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## WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM?

Dr Don Brash

The importance of education to the Indian and Korean communities is well known.

Who is in the best position to know what school your children should attend? Who should determine what values should be imparted to them? You or the government?

*"The debacle of NCEA is just the latest example of a tragedy threatening to betray a whole generation of our children."*

National will focus on expanding the choices parents have in making one of the most important decisions they will make – how to educate their children.

We must empower good schools, good principals and good teachers to use their professional skills to provide our children an outstanding education.

Under Labour, the number of education bureaucrats has increased at almost three times the rate of growth in teacher numbers. Our schools are being turned into branch offices of the Ministry of Education.

Labour has kept schools poor while pouring hundreds of millions of dollars down the black hole of centralised bureaucracy to impose their "one-size-fits-all" blueprint on every school.

## DON BRASH WRITES

An update from the National Party Leader



Our assessment system has become a conspiracy to ensure that you cannot compare students or schools. Parents have the right to know how their child is doing, and how the school is performing.

NCEA has turned into a disaster of epic proportions. Fixing it is more than a matter of fine-tuning or tinkering – we must make dramatic changes.

We will fundamentally overhaul the NCEA and reintroduce demanding scholarship exams where students are given meaningful grades. We will end the conspiracy to hide information about the performance of pupils and schools. We will cut back assessment so there is more time for teachers to teach and for students to learn. We will introduce national literacy and numeracy standards. Schools will be accountable for meeting those standards. To ensure no child is left behind, we will provide reading and maths vouchers to the parents of any child who does not achieve national standards at age seven. We will slash the education bureaucracy by decentralising school management, and use the savings to attract and retain outstanding teachers. We will free up our outstanding state schools and allow them to expand.

***Dr Brash is National Party Leader and the Leader of Opposition.***

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When you get goose pimples while reading about a person, you know that he has touched that level of your awareness that is beyond worldly measurement.

Writing this feature was a humbling experience. It was a

phone call from a selfless lady that gave us an opportunity to speak with a living legend of our times –

Prof C R Rao. The renowned statistical scientist was awarded Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award, in 2000, When I spoke with this towering personality, I kept my conversation short, being conscious of his hectic schedule, his health and age, not to mention I was at loss of words (that's a candid admission for a journalist!).

New Zealand Statistical Association and Massey University invited C.R. Rao, Eberly Professor of Statistics and Director of the Center for Multivariate Analysis at the Pennsylvania State University, to speak across the country. "It may be surprising, but I am coming here for the first time," Prof Rao tells The Global Indian. During his

three-week visit, he toured the country and spoke at many universities in New Zealand. "I also managed to go to Rotorua for a holiday with my wife. New Zealand is a beautiful country," Prof Rao says.

## A PROPHET OF NEW AGE

Vaibhav Gangan



2002: the US President awarded Prof Rao the National Medal of Science, describing him as 'a prophet of new age' (Photo courtesy V. Dheen)

"There are three types of lies - lies, damn lies, and statistics," goes a famous quote. Rao has proved this wrong. "If there is a problem to be solved, seek statistical advice instead of appointing a committee of experts," says Prof Rao. "Statistics can throw more light than the collective wisdom of the articulate few." After a luminous career in India including being honoured by Pandit Nehru, Prof Rao was offered an honorary position by a US university. That's when the second part of his success story started. "Some responsible administrator in the US thought that it would be good to have me as a faculty member of the University and a responsible

administrator in India thought I am dispensable," the 85-year old scientist told *The Global Indian*. We prepared a list of his achievements and ran out of space here. There is a book written about him. All we can say, "Sir, it was an honour to have you here in New Zealand and speak to you."

Next page: Prof Rao speaks to TGI...

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## AT 85, MILES TO GO...!

Vaibhav Gangan

What is a good age to migrate – 25? 35? 45? How about migrating to a new country after retirement? Did you say, to lead a peaceful life after 60? No, to continue research in your field of expertise, and then go on to receive not only the country's but the world's renowned award for your work! That's what famous scientist C R Rao did. Here are the excerpts of our interview with Prof Rao.

### Looking back at a successful career, how does it feel?

I have some intellectual satisfaction for the esteem I have earned, but I regret that I missed opportunities to do better. I would like to keep myself active as long as possible. If you ask me what my future plans are, I can only quote Robert Frost, "I have promises to keep and miles to go."

### Today, you are a role model to millions of Indians and non-Indians alike. Who is your role model?

I believe parental guidance is important. In India, we do not set any aim in life while early enough and work for it.



Prof Rao recently speaking at the University of Otago (Photo courtesy: Dr Austina Clark)

We leave it to chance to shape our lives. I did not have any role model, except that my father used to say that I should do research, and try for Fellowship of Royal Society (UK) like great Indian scientists C.V. Raman and Ramanujan. I kept his advice in mind while studying and making decisions in my career.

### Why did you migrate to the US?

After I retired at the age of 60 (compulsory in India) as the Director of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), I had no opportunity in India to continue my scientific activities. I happened to visit the US for a conference. At a lecture I gave at the University of Pittsburgh, the Dean offered me a job. I hesitated, but agreed after a couple of days. The Dean created a new

position for me. In 1978, I was offered a prestigious Professorship at Pennsylvania State University, Eberly Professor of Statistics. The University later waived the retirement age (70) criterion for me.

### What is your message to the younger generation?

We are living in a fast changing world. Since we don't know what effects these will have on society and the life of an individual, it would be difficult to give any advice. My only advice is not to be tempted by what appears to be attractive and enjoyable, but make judicious choices on what to pursue using the voluminous information available on the Internet.

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## CAN MY SON STUDY IN INDIA?

**Q** I have a three year old son, born in New Zealand. He already has New Zealand passport. I have New Zealand passport. My wife has still got Indian passport. I want my son to study in India. Can he? I want to apply for Indian citizenship or PIO card for him. If he applies for Indian citizenship, can he surrender New Zealand passport?

**Raghavendra AS**

Since your child is born in New Zealand and is a New Zealand national, he can study in India by obtaining Student Visa on his New Zealand passport. For this you would be required to submit proof of admission of your child from an Indian school. While applying for visa, consent of both the parents would be needed. As regards PIO Card, its holder would enjoy parity with NRIs in respect of all facilities, including in educational fields.

**Q** I am an Indian citizen holding a valid Indian passport. I am a permanent resident of New Zealand for over three years. What are the consequences of applying for NZ citizenship? Will it adversely affect my Indian citizenship? Will I be eligible to continue to hold the Indian passport upon taking up NZ citizenship? If so, please confirm what I am required to do to keep dual citizenship.

**Sheena Ramakrishnan**

You'll cease to be an Indian national as soon as you are



With this issue, 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](http://www.hicomind.org.nz)) will be answered here. Email your questions to [editor@theglobalindian.co.nz](mailto:editor@theglobalindian.co.nz)

granted New Zealand citizenship and you will not be eligible for holding the Indian passport. Retention of Indian passport is illegal consequent upon acquisition of any foreign nationality. You would be required to surrender your Indian passport to this Mission for cancellation *immediately* after you have acquired New Zealand citizenship. As regards dual citizenship, a person of Indian origin can apply for Overseas Indian Citizenship (OIC) as soon as the High Commission starts receiving applications for OIC.

*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 they obtain New Zealand citizenship.*

"This life is yours. Take the power to choose what you want to do and do it well. Take the power to control your own life. No one else can do it for you.

Take the power to make your life happy."

*Contributed by Bharti Hira, Wellington*

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## MIGRANTS HAVE HELP AT HAND

Durga Ray

The Auckland Regional Migration Resource Services or ARMS Centre is a major endeavour to integrate migrant support services for new residents in the Auckland region.

The centre is a “one-stop-shop” for migrants to source a variety of services and a first point of contact to access information. All services are provided free of charge.

The aim of the Auckland

Regional Migrant Resource Centre is to deliver: information on a range of subjects in different languages, access to employment, advice on ESOL, orientation to life in New Zealand and support with settlement issues.

Migrants who call the centre or walk in are able to talk to information officers trained by the Citizens Advice Bureau to discuss any problems they may have. The centre employs information officers who speak Mandarin,

Cantonese, Taiwanese, Hindi, Bengali, Korean, Arabic, Farsi, Urdu and Spanish and can help clients obtain information in their own language. Call +64 9 625 3090.

The centre holds weekly employment workshops “First Steps to Employment in NZ” to give migrants information about finding a job in New Zealand. The employment

workshops are held on Tuesdays every week from 9.30am to 2.30pm and clients are encouraged to register by phone. These workshops are targeted at new and also underemployed migrants. These are very interactive workshops which aim each

participant to walk out with their own individual employment plan.

Clients are also able to meet a careers advisor free of charge at the centre to obtain one-to-one advice.

(Durga is Manager, Information Service, at ARMS. She can be contacted at +64 9 625 3096. )

Published in public interest by The Global Indian.



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**APNA FM SECURES  
990AM**

AUCKLAND — Auckland-based radio station Apna FM is extending its current SCA and digital Sky channel service to a 5 kilowatt transmitter on 990 MHz frequency



from Sunday, May 1 in the greater Auckland area. “The service will be on AM open frequency. Aucklanders, and with luck some Hamiltonians, will be able to hear it on their home and car radios,” Babu Chatterji, Apna Networks’ general manager said. In December last year, Apna FM extended its coverage on its Website for listeners throughout the world.

With Mirchee TV having started 24/7 operations in April this year, Aucklanders will not be short of choices, for sure!

**INDIA**

**INDIA PM LEADS  
ASIA**

During the historic Asian-Africa conference in Bandung (Indonesia) in April, India Prime Minister Manmohan Singh officially represented all Asian countries.

The fact that he was chosen to speak on behalf of Asia is surely an indication of India's emergence as a rising world power.

Indonesian capital Jakarta’s senior diplomats described the choice of the prime minister to speak for Asia as a singular honour for both because they noted other Asian dignitaries, including Chinese President Hu Jintao, were present at the meet.

“In the context of the present global challenges, the Non-Aligned Movement remains a valid and effective instrument to ensure the creation of a more just and fair global order,” the prime minister said.

**WORLD**

**£145,000 TO LEAVE?**

LONDON - Even as many western countries strive to minimise racism, many instances of violent racism leave a lot to be desired. Put in the light of this UK example, most incidences in New Zealand seem negligible. The British authorities (the police and the council) failed to protect a shopkeeper of Pakistani origin from years of racial violence and paid him £145,000 to leave the city.

Born and bred in Britain, 50-year old Mal Hussain ran a dairy in Lancaster for 14 years. He was abused ever since he opened the shop. On the very first day, every window of his shop was broken. During the 14-year abuse, Hussain logged over 4000 incidents, and spent some £40,000 on repairs and protecting his property with wire-fence, steel shutters and security cameras. He was even shot at twice, was stoned and threatened with knives. He has now sold the business for £100,000, much lower than its market value.

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**DO YOU HAVE IT?**

I remember reading the inspiring editorials of CSR (*Competition Success Review*) as a teenager aspiring to be an IAS. The editorials always described having the right attitude and maintaining positive outlook as key elements for success in competitive careers. I never thought I will end up writing an editorial on positive attitude until I met this person. He is one of Auckland City's parking officers in the central city.

Influx of migrants during 2001-2003 saw many qualified Indian migrants ending up working in non-related areas, often under-employed. Most of them used those jobs as a stop-gap arrangement, and sounded thoroughly disgruntled. So I asked this parking officer if he enjoyed what he was doing. He said he did. After chatting with him for a while longer, I realised that he meant every word. In his late 30s or early 40s he was an executive engineer in Pakistan, responsible for major projects like building bridges, dams, flyovers and similar key infrastructure assets.

He has been applying for engineering jobs for the last three years and has received hundreds of rejection letters – enough to frustrate and disillusion an average person. But not our Mr Positive. He drove Stagecoach buses for two years before taking on his current role as parking officer. "This job gives me foot in the door with Auckland City which employs a large number of civil engineers. I am sure, sooner or later, I'll move into my area of work. Till such time, I am happy issuing tickets."

Great spirit, I thought. But how does his wife feel? Mr Positive's got Ms Positive to support him not only in spirit, but in action. She is a qualified doctor, but still not able to practise. She's working with Diagnostic Medlab, and is positive of being able to practise medicine in the near future.

TGI (*The Global Indian*) was born out of the need to create positive energy among the migrant Indian community in New Zealand. So far, we have featured a few success stories, ranging from entrepreneurs to senior managers in leading NZ companies.

However, after meeting this man, I can say that positive attitude can be found at every stage of success, and is in fact, more relevant at the initial stages of success, also known as "failure".

As they say, "you are what you think." Our mind cannot understand the difference between imagination and reality. We can explore this crucial fact to our benefit. After all, how many of us will argue with Einstein when he said, "Imagination is more powerful than knowledge." If you think you can, you will. TGI will continue to boost your spirit and show you the light at the end of the tunnel by keeping you in touch with — *the unique Indian spirit!*

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"It appears to be a hugely sensitive issue for the British media, this sense that British exam papers are being marked overseas in India," Graham George of UK's Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) responding, following UK media's criticism of outsourcing exam paper-marking to India.



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Don Hammontree's passion for all things Indian had humble origins: he thought Bollywood starlet Juhi Chawla was hot. That was 1998.

"You could say it was osmosis," says Hammontree, a singer and songwriter from Massachusetts (USA) who's just released a CD called "The Mumbai EP." Two of the tracks are musical salutes of sorts to Bollywood actresses Juhi Chawla and Karishma Kapoor - "*Juhi Chawla*" and "*Karisma Comes to Lowell*," respectively.

"Mumbai EP is a hot CD which connects you to the essence of India. The Queen's Necklace makes me long even more to go to India and fulfill my dream," says Simran, one of the music-lovers who picked up Don's latest album. Samples from the CD can be heard at

[www.cdbaby.com/cd/hammontree2](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/hammontree2)

and it can also be bought from that site. As for what comes after "The Mumbai EP," Hammontree says he hopes to start recording tracks for a new CD, tentatively titled "House of Pizza," sometime within the next year. "But don't expect too many Bollywood tributes," he says while responding to *The Global Indian's* question.

"I'd hate to typecast myself," he laughs. "If the inspiration hits, I'll do it, but anyone expecting 'Rani Mukherjee' or 'Kareena Wows Peoria' next album might be in for a disappointment. But you never know."

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BY KARIS(H)MA!**

Suresh Pillai



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## FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS



**COMING UP**

### BUNTY AUR BABLI

Yash Raj Films try their hand at comedy with Bunty Aur Babli. Releasing 27th May, this is a story of two dreamers and an eccentric cop. Starring Abhishek Bachchan, Rani Mukherjee and Amitabh Bachchan, the movie is directed by Shaad Ali, with music composed by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy

**KAAL (29 April)**  
Producers: Red Chillies Entertainment P. Ltd., Dharma Production P. Ltd.  
Director: Soham.  
Cast: Ajay Devgan, Vivek Oberoi, John Abraham, Lara Dutta, Esha Deol, Shah Rukh Khan

**MAIN AISA HI HOON (6 May)**  
Producer: Pammi Baweja.  
Director: Harry Baweja.  
Music: Himesh Reshammiya.  
Cast: Ajay Devgan, Sushmita Sen, Esha Deol.

**JO BOLE SO NIHAAL (13 May)**  
Producer: V.R. Entertainers.  
Director: Rahul Rawail.  
Music: Anand Raaj Anand.  
Cast: Sunny Deol, Kamaal Khan.

### WAQT

After Ek Rishta, Amitabh and Akshay Kumar come together again. This time too, they are playing father and son. As the trailer says "Come to laugh, come to cry, come to terms," this movie promises to deliver exactly that. Yes, Waqt is surely a story of a father-son relationship, but director Vipul Shah steers clear of a typical Bollywood family drama. The story is inspired from a Gujarati play. Not to be missed!



**NOW SHOWING**

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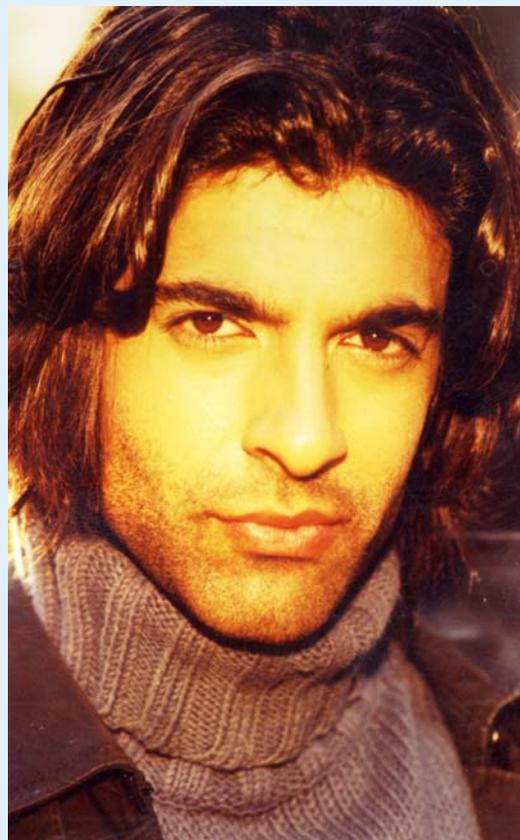
Standing almost 6'3" with looks like Adonis, it is no wonder that the multi-faceted 24-year-old Prashant Raj Sachdev believes sky is the limit. Prashant was on Cloud Nine after winning the Top Model Of The Universe 2004 title in Ecuador late last year. "I was so excited. I couldn't wait to get to Ecuador which is one of the most exotic locations in the world, not to mention the sun and sand and the gorgeous women," Prashant told *The Global Indian*.

After winning the title Prashant was taken around to meet the Governor of Ecuador. The governor said that he was overwhelmed by the charisma of the young Indian man and was touched to receive a small idol of an Indian God – Lord Ganesha as a token of his gratitude for all the love the people of Ecuador gave him. The first runner up at the Mr India pageant last year shares some of those dreams exclusively for TGI readers.

Prashant is currently working with an event management company in Mumbai as he realises that modelling is not a fulltime job. But he is enjoying

## MY LIFE, MY DREAMS

Suresh Pillai



meeting people. "I want to explore the world, travel, meet people, and eventually evolve as a person," Prashant shares his plans.

A product of Bombay Scottish

(Mumbai) and DPS RK Puram (Delhi), he went to Sri Venkateshwara College in Delhi. "I wasn't much for academic interest; I was basically a sport guy and played soccer, tennis, basketball and golf," recalls Prashant. He recently won an award for the longest drive in Golf, which was almost what Tiger Woods drives – 320 yards.

Talking about his aspirations, Prashant exhibits the thoughtful side of his character. "During the first half of one's life, one takes a lot from society in many ways. So it should be reciprocated at some stage and given back."

His role models are Amitabh Bachchan and his father. "Amitabh reached the stars with his success and then fell so hard that he hit rock bottom; it could tear any mortal apart. But he started once again and not just reached for the stars but beyond that. My father is one of those extraordinary people who can put their minds to something and won't leave till they have mastered it."

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**LOST SOME,  
GAINED SOME**

Sangeeta Anand

Migration is a different experience for each migrant. For two, almost same-age siblings from South India who migrate to New Zealand at an impressionable age, the new experience turns out to be dramatically extreme. Even as the girl, Sharmila, settles well with a successful career as a lawyer in Wellington married to a loving, English husband, Ramesh — her brother—struggles to live with his identity, eventually succumbing to the ocean.

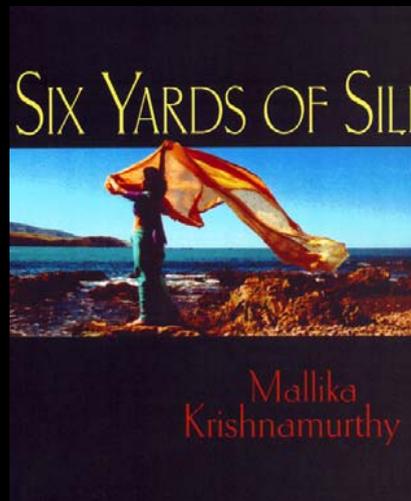
Sharmila's journey through memory takes the reader to India many times, each time touching a different, yet uniquely familiar, aspect of the country.

Mallika Krishnamurthy's debut novel asks

questions that most of us can identify with—what we (migrants) gain and what we lose with migration! The main character, Sharmila, immobilised by the mysterious disappearance of her brother off the South Coast of Wellington, seeks to gather the strands of her life and weave them into a new future. It is a story of dislocation and redemption.

The novel was launched in February with a celebration of Indian culture in New Zealand. The 39-year old Indian-born author lives in Wellington with her husband and two children. Many compliments to this first-time author, for a remarkable work of literature, and for making the New Zealand Indian community more vibrant!

Six Yards of Silk  
Mallika Krishnamurthy  
Fiction  
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Publications



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## FANCY INDIAN TONIGHT?

It's official now! Butter chicken is New Zealand's favourite takeaway, according to a recent NZ Herald survey. The trend is attributed not only to the adventurous Kiwi spirit, but also to the growing number of Indians eating out, or buying Indian meals. But the proliferation of fly-by-night takeaway joints has made the choice difficult for the discerning food-lover looking for quality Indian food. Well, not for long! Dakshin Products (NZ) Ltd markets high quality frozen Indian meals under the Jewel of India brand. Dakshin's manufactures authentic meals using time-honoured traditional methods.

How does Dakshin's ensure high quality meals at all times? "Authenticity!" explains Ram Rai, Dakshin's Managing Director. Good things take time. Dakshin's process to make butter chicken is a good case in point: marinating slowly, infusing the diced chicken pieces with subtle but mouth-filling flavours. After up to 24 hours in marinade, the chicken is seared in a hot oven to seal the flavour in. Finally the chicken is packed with a creamy tomato-flavoured sauce prepared separately.

Dakshin's do not use any preservatives or

**Dakshin's**



enhancers, and use real chicken or meat cuts. "Our chefs prepare the food from scratch, using fresh ingredients and unprocessed spices. For e.g., you may find whole cardamoms, cinnamon sticks, aniseeds in our meals. They enhance the flavours during re-heating."

For special events like weddings, or even smaller catering orders, Dakshin's can help you meet your specific menus. You are assured of food prepared at a factory that has the highest standard of food safety processes in place (NZ Food Safety Authority approved Food Safety Plan).

Dakshin's products also score high on availability and convenience, which are decisive factors in today's fast-paced life. The products are available in all the major supermarkets; the ready-to-eat meals can be simply heated and eaten.

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## ARE YOU A KIWI YET?

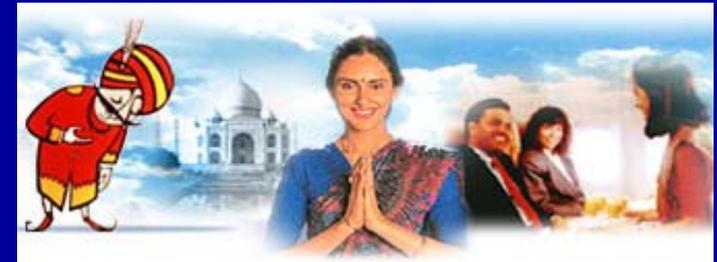
Top Ten Indicators that you have become a Kiwi:

10. You think most Indian teenagers are pure and chaste.
9. You think everyone in the world knows about Reuben Thorne and All Blacks.
8. You read subtitles while watching a Bollywood movie at Capitol Cinema
7. You like broccoli.
6. You find cricket boring but watch rugby and golf.
5. You express sarcasm with 'Yeah right!'
4. When you see anyone at all pass by you on the road, you greet them with a 'how are you', and move on before they could even answer the question.
3. You say 'interesting' when either you don't care or think it is weird.
2. You refer to India as a third world country.
1. You understood, enjoyed and could relate to all the above.

**Contributed by Sailesh Mathur, Wellington**

*If you would like to share a funny incident or a joke unique to Indians living abroad, email us at the address at the bottom of this page.*

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## YOU WERE WRIGHT JOHN!

Sanjay Karhade

John Geoffrey Wright, in my opinion, did everything right for Indian cricket. He gave purpose to Indian players' otherwise truncated thinking, transformed an inconsistent bunch of extremely talented players into a 'gang' of focused hunters and made each one of them think about what they can do for the game rather than the opposite!

John was appointed amidst a lot of controversy and speculation. Many a former Indian cricketer weren't in favour of appointing a foreign coach - most saw it as an insult to their individual ability to deliver as a coach. Of course, all this happened when John's



*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.*

appointment was announced in November 2000. Today, after five long years of sincere service to Indian cricket - as he leaves for his homeland (New Zealand) - John should be quite happy to have won over his critics and one time on-the-field opponents!

Frankly, Indian cricket never saw similar success under any coach. Ajit Wadekar perhaps came the closest in terms of achieving success as a coach. In fact, many good and 'thinking cricketers' have had their share of coaching

the Indian team, but for the success to the extent John attained. While doing so, John disciplined the Indian team, yet earned players' confidence and respect.

Now the question is, why could John achieve so much success? I remember a certain Sunil Gavaskar sharing his



*Kiwi John Wright, India's first foreign coach, served the Indian cricket for five successful years.*

experience with me after the 1992 South African tour. On the tour, Sunil tried explaining one Indian batsman the mistake he was committing and the batsman continued saying, "I know that, I know that". Gavaskar was quite livid about it and quipped, "If he knew everything, why couldn't he correct the mistake?"

And if he is unable to correct himself what is the harm in listening to someone who has scored a mere ten thousand test runs?"

The BCCI could not extend John's contract because the Indian players 'wanted to move forward'. Now the BCCI too should take decisions - as hard as to end John's contract - to let the Indian cricket 'move forward'.

In the mean time, John, enjoy a fantastic time with your family.

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## WHAT SIGNALS ARE YOU SENDING?

Jasbindar Singh

Every so often I hear stories from clients who have been at the mercy of a rude, aggressive and disrespectful manager. They have endured put-downs, sarcasm, lack of acknowledgement and even bullying. As managers and leaders, a question

get perceived as being slower. Rather than acknowledge the different ways people process things, impatience, disregard and lack of acknowledgment of their potential prevails. The phrase "still waters run deep" holds value, as the quieter ones can have the deepest insights. Giving your more introverted team members time to think before responding can provide rich insights!

### Cutting out 'contrary' messages:

According to research by James Kouzes and Barry Pozner, the most admired leaders are also the leaders who make their followers feel valued, who raise their sense of self-worth and self-esteem.

to ask is "what is the culture that I am creating and reinforcing here?" You may get the employees hands and minds but not their hearts and spirit.

Behaviours to be mindful of:

**Signals of intolerance and impatience:** Different people communicate differently. For some thinking out loud is how they process things. For others, there is a strong need to reflect on things before giving feedback. Typically these team members come across as quieter and

We are familiar with the oft-sung mantra that "people are our biggest asset" but do we follow it through? For example, cutting a person off when he or she is saying something that is not in keeping with the thinking you may be promulgating as the boss. Is it possible that there is a missed opportunity here in what a different voice may offer?

**Lack of acknowledgement:** The simple act of acknowledging people for job well done goes a long way in

the feel good ratings and does not cost much. I am continuously surprised at how this is an often neglected. The taking-for-granted syndrome does not contribute towards building a high performance team. Acknowledgment in the form of a simple thank you to more elaborate celebration lifts morale and the human spirit no end. Furthermore, it reinforces the positive

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



behaviour.

It requires a certain level of self-awareness, openness to feedback and commitment to want to change and grow in ways that are respectful of others. The SQ approach is one that endorses diverse people working together effectively, enjoyably and in ways that unleashes and celebrates the human spirit. When it comes to human relationships, it is the little things that count!

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## TOGETHER WE GROW: TE RANGA TAHI

Ruth DeSouza

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was globally celebrated in March. The United Nations dedicated this day to the achievement of the goals of the Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as a result of the tragic events that occurred at Sharpeville in South Africa in 1960. New Zealand is a signatory to the Convention and ratified it in 1972. This year's celebration, promoted as Race Relations Day, saw many events occurring throughout New Zealand and one such celebration was organised by the Waitakere Ethnic Board (WEB) in Auckland. The theme was strengthening our diversity as New Zealanders. I was asked to speak and chose to focus on two things: the rights and responsibilities of a migrant, and what needs to happen for the communities that are already here, in particular Māori, Pākehā and Pacific people who have



*Celebrating diversity: Amina, Moni and Ruth (Photo: Andy Williamson)*

been here for many generations.

I realised that we, as migrants, need to know the history and geography of our new place and not simply view our migrations as a blank slate or a new start (even though in many ways it is just that). We need to acknowledge the people who have come before us and paved the way for us to be here, the indigenous and migrant populations. We need to understand the Treaty of Waitangi and build

relationships between our communities and those around us. In return, the communities that are already here need to make space for us, take the time to learn our history and

geography. Migrants need to be seen by the wider community not simply in terms of our problems but valued for our strengths and potential. It is not just our cooking, which was abundantly evident at Henderson the other weekend, but also the richness we have to offer that should be understood.

Let's start with ourselves and recognise what we bring; separate out what is going to help us commit to this country and what will hold us back. Savour what is precious from our old life and then be prepared to open our minds and hearts to what is new. If we do that, we can enjoy the best of everything!



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

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## DID CHITRALEKHA GET JUSTICE?

I have been following the Chitralekha Ramakrishnan episode, but I have been unable to get any information beyond the date of 4th March, the date till which her husband had been remanded to judicial custody. Could you please advise me how I could get to know more about the case?

**Subin Varghese**

*(Editor's reply – We spoke with the Police on 22nd April. "The case will come up for deposition on the 27th April but will most likely be adjourned till June since the Police need more time to prepare the case," Detective Sergeant Uraia Vakaruru told The Global Indian. "We are in the process of putting together the case for prosecution. We believe we have a strong case, but it will be up to the jury to decide." Rajamani is in custody.*

*Our readers will recollect that Laxman Rajamani, 34, is accused of murdering his wife, Chitralekha Ramakrishnan, 32, about January 13 in their Auckland home.)*

Thanks for sending your online edition. I have gone through each section and found the same very interesting and informative. We wish you all the best in this great endeavour.

**Vijay, V M Limited**

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