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MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

Vaibhav Gangan, New Delhi

"I would like you to reach out and invest in a new India. Invest not just financially, but intellectually, socially, culturally and above all, emotionally," India's prime minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, told a gathering of 2000 NRIs (non-resident Indians) at the 5th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas conference in New Delhi. "Your roots are what bring you here. Your branches are what will keep you engaged here in India's developmental saga.

"Come, engage with India," he urged in his opening remarks while inaugurating the conference with the theme: Rooting for the Roots.

The deputy prime minister of Singapore, Prof S Jayakumar was the chief guest at the conference, and *The Global Indian* was the only online Indian publication representing New Zealand at the event.

The prime minister thanked overseas Indians, especially the American Indian community whose support assisted the recent Indo-US nuclear pact. The US has adopted a legislation for cooperation with India in



A Global Indian photo

The Global Indian team visited New Delhi for the world's largest NRI conference. Here's the report...

civil nuclear energy. "I thank the overseas Indian community and its leaders who played a very significant role in highlighting the importance of this initiative in the US and elsewhere."

"This is an important step forward not just in India-US bilateral relations, (but) also as an essential first step that will enable India to engage in cooperation in the Civil Nuclear field with other countries that are members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group."

He also thanked Indian communities in West Asia and other parts of the world for the handsome contribution their remittances make to the strengthening of Indian economy.

The 25-million strong Indian Diaspora is the most globalised community in

the world. The annual conference is held on 9th January, commemorating the day Mahatma Gandhi returned home from South Africa and "inspired us to wage a non-violent peaceful struggle for freedom."

"When I went to South Africa last year, I was moved by the deep bond that unites the peoples of India and Africa. In the past, this was the bond of our shared struggle against colonialism.

"Today, it is the bond of our combined effort to regain our due place in the comity of nations," the prime minister added.

MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

IMPROVING EDUCATION

Sangeeta Anand, New Delhi

The framework to establish an university for people of Indian origin will be created soon, prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh, said at the PBD 2007 conference. "we hope to do this in the coming months."

Dr Singh had announced the proposal for the university at the same



A Global Indian photo

conference last year. "We envisage the proposed University as oriented to meeting the needs in the most sought

after disciples including engineering and management," he said.

He also expressed his desire for Indian universities to be more open to children of verseas Indians. "India is the land of the ancient universities of Takshasila, Nagarjuna and Nalanda, to which students came from far off places. I am delighted that Singapore, along with China, Japan, South Korea and other countries in the region, is supporting "

BUREAUCRATIC CII

Vaibhav Gangan, New Delhi

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) gave a taste of its bureaucracy to *The Global Indian* magazine. After this publication submitted application for media registration, the CII, who were the organisers, pushed us from pillar to post during our repeated international follow up calls.

Finally, after arriving at the venue, the CII could not find our names in

the list. Meeting half a dozen officials including Charu Mathur, CII's media director, did not help. We were told to visit the ministry's office, which turned out to be closed as it was Sunday. CII passed on the buck to the PIB (Press Information Bureau) who were in charge of media registrations, while PIB passed the blame back to the CII. While we were footballed among a dozen officials, the prime minister's keynote address was over. Finally, a good soul called Ms Shikha (from CII, ironically) registered us as delegate.

The plight of local media and delegates was no different. "Even some of local media had problems with their registrations," Sameer Mishra, a Delhi-based journalist told *The Global Indian*.

This was a repeat of last year's chaos. Why does the CII not learn from its past mistakes? As we reported last year, it is high time that the organisation of such a large-scale, international event is entrusted to a professional event management firm.

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MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

INDIA'S INTERNATIONAL LAWS NEED REFORMS: NRI LAWYERS

Vaibhav Gangan, New Delhi



There are so many problems relating to marital and property disputes that affect NRIs, and India needs some frameworks to address those, says a lawyer delegate who has been practising law in the US for the past 20 years.

“Our laws were written in 1950s. They need to change to reflect the changed environment. We must make registration of marriage compulsory,” he told the NRIs’ conference. This will help address problems of

multiple marriages, as well as about maintenance.

India also needs to set up family courts to address family disputes. “We also need property courts, on similar lines.” In many countries, there are divorce decrees based on breakdown of marriage. Indian courts need to recognise these decrees.

The ministries of Overseas Indian Affairs and External Affairs have agreed to be party to 75 countries’ Hague conventions. And finally, we need to simplify adoption laws. Under current laws, it is practically impossible to adopt a child and take it abroad. We need a comprehensive system to address these issues.

According to Sanjay Chaubey, another practising attorney from New York, feels that the domestic relations laws have problems. We Need some framework of law. “The most affected countries are the US, the UK,

“There are so many problems relating to marital and property disputes that affect NRIs, and India needs some frameworks to address those.”

Australia and New Zealand,” Sanjay told the conference. Instead of waiting to form international law, India

should start the process for bilateral agreements with these countries.

“In a US court, if you bring a divorce decree from a Delhi court, and are able to prove that the provisions of English law (fair trial etc) were met for obtaining the decree, then the US court will accept it,” he said.

Sanjay also offered to provide pro bono legal services to Indians in need. Another practising attorney from South Africa said that India needs acting judicial appointments like South Africa to clear the backlog of pending court cases. He also suggested commercial arbitration as another option. Many companies want to come to India, but are scared of lengthy litigation in India.

“The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs is working on a scheme so that legal aid will be provided to distressed women in the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and Gulf,” Abhishek Singhvi, who is a lawyer, member of parliament and Congress spokesperson, told the conference. The aid will be limited to marital disputes within a year of marriage.

MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

TGI bureau

In an action that marks the pinnacle of one of the most successful corporate stories, PepsiCo Board has appointed Indra Nooyi as its new chairman. Her appointment comes within five months of Indra being appointed chief executive



“Now after being elected chairperson of the board, she has struck a blow not only for female executives, but also the Indian American community.”

of the world’s second-largest drink maker.

America’s Fortune magazine named this 51-year Indian the most powerful woman in business last year.

“Now after being elected chairperson of the board, she has struck a blow not only for female executives, but also the Indian American community,” says a Money Control report.

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MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

DISCRIMINATION LEADS TO CONFUSED IDENTITY

TGI bureau

A study of over 1500 New Zealand adolescents found that Maori, Samoan, Korean, Indian and Chinese young people experience more discrimination than their Pakeha peers. However, New Zealand's ethnic and migrant young people also strongly prefer integration retaining their heritage culture while adopting Kiwi culture-as a means of adapting to life in this country, according to the research by Victoria University's Centre for Applied Cross-Cultural Research.

Although integration is preferred, it is not always easily achieved, says Centre Director, Professor Collen

Ward. "Cultural differences can pose challenges for adolescents who are developing their identities," she says. In her study, 16% of Indian, 17% of British and 22% of Korean youth said they felt a sense of confusion over

“Perceived discrimination in New Zealand appears to have more to do with ethnicity than migration status.”

identity due to living in New Zealand.

"When members of ethnic and migrant groups feel that their cultures are positively evaluated by other New Zealanders, they are more comfortable with their emerging ethnic identity. On the other hand, perceived discrimination leads to identity conflict

and is linked to more psychological symptoms and behavioural problems, poorer school adjustment and lower life satisfaction," says Professor Ward.

"Chinese are better adjusted at school, and Chinese, Indians and Koreans have fewer behavioural problems."

Koreans reported more discrimination than any other group in the study. However, Professor Ward emphasised that Maori reported as much discrimination as Samoan, Indian, and Chinese youth and more discrimination than either Pakeha or recent British migrants.

"Perceived discrimination in New Zealand appears to have more to do with ethnicity than migration status," says Professor Ward.

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MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

Go, Fly a Kite

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

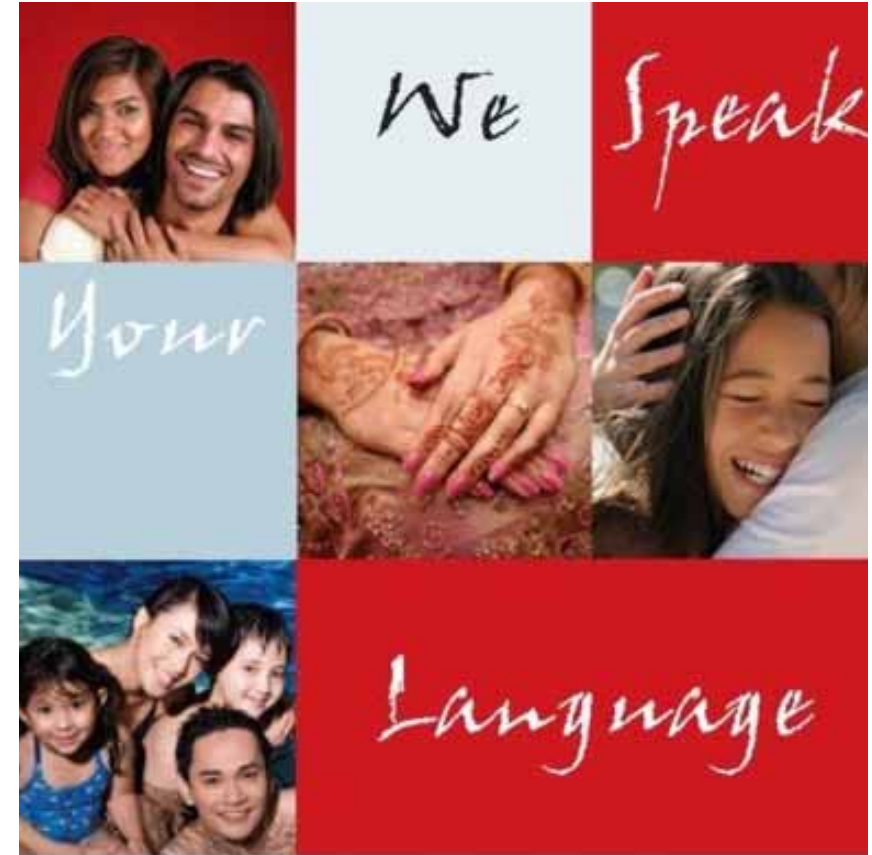
NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US



GO, FLY A KITE...

After cricket and Bollywood, there's probably only one other obsession for Indians – that's kite-flying; and 3000 Indians came together to prove that. New Zealand's Vaishnav Parivar received an overwhelming response to its kite-flying festival in Auckland last month, where over 1000 Indian kites and 200 thread reels (imported from India) were sold in a day.



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OUR TIME IS NOW

Vaibhav Gangan

While visiting India after many years, the 'Indian' bit in me was nowhere to be found. I was evaluating my country with 'western' frames. On the way from airport to South Delhi, a lonely cow standing in a corner at 3.00am depressed me. "Poor thing!" I exclaimed. My Indian host said, "That's a lovely thought!" Looking at animals with human passion seemed to be an alien thought in India. The crowd and the chaos unnerved me when I stepped outside for the first time, but being blessed with a blend of eastern and western values, I could not have missed the enterprise in the country.

People seemed to have found a way (an innovative one in many cases) to earn their bread. Is it the same India,



whose enterprise was stifled by four decades of socialism (1947-1991), I wondered.

The country is going through a massive change. There is heavy activity everywhere. But most local Indians seem to be

less aware of the change. Of course, they notice increased employment. They see more malls. But most can't read the signs of change to come.

Parents are happy that their children have found jobs and the jobs are well-paid. But India's is changing faster than Indians could imagine or want to. I could sense the feeling of pride, confidence and well-being in the air in New Delhi when India celebrated her grand Republic Day with



international diplomats, including Russian head of the state, Vladimir Putin. Global celebration for a global nation!

And this mood was reflected in many spheres of the society! Take the *Times of India* campaign "India Poised" for example, which celebrates India's coming of age.

In the meantime, my mind goes back to the lonely cow looking into nowhere!

MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

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INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

SALAAM-E-ISHQ

Judi Silva, USA

Salaam-E-Ishq: A Tribute To Love (A Salute To Love) weaves the love stories of six couples together. It's the tale of twelve different lives in six different worlds with one common



problem... Love!

The paired couples are Kamini (Priyanka Chopra) and Rahul (Salman Khan), Seema (Juhi Chawla) and Vinay Malhotra (Anil Kapoor), Gia Bakshi (Ayesha Takia) and Shiven Dungarpur (Akshaye Khanna), Tehzeeb (Vidya Balan) and Ashutosh Raina (John Abraham), Stephanie Dream Girl (Shannon Esra) and Raju Taxiwala (Govinda) and Phoolwati (Ishaa Koppikar) and Ramdayal (Sohail Khan).

Three of these six couples are married and others are not. Regardless, dramatic events take place and change their lives forever.

Diversity in the type of characters presented, ranges from a Bollywood wanna-be to a PR person, field

arrivals, a tragic accident, seemingly "picture perfect" families, burning desire and a longing for freedom. It will take you through the complexities and complications associated with love and all that entails. Will love be enough to keep them together?

reporter, film editor, farmer and a taxi driver. From Chandni Chowk, Bombay and New Delhi to Haryana and London, all of them have their dream of what they want their real life to be and the extent to which they will go to achieve that goal, even if it means hurting another in the process.

Salaam-E-Ishq will have you on the edge of your seat, as you become engrossed in the story that is laced with scandals, unsuspected

Directed by Nikhil Advani (*Kal Ho Na Ho*), this huge star cast of Salaam-E-Ishq will make you laugh, cry and feel compassion, and even disdain in some cases.

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.



MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

IT'S ALL IN THE HEAD

Jay Singh

Got another headache? Before you blame it on your husband or wife is there a chance it could be a migraine?

Migraines are severe headaches, usually affecting only one side of the head. They can make you feel sick and affect your sight. They affect one in 10 people and affect women more than men. No one really knows why migraines occur; one theory is that our body's own chemicals make blood vessels in our head squeeze tight, then open again, causing the headache.

The first sign is often a strange feeling of tiredness, flashing lights or zigzag lines. You will then get a headache on one side of your head and may feel sick or vomit. The symptoms are very peculiar to

migraines, which makes migraines easy to diagnose. Doctors may do other tests if they are worried that the

Starting this month, *The Global Indian* adds yet another informative feature – on health. This month, Jay Singh discusses migraines and its possible treatment.

headaches may have another cause.

Prevention is the key; keep a diary of when your migraines happen and try to figure out what sets them off, and avoid these triggers if possible.

Eat regularly, particularly plenty of fibre and water and decrease stress by doing relaxation exercises and try to get regular sleep.

Treatment should begin when you first feel a headache coming on. Try to lie down and relax in a dark room if

possible. Take simple pain relief such as paracetamol or any other medication your doctor has given you as soon as you can to prevent the headache setting in.

Migraines can be triggered by stress, tiredness, hunger, exercise, hormonal changes, food and drink, strong smells, loud noise, bright or flickering lights. Finding out what triggers your migraines is the key



Jay Singh is a Auckland-based pharmacist, and winner of the 2006 Mr India NZ title.

to minimising their occurrence. If the things you try don't help, your doctor may give you stronger pain relief or medicine.

(This column is not medical advice. Please consult your doctor.)



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MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

WHY GOAL SETTING FAILS

Jasbindar Singh

Here we are, another year, another beginning. Undoubtedly many of us would have set ourselves some stretch goals; perhaps a BHAG (a big, hairy and audacious goal) and some others as well.

We need to set goals to

Despite what we say and do, it is our belief system, which will drive home the ultimate results and our reality.

to achieve things. It keeps us focused and energised along with the ultimate sense of fulfilment when we finally achieve what we set out to do. In my coaching practice, a question I invariably ask is: "What is one thing you would like to achieve this year that will take you out of your comfort zone?"

And yet the reality for a lot of people is

that after the initial flurry of planning, their enthusiasm wanes. They resort to their previous patterns - 'the same old, same old

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



syndrome' - and abandon their goals.

We find various ways to frame this loss of focus. We blame other demands for getting in the way, or the

possibility that we set an unrealistic goal in the first place. These are all above-the-line explanations - those that we are conscious of and are therefore easily able to grasp and explain away.

However, the real power, which helps us achieve our dreams, comes through 'drilling down'; by addressing all that lies beneath the surface - that

which is 'below the line'. This powerful dominator is called our belief system. Indeed much of our current reality has a positive correlation with our belief system. Despite what we say and do, it is our belief system, which will drive home the ultimate results and our reality.

For example, as a manager and leader, your goal may be to learn new skills in how to coach and develop your team members. However, if deep down you believe that certain team members are not capable or trustworthy of making good judgments, then your results (or lack of them) will reflect that. Your pattern of exchange with these team members will remain tainted as your real beliefs seep through and reinforce this lack of trust.

Take someone trying to lose weight. Again, despite the initial enthusiasm, if the underlying belief is 'I will never be able to go below x kgs' or if there is some ambivalence here, then ultimately it is these beliefs which will dictate the final outcome.

Become more conscious of your underlying belief system as it dictates what you think you can or can't achieve!

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MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

BUREAUCRATIC CII

INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT

A linguistics professor was lecturing to his class one day.

"In English," he said, "a double negative forms a positive. In some languages though, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However," he pointed out, "there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative."

A voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah. Right."

2007—YEAR OF FUN!

There are no public holidays on Sundays. This year has got highest number of Sundays and Saturdays. So enjoy the least working year in your life!

A CALL CENTRE CONVERSATION

Caller: Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?

Operator: I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about.

Caller: On page 1, section 5 of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?

Operator: I think you mean the telephone point on the wall.

Contributed by Brian D'Silva, Auckland

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INDIAN LAWS NEED REFORMS

NOOYI IS PEPSI CHAIRMAN

DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

INDIANS WANT TO PLAY A WIDER ROLE – SURVEY

Dr. P.L. Joshi, Bahrain



In the past, NRIs were perceived by Indian public as cash cows to be milked, or opportunists who completed their highly subsidised education in India and left their motherland to become economically well-off abroad.

However, sensing India's current high performance and huge potential, thousands of them now are having a feeling to return and contribute more to their homeland.

Among 22 million NRIs living overseas, about 44% are concentrated in the Middle East, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Some US\$6 billion are NRI remittances from the Middle East region alone. According to one estimate, the NRIs' contributions in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) have been about 18-20%. For many, today NRIs stand for "National Resource of India".

A survey (led by me) was conducted

to analyse how NRIs perceive the contemporary India.

Over 80% of the 162 respondents (from 29 countries) very strongly perceive that "the history and rich cultural values of India", "India's third-largest pool of scientists and engineers in the world" and "Technology, software and other developments" are the major positive characteristics which make them very proud of India.

Among 22 million NRIs living overseas, about 44% are concentrated in the Middle East, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Some US\$6 billion are NRI remittances from the Middle East region alone.

A few respondents from the Gulf region stated that they maintain their religious traditions, observe social rituals more zealously. One of them stated that it is not only the Indian values and traditions which are followed by the Gulf-based NRIs, but also their children pursue Indian

education, as there are large number of Indian schools located in the region.

The Gulf-based NRIs perceive that India has become self-sufficient in food grains but NRIs from the rest of the world seem to be not impressed. The reason may be obvious because the Gulf region is a major importer of food items from India.

The Gulf-based NRIs strongly believe that there is still "lack of basic infrastructure, 60 years after independence". It seems that the Gulf-based NRIs are more conscious about this, as majority of them have been engaged in the infrastructure development projects in this region.

While the respondents from the rest of the world are more concerned with the negative characteristics of "gross inequities and prejudices that are still prevalent in some of Indian life", they are also equally worried about the corrupt practices in public life and slow infrastructure development in the country. These negative characteristics perhaps hesitate many of the NRIs to invest in India.

Contd... ►

Contd... ■▶ The Gulf-based Indians appear to have shown more positive perceptions about India for various reasons, such as:

- a) The Gulf-based NRIs will not be naturalised in this region and ultimately will return to their homeland.
- b) They travel to India more frequently. A recent survey by JuxtConsult reveals that 80% of the Gulf-based NRIs travel to India at least once in 3 months.
- c) The same survey also revealed that the Gulf –based NRIs not only show higher ownership of assets in

India but are also the ones who have higher propensity to make further investments in India.

d) The Gulf -based Indians remit money to India more frequently.

The survey also reveals that NRIs want to play bigger roles in Indian affairs as the Chinese did in their country's economic boom. These NRIs can transfer the best business practices to India. However, to create more interest of NRIs in Indian affairs, the respondents sought to remove all procedural wrangles and easing of fiscal law. They may be encouraged to invest in the research and development of agro-based

industries and the use of technology in farming as these areas have remained much neglected.

The survey suggests that Indian media, particularly the satellite television channels should start special awareness programmes on NRIs news.

Dr. Prem Lal Joshi is a professor of Accounting at the University of Bahrain, Bahrain. Originally from Uttaranchal, he is also editor of two International journals in the UK. He is listed in Marquis Who's Who in the World and International Who's Who in the US.

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DISCRIMINATION IN NZ

MONTH IN NEWS

GO, FLY A KITE

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

VISION ASIA WATCH

MOVIE REVIEW

CULTURE, LIVING

HEALTH

MIND MATTERS

FUNNY BONE

NRIs SURVEY

ABOUT US

MONTH SPECIAL

INVEST EMOTIONALLY

IMPROVING EDUCATION

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Angan Publications Ltd., 56 Woodbank Drive, Glen Eden,
Auckland, New Zealand
Phone/fax: +64 9 813 9778,
Editor: +64 212514924

Sangeeta Anand, publisher and editorial advisor
sanand@theglobalindian.co.nz
Vaibhav Gangan, editor
vgangan@theglobalindian.co.nz

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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Sandeep Chandra, copy editor
schandra@theglobalindian.co.nz
Vishal Singh, overseas correspondent
vsingh@theglobalindian.co.nz
Julie Smith, art director
jsmith@theglobalindian.co.nz