cut into sections

1 small piece fresh root ginger - peeled

1 tsp sweet bean paste or hoi sin

sauce

1 tsp hot bean paste

1 tsp Chinese rice wine or dry sherry

1 cup roasted cashew nuts

sesame oil



On the occasion of the Chinese New Year, The Global Indian brings to you one of the most popular Chinese cuisines.

METHOD

Cut chicken into 1 cm cubes. In bowl, mix chicken with salt, egg white and corn-flour. Cut green pepper into squares. Heat wok and add oil. Add chicken cubes and stir fry until lightly brown. Keep aside. Add green

pepper, chillies, spring onion and ginger and stir fry for a minute. Add chicken to wok with sweet bean paste, hot bean paste and wine. Blend thoroughly and cook for a minute.

Stir in cashew nuts and sprinkle few drops of sesame oil. Transfer to warm plate and serve immediately.

(Contributed by Hui Lim, Melbourne)



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STOP ILL-TREATING GANGULY

Sanjay Karhade

Words like 'transparency' and 'logic' are extraterrestrial for Indian cricket administration.

Transparency was hit for a six when Sourav Ganguly wasn't selected for the one-day squad after the Chappell-Gangully showdown in Zimbabwe. Logic was tossed for yet another over-boundary when



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.

Ganguly was included for the test series, as an all-rounder, against Sri Lanka. Was he included because of the agitations in Kolkata or because the newly elected BCCI President Sharad Pawar intervened or did Ganguly put some exemplary performances on the showcase?

During the test series too, the two words were disregarded disdainfully. Ganguly was dropped for the third test after winning the second test. Indian cricket history will find it difficult to pinpoint a single instance when the winning team had been changed - except for injury-related omissions. The administrators made their anxiety obvious over the possibility of a Ganguly-performance! The move was criticised and Ganguly was chosen for the Pakistan tour.

In Pakistan the Indian team's think-tank dropped Ganguly, who didn't get a chance to bat in the first test. And now when the Karachi wicket is being talked about in the 'sporting' nature, Ganguly's inclusion seems certain!

Notwithstanding Ganguly's mistakes, most shocking thing about the turn of events is Rahul Dravid's existence at the helm. Rahul Dravid - with a very dignified, mature and composed personality - is known for his suave and stately style of functioning. And that exactly makes one think whether there is something more to this than meets the eye.

One also gets a feeling that a few 'unhappy' people are using Dravid's shoulder to settle their own scores."

a feeling that a few 'unhappy' people are using Dravid's shoulder to settle their own scores. The danger here is Rahul Dravid - who is quite focused on the job and his game - getting distracted from what he is delivering single-mindedly, and consequently, the team losing out on the core of the three Ds - discipline, dedication and determination - so vital for a winning combination.

If the administrators are so hell bent upon seeing Ganguly's exit - have a peaceful word with Ganguly, give him a full-tour-play against England and let him bid good-bye to the game honourably. I am sure, even Dravid - a great cricketer that he is - would not like to hide anything from his children or grand-children while describing his illustrious career!

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GOAL-SETTING

Jasbindar Singh

Most of us are back into work and the memories of Christmas shared with our loved ones is in the distant past already. The term "New Year" and "goals" seem to be synonymous looking at the number of articles, ezines and other tools that have crossed my desk. And a month on, no doubt you are well into working towards your energising, stretching and SMART goals. Great! To enrich your journey further, give the following three questions some consideration.

“You can receive revelations in many ways – directly into your mind as insights, from channelling, from reading a book, or by hearing something.”

How open am I to synchronicity and serendipity?

The SQ perspective is that while being intentional and focused is essential to achieving your goals; there should be room for some flexibility. Be open to chance encounters, new possibilities and opportunities as they arise. Listen to your instincts, gut feelings and inner voice when something out of left field presents itself. Revelations and insights come in many forms. You'll be the best judge of whether these are mere distractions or opportunities worth pursuing. In the words of Sanaya Roman in "Spiritual Growth," "Revelations can be simple

or complex. They usually carry a special feeling with them; some of you may get goose bumps, tingling, or other physical sensations. Sometimes you have no physical sensations, but you feel a mental "click," as if a piece has just fallen into place. You can receive revelations in many ways – directly into your mind as insights, from channelling, from reading a book, or by hearing something.”

What am I going to STOP doing?

Having set your goals, are there things that are still taking up a lot of your time and energy but not really working for you? An example my clients cite often is when they are just task-focused rather than working towards the bigger picture or plan. They are highly operational but not necessarily strategic. If you are serious about achieving your goal, it may mean saying goodbye to certain attitudes, behaviours and/or existing commitments, which are hindrances. In our busy lives of "doing" and "having," it is very easy to get trapped into the "more and more" syndrome. Consider where the "less is more" principle may yield greater returns for you.

What fun thing are you doing today to lift the morale and spirit?

This one should be fairly easy to answer and implement! Enjoy.

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



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POSSIBILITIES OF TRANSFORMATION

Ruth DeSouza

I recently discovered that my grandfather was sent from his home in Goa to study in Bombay. In doing so, he became the first person from our ancestral village to matriculate. Many years later, my father was sent to England and became the first person in our village to graduate with a degree. Unfortunately, I don't get to set any records in the same way, but I am highly aware of what my family has gone through to become educated.

Migration, whether temporary or permanent, provides an opportunity for learning and educational opportunities for the next generation and is often a reason to migrate. For the receiving community, migrants can transform society through their different ways of doing things, bringing fresh eyes, cuisines and customs. In turn, we as migrants are transformed by the society we join.

Two recent articles inspired me to write letters, firstly to the *Listener* in response to Brian Easton's article on the benefits that migrants present, using the example of iconic photographer Ans Westra. Then to the *New Zealand Herald*, where a wonderful story by Julie Middleton told us about how holocaust survivor, Jack Efrat, has made his home in New Zealand and now

shares his painful experiences of loss and transcendence with children, stating that "You can make positive use of horrific experiences or you can let them consume you".



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

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Both stories highlight the plight of earlier migrants to New Zealand but also the unique and valuable contributions that they have made by venturing outside their own communities. What will your legacy be?

This is my final column in the *Global Indian*. I have enjoyed writing for the last fourteen months about a range of issues to do with Indians and the broader communities of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Editor's note—We thank Ruth DeSouza for making invaluable contribution to the discussion of the Indian Diaspora through the Global Indian forum. Ruth is reducing some of her commitments as she gets busy with work and a PhD. We wish her well.



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TO RETURN OR NOT TO RETURN?

Chetan Dhruve, Bangalore (INDIA)

As someone who returned to India after 11 years in the West, I'm often asked this question: "How did you decide to take the plunge?"

As NRIs, life is not all rosy. Initially, we're learning new things at a terrific pace. Then, the learning levels off, and life begins to get mundane. We begin to live with traffic problems (not just admire the great roads), housing problems (not just admire the neat houses), too-much-housework problems (not just admire the great equipment), health-insurance problems (not just admire the great medical technology), mowing-the-lawn every weekend problems (not just admire the wonderful trim lawns) and finally, just-too-mechanical-living problems. Then there're the bigger issues: Will I end up totally alone in my old age? Will I recognise my kids and their culture?

India of course, has its own set of problems. One problem we don't like talking about is having to deal with close and extended family all over again, and a past that we gladly left behind. This is one thing that stops some of us from returning. And yet... there's emptiness in our soul that we can't seem to get rid of.

Typically, we get stuck with analysis paralysis. And then we succumb to the mundane-ness of everyday living, because it's easier to deal with having to get your clothes washed right now, than pondering big moves to a strange

country. And before we know it, years pass and it gets more and more difficult to think about returning.

So how did I do it? After years of being frozen with indecision, I realised one day I had two very simple choices: Either I live with the problems abroad, or I live with the problems in India. Both options have problems. None is idyllic. Once I recognised that heaven wasn't to be found in the West, it became easier to contemplate living a heaven-less but more fulfilling life in India. After that, things moved swiftly, and now here I am, back in India with no thought of returning.

Although we complain incessantly about life abroad, we completely set aside those problems when making a comparison with India. We don't compare apples with apples. We talk about how bad the roads are in India vs say, the US, and ignore the alienation we feel. We see the madness of India, but despite our restlessness, we don't see the madness of our life in the US. And even if we do see both sets of problems, we compare not the problems, but the conveniences of daily life.

Which set of problems would you rather live with?

(Chetan has happily settled back in India after living in the UK for many years. He has worked for Cisco, IBM and the British Civil Service. He has an MBA, an MA in international journalism from City University (London) and a Bachelors in Physics, Electronics and Maths from Bangalore University, India.)

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QUEEN'S HONOUR LIST

Congratulations goes to Harish Bajaj, Daudbhai and Robert Khan for being honoured with Queen's medal. These people do all of us proud. Their community work not only helps migrants, but also creates positive impression about minorities in the New Zealand community.

Bhupen Suryavanshi, Christchurch

SHAME ON THOSE INDIANS

I was appalled to read about the disgusting behaviour of

Indians at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas when the President of India was felicitating the PBD award-winners. The disgruntled protestors were demonstrating against Dr Sudhir Parikh's selection for the award as they believe he is close to Narendra Modi. First of all, they should have faith in the selection committee headed by the president. Secondly, do these NRIs question the selection process in the US, New Zealand or Australia? Would they have demonstrated in front of Helen Clark?

Sanjay Timvati, Hamilton

Letter of the month

Sanjay Timvati 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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The Global Indian is New Zealand's first Indian magazine, published on the last day of the previous month and distributed electronically in New Zealand and overseas. This e-zine is specifically designed as an electronic publication, and is not an electronic version of a print publication. The subscription is free.

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