

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

ETHICS OF DUAL CITIZENSHIP

A Confluence correspondent

President of India felicitated Lord Bikkhu Parekh with Samman Award at this year's Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conference. Here's an excerpt of Lord Parekh's interview with Confluence, UK's leading ethnic publication.

C: The question of dual citizenship and that of overseas Indians acting as a pressure group for India has caused confusion in certain circles. How compatible is it with loyalty to one's country of adoption?

L.P: Why

“If you are a citizen of a country, ...your loyalty to that country is total. There is no room for loyalty to another country...”

should there be a problem? Here in the UK, the Irish who are British citizens have often campaigned for the Irish in Northern Ireland. The Americans here have often acted as a lobby; the Jews here act as a pressure group for Israel. There is nothing wrong with that. If you are a citizen, your loyalty to that country is total. There is no room for loyalty to another country. But as citizens you have views about other countries. Let's take an Indian living here. Suppose there is something happening in Fiji affecting Indians there. Well, as an Indian I have some understanding of that country, that say the Indians there are being treated badly and I take the allegation to the British government and say, "Look we should be doing this or that".

C: But what about a dual citizen? Where does he really belong?

L.P: Dual citizenship simply means that I could go to India without a passport. If I want to participate in India's public



life, I can do that. But I don't have the right to vote, which is why we are talking about not dual *citizenship*, but of dual *nationality*. As for dual citizenship, a citizen has two rights and two obligations: the right to vote, the right to stand for election, and the right to occupy an office; and two fundamental obligations: to die for his country, and to pay taxes. Now, if you are not given those two rights then you cannot impose those two obligations. So you are given a passport and given a nationality but not citizenship, which is what the Indian government has done. Some NRIs have asked for the right to vote but I am opposed to it for the reason that if you don't live in that country you have no right to ask for the vote.

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JUNE SPECIAL

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GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

When you walk through the numerous aisles of Mitre 10 Mega in Henderson, it is easy to get lost, or get confused or both - until you speak with one of the floor assistants. As you speak with one of them, you realise that they are not only helpful, but also knowledgeable about the products, and there are plenty of them walking around, eager to assist. It's probably a different experience for many shoppers who are used to getting half-baked information at

many of New Zealand's leading stores. At Mitre 10 Mega, you see a mixed age group of salesmen, often older staff training the younger ones. And yes, if you bump into one of the men in uniform and the name-tag reads 'Vinod', chances are you have met the owner of Australasia's largest individually-owned hardware store. "I like getting mixed with other salesmen. That way I can get first-hand feedback from my customers," says Vinod Kumar.

Spread over a 2.8ha plot in Lincoln Road, Henderson's

"I'VE ALMOST ACHIEVED MY VISION"— VINOD KUMAR

Vaibhav Gangan



Mitre 10 Mega store is home to 45,000 DIY products. There is even a 155m² designer café that seats 60 shoppers. Vinod was a happy man when he spoke at the Mega store opening last year, "I have almost achieved my vision."

As I waited on the phone for Vinod to finish his conversation, he was sharing some customer service tips with a staff. "If they (customer) are looking for something and we don't have it, write it down. Make a

list," I could hear him say. No wonder Vinod Kumar was awarded Retailer of the Year 2004 in October last year.

Born in Fiji, Vinod came to New Zealand to study in 1975. He was here for seven and a half years and completed a diploma in civil engineering before returning to Fiji. He then migrated to New Zealand in January 1987 and started working for Hawkins Construction. "Very soon, we wanted to go back because life is a lot better in Fiji. But in May 1987, the coup happened, and we stayed here."

Continued...

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**CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL**

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

Continued...

Life was not very easy in those initial days in New Zealand. "I came here with only \$15000 in my pocket. We wanted to buy a house, but I did not have the deposit money. So my wife and I physically built our first home," Vinod reflects. After coming home from work at 5.00pm, the Kumars used to take an hour's break and then used to build the house from 6pm to 9pm. After doing this for 18 months, the house was built. "We built the whole house ourselves except the plumbing and electrical works," recalls Vinod. Even on the job front, the going was tough sometimes. "You had to prove that you are good or better than 'them'. I was aware of this culture because I worked for Fletcher Construction in Fiji. There too, I had to prove myself to Fletcher's expatriate staff."

One can say, Vinod's story is about his journey from one adversity to another. Even as he proved his mettle and started settling in the job, clouds of the 1989 recession gathered over the New Zealand economy. As the job prospects looked gloomy, Vinod started to look for opportunities. "When there is a set-back, you change your direction," Vinod says. Henderson Mitre 10 came up for sale and he bought it. "If the economic slowdown had not happened, I would still have been working." He had to sell his home to buy the Mitre 10 store. "We literally cried when we had to sell the house that we had built ourselves," Vinod recounts.

That was in 1989. In the last 16 years he has expanded from a team of five to a staff of 200. "New Zealand is a

land of opportunities. We have expanded five times, and we grew from the original 500m2 shop to the current 13000m2 Mitre 10 Mega, and 5000m2 Westgate Mitre 10."

New Zealand's hardware industry recorded a massive 20.2% growth in 2004 (Statistics New Zealand). With growth comes more competition. "You either do it or 'get done' by others. Had I not built Australasia's largest individually-owned hardware store in 1999, others would have," Vinod adds. "It was a calculated risk." New Zealand's banks have trusted Vinod Kumar's entrepreneurial instincts. "While buying the first Mitre 10, I did not have the capital to put towards the property, but there must have been something that the bank was happy with, to lend us the full amount towards the land and building," Vinod smiles.

As I see many new migrants either give up or give in during the initial struggle, I wonder what Vinod would like to tell new migrants. "If you put your whole heart into something, you'll always succeed," Vinod exerts.

(If you would like to nominate someone to be The Global Indian of the month, email editor@theglobalindian.co.nz)

Indians are thought to make up at least a fifth of the estimated one-billion people who speak English worldwide.

Contributed by Sainath More, Hamilton

DID YOU KNOW?

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

CAN I LIVE IN INDIA FOR GOOD?

Q I am having indefinite permanent residence. From the date of landing, three years have passed. Now I am eligible for applying for citizenship. After getting citizenship, if I want to stay in India indefinitely, what do I have to do? I came to know that those with New Zealand citizenship cannot stay for over six months. Please tell me the procedures in detail. Also, if I get the dual citizenship, will I be eligible to stay in India indefinitely?

Surya Prakash

The questioner, after getting New Zealand citizenship, can obtain visitor's visa for India for a period of five years on his New Zealand passport or he can apply and obtain a PIO card from this High Commission which would enable him to travel to India without visa till the validity of the PIO card. He can stay in India for a maximum period of six months. If he wants to stay longer, he would be required to register himself with the nearest FRRO/Police.

As regards dual citizenship, we would be able to comment about the period of stay in India only when full details are received from the Government of India.

Editor's note: Through TGI, we have informed our readers earlier that once you become a New Zealand citizen, you cannot retain your Indian passport. As good citizens, our readers should return Indian passport once you obtain New Zealand citizenship.



Indian High Commission will answer TGI readers' queries. Only those queries information regarding which is not available on High Commission's Website (www.hicomind.org.nz) will be answered here. Email your questions to editor@theglobalindian.co.nz



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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

Suresh Pillai

If foreign insurers are invading India's so-far protected lucrative insurance market, India's public sector insurers are looking overseas for further growth. India's largest general insurer, New India Assurance (NIA), recently set up its New Zealand operations. NIA's managing director, Rajendra Beri, was in Auckland to inaugurate the office. Fiji Branch Chief Manager Ram Vashist, who was instrumental in setting up the Auckland office, will be responsible for NIA's New Zealand operations.

Talking to The Global Indian just before we went to press, Praveena Narayan, NIA Auckland's Secretary Chief Executive, said, "We are very excited about NIA's new operations, and are looking forward to serving our New Zealand clients." Currently assisted by two local staff, Praveena expects to expand her team very soon.

"I feel the timing is good right now. It's great for us all. Healthy competition, and hopefully some innovation has got to be good," an Auckland-based insurance broker told this reporter.

The Asia Pacific region is not new to NIA. The Mumbai-based insurer has already established its presence in Japan, the UK, West Asia, Fiji and Australia, and operates in 23 countries with a network of 17 branches. In fact, NIA has been doing business in Australia and Fiji for well over half a century now. NIA's premium income from foreign operations for 2003-04 stood at Rs 876 crore (about NZ\$290 million), accounting for over 80% of the total overseas premium. Last year, NIA's director and general manager, A.V. Purushotaman, had indicated a possible entry into Nepal in the near future.

Until recently, India's public sector insurers had monopoly over the insurance sector, NIA being the market leader. Indian public sector insurers fair very well on the international scene due to strong reserve requirements and government ownership, giving them unparalleled credibility. Formed under the Nationalisation Act 1974 by amalgamating many private insurance companies, NIA's history dates back to late 19th century.

"India is not only a rising economic power but a potentially very stabilising and positive force in international politics," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told *Bloomberg News*.

THEY SAID IT!



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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

NZ'S BUDGET 2005



Dr Michael Cullen, Finance Minister

WHOSE BUDGET IS IT ANYWAY?

- \$4M to support ethnic communities; funding for the Language Line
- Wait till 2008 for income tax thresholds to be raised
- KiwiSaver in 2007, government to put in \$1000 for every employee
- Economic growth will slow down from estimated 4.2% in 2004-05 to 2.5% in the next two years.
- The Cullen super fund to rise to \$19.4B in the next four years.
- Police numbers to exceed 10,000; 1300 new state homes
- \$45.5M spend on the 111 emergency system



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Even today, 50% of Indian children do not go to school; 17 million still work for a living. In the last 26 years, CRY has made a difference to the lives of over 1.37 million children.

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

INDIAN CHALLENGES THE P.M.

Suresh Pillai

As New Zealand approaches general election in a couple of months, the gap between National and Labour, New Zealand's two biggest political parties, is narrowing.

If Bobby Jindal is making waves on the American political scene, Ravi Musuku is hoping to create history in New Zealand. Of the nine National candidates, five are first-timers, including Ravi Musuku, a clergyman attached to Hillsborough Baptist Church.

As someone said, there are only two words between Ravi and an election victory - 'Helen' and 'Clark'. Yes, Ravi is contesting from the prime minister's constituency: Mt Albert, which is historically known to be Labour's stronghold electorate.

At his campaign launch, Ravi said, "A great New Zealander went to India and conquered the Mt. Everest, I have come from India to New Zealand; with your support I will conquer the Mt. Albert."

National party leader, Dr Don Brash, said, "Ravi need not win the electorate to become an MP. On the basis of party vote Ravi could become a List MP. Therefore it is

important the Indian community party vote National to have Ravi as their representative in the Parliament." It's a good sign of Ravi putting party-interest and community-interest ahead of self-interest.

Standing oddly among National's list of candidates that include a writer, a physician, a recruitment manager and a publisher is India-born pastor Ravi. Originally from Andhra Pradesh (Southern India), he qualified as a mechanical engineer in Haryana (yes, Northern India) and worked in the steel



"A great New Zealander went to India and conquered the Mt. Everest, I have come from India to New Zealand; with your support I will conquer the Mt. Albert."

fabrication industry. Before migrating to New Zealand in 1998, he was principal of a technical institute in Gujarat (oh well, Western India). He trained as Baptist pastor in New Zealand and gained a Bachelor of Theology from the University of Auckland. With his diverse cultural background, Ravi is dexterous in four Indian languages (Telugu, Hindi, Gujarati and Punjabi) as well as English.

Speaking to The Global Indian on the eve of election, Ravi shared his election agenda, "My agenda is same as National's as Dr Brash has elaborated through his articles in The Global Indian: strong family values, zero tolerance of crime, excellence in education, and equal opportunities and one standard of citizenship for all."

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

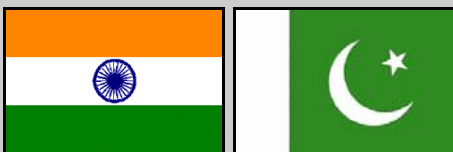
READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

NEW ZEALAND

**NZ VISIT: INDIA
LATER, PAK FIRST**



AUCKLAND—The Global Indian was advised from Wellington that the Indian delegation had reluctantly postponed their visit to New Zealand for the business conference on 23 May. The reason given was that the New Zealand Govt had advised the Indian Govt that it was unable to host the Joint Trade Commission talks which were due to be held the next day in Wellington, Fergus McLean, Executive Director, India NZ Business Council, told TGI.

Separately, for the first time, the head of state of Pakistan will be visiting New Zealand. Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf is set to visit New Zealand between 17th and 19th June, Prime Minister Helen Clark told New Zealand media.

INDIA

WAKE UP NZ

AUCKLAND/MUMBAI—Even as a recent *National Business Review* article compared Australia's legal services outsourcing to New Zealand with India's IT outsourcing, very few Down Under realise that India has moved on since. According to a recent *Times of India* report, managerial strength, willingness to stretch work-hours and proven track record in the complex Indian market have attracted foreign recruiters to hire talent from India. Not only is an increasing number of Indian managers being handpicked for plum global jobs by multinational companies, even expat CEOs are vying for an 'Indian experience' on their CVs. P&G, Unilever and PepsiCo are drawing on their Indian resources for global jobs. With New Zealand's skill shortages, Kiwi companies don't have to go far for talent-search, do they?

WORLD

**ETHNICITIES AND
ELECTION**

NEW JERSEY— Election issues for migrants worldwide are similar, as per recent surveys. In light of New Zealand's forthcoming election, it is interesting to see Asian Americans' behaviour in the recent US general election. Asian American voters voiced common concerns across ethnic lines, citing the economy/jobs as the most important factor in their vote for President and civil liberties as the most important civil rights issue. The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) released these findings from its national multilingual exit poll of almost 11000 Asian American voters in the November 2004 election. Asian Americans turned to ethnic media for their main source of news. It will be interesting to see what drives Indian voters in the forthcoming elections in New Zealand.

(Gani Pola, C2B2B News, and TGI)

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

WOMEN ARE FROM?

Sangeeta Anand

Recently I was invited to an official business opening function, which was attended by close to 150 people, mostly from the Indian community. I was only one of the two women in that big room full of men. When I looked around, I saw that the adjoining room was full of women. Even in a Western country, we still follow Indian tradition of seating men and women separately at social gatherings. Or was it out of choice for women?

I know women are from Venus and men from Mars. And that this is true in every sense of the word. But despite these glaring differences there are aspects where women and men remain dependant on each other.

In many families, men expect women to be responsible for household chores ranging from cooking to cleaning, whereas women think it is the responsibility of men to provide for the family. Globalisation coupled with identity issues has created the desire

for women to move away from these 'Venus type' activities and involve themselves in brainwork. As such, women should feel a sense of fulfilment and achieve what they believe gives them a high. It could be routine things like music, dancing, to attaining laurels in doctorates, or heading multinational companies. Whatever, the realisation or awakening has to come from within.

Till such time as every woman is not convinced that there is an inherent quality within them besides the cooking and cleaning, it is unlikely that they will break away from the shackles of Venus and Mars type of responsibilities.

You live only once and every human being has the right to live and be happy. Choices are always there; women have to be able to make the right choice. Self-respect and identity are very important pushing factors. Women need to respect themselves for what they are. If they do not love or respect themselves they cannot respect others. How will they respect their partner?

It's time Venuses and Mars altered their customary way of thinking and accepted what Western world has to offer because we have chosen to live in this country and most of us have/ will accept the vows to be a New Zealand citizen; so let's think where we are heading.

Back at the opening ceremony, guess who the business owner invited to inaugurate the business – his mother and his wife. He credited his success to the two women. It was indeed a touching moment. Such a wonderful feeling to see the ladies of the house being honoured. I can proudly add that all is not lost. We Indians do respect our women, no matter which country we are in!

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another, without any loss of enthusiasm." Winston Churchill.

"What we see depends mainly on what we look for." Sir John Lubbock.

Contributed by Bharti Hira, Wellington

**THOUGHT
OF THE
MONTH**

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

- ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP*
- GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH*
- ASK HIGH COMMISSION*
- INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ*
- WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?*
- INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM*

MONTH IN NEWS

- NZ, INDIA, WORLD*
- EDITORIAL*

ENTERTAINMENT

- BOLLYWOOD BUZZ*
- MOVIE GUIDE*

CULTURE, LIVING

- WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA*
- CURRY ZONE*
- FUNNY BONE*

COLUMNISTS

- SANJAY KARHADE*
- JASBINDAR SINGH*
- RUTH DESOUZA*

READERS WRITE

- LETTERS TO EDITOR*
- ABOUT US**

A TRIBUTE

SUNIL DUTT

While only two weeks away from his 76th birthday, actor-turned-parliamentarian Sunil Dutt passed away on 25th May. Sunil Dutt's story is one of adversities and accomplishments. Who can forget Sunil Dutt in 'Mother India'?

After a glorious career in films, he introduced his son Sanjay in 'Rocky' in 1981. His wife, Nargis, succumbed to cancer the same year, and Sunil devoted rest of his life to social work. He founded the Nargis Dutt Cancer Foundation. Just last year, Sunil paired with Sanjay in Vidhu Vinod Chopra's Munnabhai MBBS.

ISMAIL MERCHANT

Producer-director Ismail Merchant died in London when an ulcer burst on 25th May. He was 68. His partnership with American producer James Ivory, produced 40 films, including A Room With A View, Howard's End, Heat And Dust, and The Remains Of The Day. Born in Bombay, Ismail lived mostly in the West, completing his MBA at New York University. Ismail's first film, The Creation of Woman, was nominated in 1961 for an Academy Award and was America's entry in the Cannes Festival. Ismail was also a renowned chef and author of many books on cuisine, including Ismail Merchant's Indian Cuisine.

DDLJ LIVES THROUGH A GENERATION

Indians' passion for Bollywood movies was proven on 13 May when Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, or DDLJ as it is fondly called, completed 500th week of continuous play in



theatre for 500 uninterrupted weeks.

India (yes, close to 10 years). Raj and Simran's on-screen chemistry enlivened Mumbai's Maratha Mandir

SAMSUNG IIFA 2005

6TH IIFA SET TO ROCK

MUMBAI—Three continents. Four countries. Five IIFAs. This time the lucky host is Amsterdam. Samsung International Indian Film Academy 2005 awards are set to



take place on June 11th. Each IIFA trophy is made of pure brass, plated with 24-carat gold. In addition to regular performances from Bollywood stars ranging from Salman Khan, Aishwarya Rai to Esha Deol, other attractions will be Daler Mehendi and international pop sensations Bombay Rockers and Rouge.

DDLJ was one of the first movies based on an NRI's story, which opened on 20th October 1995. It bridged the perceived divide between the NRI and domestic cultures. The movie won 13 National, Filmfare and Screen Awards. It was director Aditya Chopra's first film and he was 23.

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP
GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH
ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ
WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM
MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD
EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ
MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA
CURRY ZONE
FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE
JASBINDAR SINGH
RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR
ABOUT US

LIAR, LIAR, LOVE'S ON FIRE



After a patriotic, action movie, "I Proud To Be An Indian", Sohail Khan returns with a comedy, with brother Salman Khan. Will Salman's real life romance with Katrina Kaif do the magic on screen? Let's wait and watch.

PROMISING MOVIES

Parineeta, Yakeen, Paheli

PROMISING MUSIC

Bunty Aur Babli, Parineeta, Dus

COMEDY JUST GOT BETTER

Bollywood sells dreams and Bollywood producers are known as dream merchants. But what happens when the lead characters are obsessed with their dreams? When Bunty and Babli's dreams grow bigger than their hometowns can handle, they take you on a roller-coaster ride in pursuit of their dreams. If you want three hours of fun-filled

NOW SHOWING

entertainment, then Yash Raj Films' Bunty Aur Babli is for you. Getting to see the father-son Bachchan duo together is an added bonus.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Parineeta (romance)

Producer: Vidhu Vinod Chopra

Director: Pradeep Sarkar

Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Sanjay Dutt, Vidya Balan, Raima Sen, Diya Mirza and Rekha

Naina (horror)

Producer: Firuzi Khan, Ashish Bhatnagar

Director: Shripal Morakhia

Cast: Urmila Matondkar, Anuj Sawhney, Shweta Konnur, and Amardeep Jha

Silsilay (romance)

Producer: Vashu Bhagnani

Director: Khalid Mohamed

Cast: Tabu, Riya Sen, Bhumika Chawla, K.K. Menon, Rahul Bose, Jimmy Shergill, Ashmit Patel, and Celina Jaitley

Yakeen

Producer: Sujit Kumar Singh

Director: Giresch Dhamija

Cast: Priyanka Chopra, Arjun Rampal, Saurabh Shukla, Kim Sharma, Ankur Nayyar

Movie Guide compiled by: Vishal Singh

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

Narayana Murthy, Chairman, Infosys Technologies Ltd

As an Indian, I am proud to be part of a culture, which has deep-rooted family values. Our families act as a critical support mechanism for us. In fact, the credit to the success of Infosys goes, as much to the founders as to their families, for supporting them through the tough times.

Unfortunately, our attitude towards family life is not reflected in our attitude towards community behaviour. From littering the streets to corruption, we are apathetic to the common good. The primary difference between the West and us is that, there, people have a much better societal orientation. They generally sacrifice more for the society than us. Quality of life is enhanced because of this.

In the West, there is respect for the public good. For instance, parks are free of litter. Corruption, as we see in

“Indians become intimate even without being friendly.”

India, is another example of putting the interest of oneself, and at best that of one's family, above that of the society. Apathy in solving

community matters has held us back from making progress. We see serious problems around us but do not try to solve them.

What could be the reason for all this? We were ruled by



foreigners for over a thousand years. Thus, we have always believed that public issues belonged to some foreign ruler. Moreover, we have lost the will to proactively solve our own problems.

Indians become intimate even without being friendly. They ask favors of strangers without any hesitation. For instance, the other day, while I was traveling, I met a fellow traveler on the train. Hardly five minutes into the conversation, he requested me to speak to his MD about removing him from the bottom 10% list in his company, earmarked for disciplinary action. I was reminded of what Rudyard Kipling once said: *A westerner can be friendly without being intimate while an easterner tends to be intimate without being friendly.* Let us work towards a society where we would *do unto others what we would have others do unto us.*

(Mr Murthy spoke at the LBS Institute of Management on October 02, 2002. Printed with permission.)

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

BUTTER BEAN CURRY (SERVES 4)

Ashok Kumar Parmar, Dunedin

Ingredients

500gm butter beans

1 large onion

½ teaspoon chilli powder

1 teaspoon: black mustard seeds,
turmeric

2 teaspoons: green herb stock, ground
cumin, ground coriander

crushed garlic, crushed ginger, garam
masala

ajwain/cumin/caraway

¼ cup: oil, green pepper, spring
onions

Method

This is a dry curry and should be cooked on low heat to avoid sticking. In a pot heat the oil and the black mustard seeds. Keep covered and fry until the seeds pop (careful not to burn the seeds). Slice the onions, spring onions and pepper. Add onions

and sauté until tender. Add all spices except the garam masala. Fry for a few minutes.

Add the butter beans. Mix well and lower the heat to medium. Leave covered for 10 minutes. Mix well again and if sticking to the bottom, add 2 tablespoons of water or oil. Cook on LOW for 30 minutes or until the butter beans are tender. Turn off the heat, add garam masala and leave for a couple of minutes before serving.

Green pepper can be used with the onions. Finely sliced spring onions can be sprinkled with the garam masala at the end of the cooking.

Serve with roti. Great for sandwiches the next day.

Note: Because it is very difficult to get fresh butter beans in Dunedin (NZ), I have always used frozen - therefore I add little water. If you use fresh beans, you will need about half to a cup of water so that they do not stick to the pan. All you need to do is simmer it on low heat with the lid on - or use a crock-pot if you

have one.

If using canned beans - use only half of the water that is in the can to start with, and add more if needed - I make pea curry using canned peas and by the time it is ready, I have used all the water/juice from the can - I like my peas mushy! Dry beans will need to be soaked overnight and then cooked with some water. For other dry beans I use a pressure-cooker with lots of water (without soaking overnight).

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

THOSE KIWI QUESTIONS

Some common questions Kiwis ask Indians and their tongue-in-the-cheek responses:

Q. You're from India? I have read so much about the country. All the wonderful places, the forests, the snake charmers, the elephants. Do you still use elephants for transportation?

A. Absolutely. In fact we used to have our own elephant in our house. But later, we started participating in elephant-ride sharing schemes with our neighbors, to save the air. You see elephants have an "emissions" problem!

Q. Does India have cars?

A. No. We ride elephants to work. The government is trying to encourage ride-sharing schemes.

Q. Are all Indians vegetarian?

A. Yes. Even tigers are vegetarian in India.

Q. How come you speak English so well?

A. You see when the British were ruling India, they employed Indians as servants. It took too long for the Indians to learn English. So the British isolated an "English-language" gene and infused their servants' babies with it and since then all babies are born speaking English.

Contributed by Sailesh Mathur, Wellington

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

BEWARE GREG!

Sanjay Karhade

Was it a selection process or an election process – that's the question that is haunting me today! With the kind of publicity given to the appointment of the Team India coach, the promise of 24x7x365 coming forth from the 'candidate', a tri-coloured dupatta around his tie-shoe-attire and folded hands implied a trifle off-beat meaning to the appointment of Greg Chappell as Team India coach. Frankly, I am not too impressed.

The number of candidates 'invited and discussed', the number of candidates that got 'dropped' even before being invited and interviewed, the under



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.

current – or should we call it an aura – that ran all along with the name Greg Chappell, to me, suggested three things. One, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had already made up its mind. Two, Greg himself was aware of the BCCI's mindset and consequently had enough time to decide the way he will present himself to the cricket-crazy people of India through the media.

Be that as it may, at the outset I am of the opinion – and I would love to fall flat on my face for having made a

“In Australia, it is comparatively easier to drop a celebrated cricketer. In India tough decisions could mean tougher task ahead.”



statement that I am going to – that Greg will not be as successful as John Wright.

Greg has been a great cricketer, has seen the ups and downs in his career, is always in command of what he intends to do and is sincere too. But the one quality that may not be appreciated by the Indian cricket fraternity is his forthright approach and guts to take tough decisions. He will soon find out how difficult it is to make the 'right' choices while putting an Indian XI together, keep everyone happy and also take 'tough' decisions. In Australia, it is comparatively easier to drop a celebrated cricketer. In India tough decisions could mean tougher task ahead.

Notwithstanding the fact that Greg will be enjoying enormous power – and I back the concept, for, it is the coach who is in closer touch with the team than even the selectors – my gut feeling tells me that ego-clashes are on cards. Greg knows no mincing of words. And the powers that be in BCCI know nothing but that! I wish Greg – one of my favourite batsmen – loads of patience and great success!

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

FREE YOURSELF FROM THE TYRANNY OF 'SHOULD'S'

Jasbindar Singh

We think of the Gold Coast as being bright and sunny, right? Well it was nothing like it, driving in the rain from Brisbane for a conference last month. I had to adjust my perception and feeling of disappointment, which was lifted somewhat by the very warm and positive welcome of the Marriott front line staff at Surfers' Paradise.

Well – a quick check into my room showed up fantastic surf views on the one side and ritzy houses with their own private

piers on the other! So with a brollie in hand, I decided to embrace the elements and take a walk towards the ocean and find some lunch. Walking down the beachfront, I found myself musing about the mental pictures we have of how life 'should' be. The overt and conscious to the more covert or sub-conscious expectations we have of ourselves, life, other people and even something as unreliable as the weather! And how we moan and groan when things do not show up, as they 'should' have.

In psychological terms, 'should' is actually a dangerous word! It tends to be rigid, imposing and dogmatic although

I begin to enjoy the contrast of the hot coffee with the coolness of the rain, the safety of the sidewalk compared to the vast mass of powerful ocean."

naturally there are times when 'shoulds' have their rightful place as in set policies, procedures and protocols. In the words of Tao Te Ching, "whatever is flexible and flowing will tend to grow, whatever is rigid and blocked will wither and die." So what are some 'shoulds' in your life? Are these working for you or restraining you? You could try replacing 'should' with a 'could' which is much more generative and choice giving.

Gary Zukov, in "The Seat Of The Soul" writes, "if you are unkind to yourself, you will be unkind to others, and if you

are negligent of yourself you will be that to others. Only by feeling

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



compassion for yourself can you feel compassion for others." How much compassion are you able to muster when things do not go your way?

As I look out to the ocean, I am in awe of the strong, energetic bodies doing a rhythmic dance with nature on their very cool surfboards. I begin to enjoy the contrast of the hot coffee with the coolness of the rain, the safety of the sidewalk compared to the vast mass of powerful ocean, the smell of the tropical frangipanis in full bloom in all their majestic glory and I feel replete. The downpour has eased.... a brisk walk back to the hotel and bring on the conference!

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

LET'S CELEBRATE EVERY SUCCESS

Ruth DeSouza

Last month I had the privilege of attending the Pacific Women's Achievement Breakfast. Women from all over the Pacific and from many different professional groups came together with one common goal - to honour, acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of other Pacific women. What impressed me most was that these women celebrated every achievement, no matter how big or how small it might appear to be.

The irony was not lost on me that in our own community, we are more likely to scythe through the tall poppies*. Do we think that by celebrating others we diminish our own achievements? The success of others in our community matters. Their success is our success. The time has come for us to celebrate each other's achievements in our ethnic communities.

As author Wayne Dyer says "if we

have a scarcity mentality, it means that we believe in scarcity, and that we evaluate our life in terms of its lacks." When someone else succeeds, do you see their success as a good thing? Are you happy for them or are you jealous? Does their success take opportunities away from you? If we

“In our own community, we are more likely to scythe through the tall poppies.”

see success as limited and adopt a scarcity mentality there is no room to celebrate.

We have vibrant, lively, smart ethnic communities in New Zealand. They are built on the shoulders of those that came before us, paving the way for us to follow. Now it's our turn to lead. I want to challenge you all to make a stand for success. Let's start by acknowledging the contribution of our friends and colleagues. Look around and start noticing what is working, instead of what's not working. Stop protecting your resources and start sharing them for the betterment of our

communities. Become a part of the solution and start building a community that cares, shares and celebrates.

[Editor adds: * We explain the Tall Poppy Syndrome

(TPS) for our non-Australasian readers. This is a term used for Australians and New Zealanders who have a reputation for resenting the success of others. Apparent cases of TPS can often be explained as resentment not of success but of snobbery and arrogance. Thus, Australians and New Zealanders are often self-deprecating (Source: Wikipedia). The Global Indian celebrates the success in the community every month through our flagship feature "TGI of the month"]

Note: Ruth has recently launched a pan-ethnic e-mail list for members of ethnic communities. To join, visit:

www.edemocracy.co.nz/aen



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

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

WHY NOSTALGIA FOR THE NRI?

I am on a short-term assignment in New Zealand from India. When I speak with Indians here, I hear a kind of nostalgia for India in their voice. These NRIs don't vote in India, don't pay taxes there, yet they live with a nostalgic feeling about India, trying to hold on to the image of India that they had once seen and lived in. Yet, when they visit India, they don't have patience for her realities - the infrastructure, the system and the very culture of which they boast of in a foreign land. Their image of India is different from our - Indians who live in India - image of India. I don't have any grudges against NRIs. I just want them to face reality. I just want them to understand that you were once part of this legacy. In slightly over 50 years, we created this nation to be one of the biggest economies. Before I forget, I must congratulate you on a great e-zine. I wish we had such publications in India. I'll love to read The Global Indian even after I go back to India.

(name withheld on request)

KEEPING IN TOUCH

I live in south Africa, and it's fantastic to hear of other Indians around the world, and what everybody is getting up to. The journalistic style is fabulous, I have forwarded this to all my pals here. Keep up the excellent work!

Trusha Singh, South Africa

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CLICK THE LINKS BELOW
JUNE SPECIAL

ETHICS OF CITIZENSHIP

GLOBAL INDIAN OF THE MONTH

ASK HIGH COMMISSION

INDIAN INSURER DEBUTS IN NZ

WHAT'S IN THE BUDGET?

INDIAN CHALLENGES NZ PM

MONTH IN NEWS

NZ, INDIA, WORLD

EDITORIAL

ENTERTAINMENT

BOLLYWOOD BUZZ

MOVIE GUIDE

CULTURE, LIVING

WESTERN VALUES FOR INDIA

CURRY ZONE

FUNNY BONE

COLUMNISTS

SANJAY KARHADE

JASBINDAR SINGH

RUTH DESOUZA

READERS WRITE

LETTERS TO EDITOR

ABOUT US

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