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GLOBAL INDIAN TURNS ONE

Sanjay Verma

The Global Indian magazine recently completed its first year of publication, taking a different path for reaching its readers. The electronic monthly, published in interactive PDF form and emailed to its subscribers, has become very popular in New Zealand's Indian community. For a year, the e-zine has been informing Indian readers in New Zealand and overseas on politics, entertainment, sport and culture. The flagship feature of the magazine, the global Indian of the month, profiles Indians who have been successful in New Zealand.

The e-zine is widely read not only in Auckland but also in other parts of New Zealand, where the community does not have easy access to Indian print publications, says the publisher of The Global Indian, Sangeeta Anand (pictured). TGI's subscriber base of about 20,000 also includes about 10% overseas readers. "Kiwi Indians living overseas on their big OE, or parents overseas read our publication to stay connected to what's happening in New Zealand," she adds. 'Within New Zealand, we have a lot of non-Indian



readers who are interested in a peek into Indian community."

So, what's innovative about TGI? Its co-founder and editor, Vaibhav Gangan, explains, "As the first Indian email publication here, TGI takes away all the physical barriers. You don't even have

to step out of your house to get a copy. It arrives in your inbox via email. Once you download it and save it on your computer, you can read it at your leisure, without being connected to the Internet. Sharing it with your friends overseas is just a click away." Experienced columnists and short and succinct articles makes it popular, he says. "Nobody has got time to read full-page articles nowadays."

TGI's readers are not limited to the Indian community alone. "After butter chicken and Bollywood, the Kiwi interest is growing in overall Indian culture, and this is reflected in our readership, as many of our readers non-Indians," he confirms.



Happy Ramadan and Diwali
from
the global indian team



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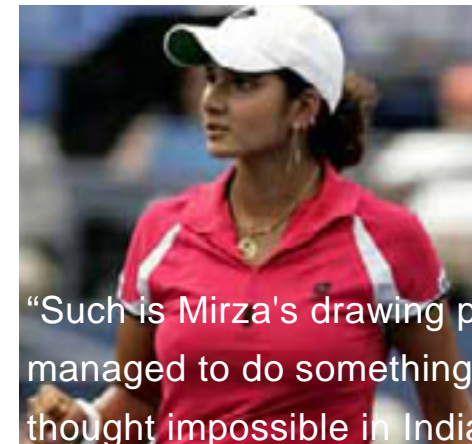
WELL-BEHAVED WOMEN RARELY MAKE HISTORY

Sangeeta Anand

Britain's *New Statesman* magazine recently published a list of 10 individuals that will 'change the world' and one Indian made that list. Amused? That person is a woman, is only 18 and belongs to minority. "It is difficult to believe that a slender, 18-year-old Muslim tennis player from India has the potential to change the world, but it is equally difficult to overestimate the effect Sania Mirza is having on millions of young men and women, and especially women, in the world's second most populous country," wrote Jason Cowley in the *New Statesman*.

But why are we featuring an India-based Indian in this feature which profiles successful Indians abroad? Although based in India, Sania is capable of and is already influencing many people worldwide - not just Indians. She is a ray of hope not only in the Indian subcontinent but also in the Middle East and South Asian regions. She personifies modern day woman who dares to dream big. We are profiling her not simply for her success but mainly for the positive influence she exudes on young generation worldwide. After all, *The Global Indian of the Month* feature was introduced to assist in motivating overseas Indians to excel in their personal and professional life.

Where was Sania this time last year? Nowhere in



"Such is Mirza's drawing power, she has managed to do something that was once thought impossible in India - take some attention away from cricket." - Reuters

ranking jumped from 206th last December to 34th this month definitely helped, but an equally contributory factor is her blithe attitude and ambitious outlook.

She was in the line of fire from some Islamic clergymen for the clothes she wears – short skirt and T-shirt. The slogans she wears on her t-shirts represent her attitude towards such objections: "I am old enough to be knowledgeable, but too young to care."

It all started with a vision – her own! Even when she was playing at a junior level her ambition was to achieve "top 20 WTA ranking." It's a living example when imagination leads reality. Today, she is a role model for millions of women not only in India but also in the Middle East and many Muslim countries. Pakistani tennis player Mariam Rahim expresses her frustration while talking to Reuters. "I wear salwar kameez (traditional ethnic wear). It is also a very difficult crowd here."

Continued...

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Continued... Sania is the first woman tennis player to reach the top 40 WTA rankings from a country that struggles to produce female athletes let alone a tennis player, and where a P T Usha remains a sole success story for decades. What's more, Sania reportedly becomes the second-highest earner of brand endorsement fees, second only to Sachin Tendulkar, in a country where any sport other than cricket fails to create a stir. Her fashion sense (nose-ring and "librarian" glasses according to Cowley) is equally popular. Her t-shirt slogans say a lot about her flamboyant attitude. Try this: "Well-behaved women rarely make history" or "You can either agree with me, or be wrong". Success comes at a price. At the tender age of 18, she has for company her bodyguards. And she is yet to win a major tennis tournament.

As Jason Cowley writes, "Sport (can be) ...helping to

liberate many in the developing world from a life of penury and subordination. Muhammad Ali, Pele, the Aboriginal tennis player Evonne Goolagong, the West Indian cricketer Viv Richards, the so-called ghetto Cinderellas Venus and Serena Williams and the Chinese basketball star Yao Ming - these sporting icons, because of their fame, achievement and corporate power, have helped to transform the way mainstream sporting audiences think about race, gender and the old political structures that once controlled the games we play."

For now, there's no looking back for our rising star, with her father hiring Roger Federer's coach Tony Roche for Sania. Her eyes are set firmly on a position in Top 15, and there are millions of fans who have set their eyes on Sania, for their inspiration.

*Do you know any Indian achiever in NZ?
Write to editor@theglobalindian.co.nz*

**WANT TO
NOMINATE?**



THANK YOU!
CRY and The Global Indian stalls at Auckland's Diwali festival received great response. Each stall attracted hundreds of visitors. Many of you stopped by, wished us, sought information. Both the stalls attracted Indians and non-Indians alike. The Global Indian team thanks all the visitors, and CRY volunteers.

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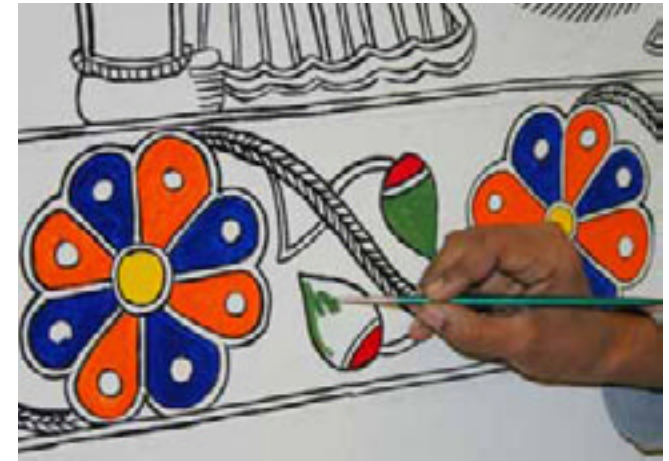
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MURAL ARTIST

Indian artist Shanti Devi visited New Zealand and painted a mural in Wellington in the lead-up to the Wellington Asia:NZ Diwali Festival on October 23. She then returned to Auckland to complete that mural in the week leading up to Auckland's Diwali Festival on October 30.



WHY ON DIWALI DAY?

A Global Indian Reader

New Zealand Parliament is hosting Diwali on Tuesday 1st November at 6pm in Wellington. It's a working day. Working people may not get home till 6pm. It's not fair to attend this function on a day where a normal Indian would like to spend time with family and friends and carry out religious pooja at the end of the day.

Q: How does one get there?

A: Plane!

Q: What do you do there?

A: Drink juice, eat fast food, listen to speeches

Q: What About Diwali?

A: Oh yes, there will be dances

Q: Any religious activity?

A: Oh no, it's Parliament! You just meet the ministers.

Q: So we miss time of religious ceremony at home?

A: Ya, who cares!

Q: Will they get together on Christmas day in Parliament ?

A: Oh no! It's time to spend time with your family.

Q: Will this be held every year ?

A: Probably not

Q: So what else is celebrated in Parliament?

A: Just for Indians -Diwali, Eid and

some Punjabi event

Q: So what about the rest of New Zealanders?

A: Oh no, Parliament can't cater for them.

Q: Will Muslim people attend?

A: No! it's the month of Ramadan; they are fasting and will be doing evening prayers before 8 pm.

Q: What can a normal Indian do ?

A: Nothing

(From an angry human being who happens to be an Indian.)

(Editor's note: We did not receive response from Dr Ashraf Chaudhary, Labour MP, as we went to press).

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NEW ZEALAND

NZ'S QUAKE AID NOT ENOUGH

AUCKLAND— Aid agencies are pointing the finger at New Zealanders for not giving enough aid to earthquake stricken Pakistan. Oxfam New Zealand has released figures which show New Zealand has pledged, but not yet supplied, just over half of what it is capable of giving. Lack of media coverage may be the reason, director of Oxfam, Barry Coates, told NewsTalk ZB. He added "There has not been the sustained media attention that there was with the tsunami."

New Zealander Bob McKerrow is co-ordinating relief efforts for the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Islamabad, TVNZ reported. McKerrow says with winter approaching, the focus is on erecting more permanent forms of shelter for the four million people left homeless after the quake.

PAKISTAN

KIWI PAKISTANI LOSES RELATIVES

AUCKLAND— A Pakistani man living in Auckland lost five of his relatives and a further 10 are still missing following the recent devastating earthquake.

Naseem Soherwardy's family live about 10 kilometres from the quake's epicentre, One News reported.

He says his fiancé is over there and is appealing for supplies to help survivors. Soherwardy says many of those killed were mothers and there is a big shortage of baby food, as well as medicine and blankets.

The Pakistan Association of New Zealand (PANZ) is collecting aid. Contact Tayyaba Khan (the Auckland Muslim Girls Association) at tayyaba.k@gmail.com.

Donate \$20 to the Red Cross earthquake appeal by phoning 0900 33 200 (NZ).

WORLD

RAPE VICTIM HONOURED

LAHORE—Pakistan gang rape victim Mukhtaran Mai has been chosen for this year's 'Glamour Woman of the Year Award' instituted by a New York-based magazine - Glamour, Asia News International reported. Mukhtaran had attracted a lot of international attention by launching a tirade against her attackers. The rape victim would be given US \$20,000 as a donation to set up a women's centre in her town Meerwala.

The magazine has invited Mai to receive the award in a ceremony on November 2 in the US, Pakistan's newspaper *Dawn* reported. It would be interesting to watch whether the Pakistan government would let her go, because a couple of months ago she was denied permission to visit Washington for a conference convened on women issues.

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U.S.: WELCOME TO THIRD-WORLD

Sarita Sarvate

When I first came here (USA) from India nearly 30 years ago, Americans often asked me about floods, droughts and epidemics in my native country. The patronising tone of these queries betrayed most Americans' simple belief that "It could never happen here." We immigrants too seemed to implicitly believe this dictum. Recent images from New Orleans prove that it can happen here.

Trying to explain to Americans why so many thousands perished in natural calamities so often in India, I would feel ashamed of the poverty in my native country. But my audience would become sceptical, asking me questions as to whether the caste system prescribed in the Hindu religion was the real reason behind our social and political apathy toward the victims. Ironically, America's response to the predicament and suffering of Katrina's victims has been eerily reminiscent of that of a third world country.

You only have to look at the faces of the victims to understand why they haven't been instantly helicoptered to dry ground; why they have been allowed to languish like animals in a crowded Superdome with no sanitation, water, or food. Now, in the wake of the

Katrina disaster, Americans have seen that the system can fail here.

In the meantime, countries of the so-called 'third world' have learned to take better care of their citizens, as was demonstrated in India's response to the recent tsunami. Today, the underclass in India has a loud enough voice that the kind of neglect of the victims that has been seen on the images broadcast from New Orleans would create political and social furore in my



A qualified physicist, Sarita writes for many US publications. Hurricane Katrina would hopefully, Sarita says, raise American consciousness about the 'third world' nation that lies within its boundaries.

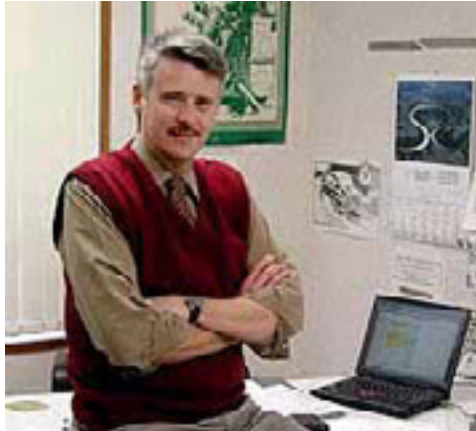
home country. Many poor people in India today have higher expectations of life, of society, of the political system, which they now know is supposed to serve them. Ironically, it is American TV that may have fashioned these expectations.

Much has changed in America too in the last 30 years. Lack of health care, increasing poverty, and institutionalised disparity between the rich and the poor have made Americans indifferent to social suffering and inequity. The nation's infrastructure has deteriorated, a result of misplaced priorities. Over time, the 'first world' has merged with the 'third world'.

DOING BUSINESS WITH INDIA

Vaibhav Gangan

The India NZ Business Council's recent seminar on 'Doing Business In India' provided a forum to exchange ideas for New Zealand businesses looking to earn a pie of the growing, lucrative Indian market. Mike Lowe (pictured left), General Manager, Hayes International, Tauranga, shared his experience of adding India as its 65th destination for selling steel machines. Hayes secured a \$6



million order from a joint venture between an Indian and Australian company. TVNZ's Sharon BrettKelly (pictured right) spoke about her experience producing seven-episode India series for the ASB Business Breakfast show. She played one of her episodes and it seemed that her feelings about India were different from what she showed on screen ("for commercial reasons", she added), as she said, "I was there to film a feature story, and a commercial channel would not broadcast my story unless it had a strong news angle." These limitations seemed to compel Sharon to show only that

part of the truth that was 'sensational' (did I say poverty?). On a personal level, she says she considered moving to India for good. "While leaving for India, I was really, really scared. But now, I can't wait to go back to India."

An interesting discussion that followed brought about a comparison between the US businesses and Kiwi



businesses. American businesses utilise the assistance of Indians in the US to quicken the process of doing business with India. A delegate suggested that

Kiwis could learn from Americans and make use of Indians in New Zealand to bridge the business gap between the two countries.

Another key challenge faced by New Zealand's export education industry is difficulty in attracting students from India. Paddy Marra, Chairman of the India NZ Business Council, said that Indian students go to Harvard, Cambridge and other major US and UK universities for higher education, and New Zealand needs to raise its country profile.

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MEMORIES OF TOMORROW

Sanjay Verma

The recent cultural momentum in New Zealand's Indian community is surely noticeable. Here's the latest addition - 'Memories of Tomorrow'- the 'no-budget' digital film from first-time director, Amit Tripuraneni (pictured left), has recently been released for DVD sales in the US while closer home, the movie is released for rental hire from across video stores.

Tanya York, chief executive of York Entertainment CEO, who picked up the international sales and distribution rights and has recently released the DVD, says "The film resonates with a lyrical beauty that underscores the action in the plot. As opposed to typical action movies, the characters have real depth; the leads invoke a

fragility that contrasts nicely with the nature of their professions."

The movie has gone on screen at six film



festivals across the world in places as varied as Toronto, Utah, Chicago and Berlin. Along the way – the movie picked up three awards, including a best director award for Amit at Mirocinema Film Festival in Chicago.

ONE NIGHT

And here's another—1 nite, an award-winning debut film from Mumbai-born director Amarbir Singh, and Kiwi actor Bruce Hopkins.

Set in and around Auckland's K' Road, the storyline revolves around four separate journeys taking place over one night. The main journey focuses on a young immigrant Sikh taxi driver who struggles to sustain his optimistic view of the opportunities New Zealand provides, while in a bar two old friends get drunk

together and uncover bitter feelings and rivalries. A Samaritan recovering from a recent breakup supposedly helps out a crippled ex-cop, and a prostitute's night is made that much more difficult by her obsessively watchful boyfriend.



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OPEN UP BOLLYWOOD!

Eddie D'Sa

Bollywood films are increasingly using foreign locals - from Switzerland, Canada, Britain and more recently South Africa, Australia and even France. Do they wish to introduce the Bollywood genre to a new audience or use the opportunity to develop good relations with another country? When just the star duo dances, we see bemused locals watching curiously from a distance as it were some alien ritual. But increasingly, local young people may be invited to join in - they've obviously been previously given a crash course in Bollywood dancing. It is *de rigueur* for the girls to appear in the skimpiest attire.

What is striking is the lack of any meaningful social interaction with the natives, any touristy exchange. Our hero is not suave or cosmopolitan enough to break the ice and make small talk with the locals. At most he manages a few stilted phrases: this happens for example when he orders a drink at a bar, or buys from a shop or makes inquiries at an airline counter. In return the bar or counter assistant is programmed to respond in a robotic manner, if there is a response at all.

Here is a missed opportunity to develop warm relations between host and visitor. Encounters with the locals are awkward and contrived. So what does the producer gain by filming overseas? It is the host country that stands to gain - in tourism revenue, but its citizens are still not



New Zealand's South Island is a popular destination with Bollywood producers. (A TGI photo)

drawn to Bollywood films.

All that the producers seem to get in return is a magnificent foreign backdrop - a pristine natural habitat and sparkling urban infrastructure that simply cannot be matched at home by Indian cities. The cine-viewers in India, especially in the rural areas, are bound to be gob-smacked by the affluence on display overseas but that is about all. Is it worth the cost? Does the theme really warrant a foreign location?

Born in East Africa and based in the UK, Eddie has a PhD in Mathematics and many years' experience in journalism and teaching. Please email comments to: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz

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IDENTITY ISSUES FOR KIWI INDIANS

Sanjay Verma

Very often, the multiplicity of voices in New Zealand's diverse communities raises concerns about the direction of our society. *New Zealand Identities* was born out of a similar concern, and a desire by social scientists to pool their knowledge and offer insights into perennial issues



facing this society. When these contributors met for a workshop in Waikane in late 2004, little did they know that their informal discussions at El Rancho Holiday Camp would culminate in a well-researched book.

This book is a compilation of papers by 23 contributors from different ethnicities. Arvind zodgear is one of the six Asian authors, who reviews migration patterns of Indians in New Zealand and examines some identity issues faced by new New Zealanders. The book will prove to be a good reference material not only for academicians but also for anyone interested in researching New Zealand's socio-cultural make-up.

New Zealand Identities/Victoria University Press/\$39.95

BUSINESS

KIWI TECHNOLOGY INVADES INDIA

A TGI Correspondent

Next time you shop in India, don't be surprised if you feel at home when you see familiar EFTPOS machines at checkout point at retail outlets in India. Cadmus Technology, New Zealand's leading exporter of payment solutions, has won an order to supply one of India's largest banks with its new Cadmus CM05 'one piece' terminal, as a pilot evaluation of the Cadmus products for that market, a release said.

The pilot is with ICICI Bank which is India's second largest bank with over 13 million customers, 570 branches and 2,025 ATMs. India is already acknowledged as one of the world's technology and innovation leaders with a commercial market beginning to embrace EFTPOS payment solutions.

Pat McCammon, Director International Sales and Marketing for Cadmus, says the deal is strategically important because it is a first step in gaining access to India's vast EFTPOS terminals market.

In 2004, Cadmus' Chairman Keith Philips accompanied New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark on a business mission to India and visiting companies in Mumbai and Delhi.

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CUCUMBER RAITA

Ashok Kumar Parmar

Ingredients

1 medium cucumber

1 large bottle of un-sweetened yogurt

¼ teaspoon chili, turmeric

1 teaspoon mustard seeds (crushed), mustard powder, salt

Method

Grate the cucumber and squeeze out all the water. Put in a bowl and add the yogurt. Mix in all the spices. Add salt to taste.

Serve Cucumber raita with any curry or fritters. It can also be used as a dip for chips and veggies.

Ashok was born in Fiji and lives in Dunedin, New Zealand. For a profession, he develops software, and for a hobby, he experiments in the kitchen. When he is not writing software, he is writing recipes for the readers of The Global Indian.



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MOCKERY OF THE 'SUPER' CONCEPT

Sanjay Karhade

II 'Catch him, catch him,' I shouted excitedly as Graeme (Pollock) uppishly cover-drove my just-short-of-a-length delivery and started watching the ball. But, that lofted cover-drive landed ten rows inside the stadium! I was consoled by Sir Frank Worrel who said, 'normally this man does not play anything uppishly, however, when he does,



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.

ten out of ten times the ball lands in the stadium. Don't worry, continue...' " Bapu (R.G.) Nadkarni once described this awe-inspiring incident from a match played between the South Africans and the Rest of the World Team in early '60s.

This incident underlines commitment to the game, urge to perform, competition and most importantly the captain at work. Sadly, during the just concluded 'Super Series', the cricket fans did not get to see anything of the sort from the RoW Team members. Why?

Look at the number of matches played then and now. The difference is simply appalling. Obviously, the thinking of a

cricketer then and now is opposite. Then, a cricketer longed to play and now, a cricketer longs to rest. Then, a cricketer considered it an honour to be picked for the RoW Team. The performance and efforts taken would vindicate the word 'honour'. Today apparently, no player gave me semblance of that impression. The famous three Ds - dedication, discipline and determination - were conspicuous by their absence. Neither the RoW Team captain nor any other team member remotely sounded remorseful at not being able to put together a decent fight.

The defence put forth is that RoW Team members may have found it difficult to motivate themselves as much as they would be able to while representing their respective country. I find this defence hollow, for, were they not the chosen ones from their respective country's teams? This, on the contrary, should have pepped them up even more. In my opinion it's a simple question of showing commitment to the game and most of the RoW Team members sadly failed to pass the test.

To choose the best combination of players, pit it against the best team in the world and dish out probably the best contest for the cricket fans to savour for a long time is the concept of a 'super contest'. However, the lackadaisical attitude shown by the RoW Team members defeated it and made a mockery of the concept.

Australians, on the other hand, have thumped their superiority notwithstanding their defeat in the Ashes series. A starched salute to the Australians!

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TAPPING INTO YOUR MIND-POWER

Jasbindar Singh

Be careful what thoughts you plant in your mind because they could come true! As John Kehoe,

author of 'Mind Power' says, "Thoughts are real forces and what we imagine, concentrate on or

visualise in our minds will actually manifest into reality." Plant seeds of negativity and you get a crop of fear, doubt, and anxiety. Alternatively seed good thoughts, attend to it with some TLC (tender love and care) and you will harvest accordingly!

Mind power is probably one of the most untapped potentials we have. It is like having a powerful computer at your disposal but not operating it for maximum results. And we have two levels of mind: the conscious and rational and the sub-conscious and irrational one.

At the level of the conscious mind, become more aware of your 'self-talk' or the daily internal chatter. For e.g., when faced with a challenge, do you give yourself a helping hand by saying positive and resourceful things like, "I can handle this. I have done it before." Or is your self-talk more negative and fear generating such as "This is too much. I am going to fail."? And when the challenging task is over do you naturally focus on all that went wrong or

“When faced with a challenge, do you give yourself a helping hand by saying positive and resourceful things like, “I can handle this. I have done it before.”

say, “gee – that was a great learning experience and I will do even better next time!”? The reason this matters is because the sub-conscious soaks up whatever diet it's fed on a consistent basis. It cannot discriminate between what is real and what is imagined.

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



So how can you tap into the powers of the subconscious mind?

1. Use affirmations and positive self-talk so what you are saying is constructive, positive and resourceful. Affirmations are positive statements of what you desire, stated in the present such as, "I am fit and healthy."
2. The subconscious mind responds well to images (pictures), impressions and visualisations. So imprint positive ones such as peace, health or whatever you are focusing on, as if it were happening now.
3. Use your feelings. Experience the feelings of fulfilment and joy in having achieved your desires in the here-and-now.
4. Develop your awareness of how you think and practice being creative and thinking in different ways.

You can change your life by changing your thoughts!

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IS MEDIA TO BLAME?

Ruth DeSouza

How ethnic communities are represented in and by the media sends an important message to the rest of New Zealand. So, are they doing a good job? At a recent forum in Auckland to discuss the role of the media in promoting ethnic communities, both sides suggested ways in which communities could use the media more effectively. Mainstream media outlets pointed out that they too need guidance on how to deal with these new communities and who they should be talking to.

The British media stands accused of being racist, using loaded terminology, such as primitive, fundamentalist, Islamist and extremist. They are seen by some as promoting simplistic, negative representations of groups that lead mainstream Britons (to borrow Dr Brash's expression) to form a negative view of ethnic communities. There are damaging consequences, including increased racial tensions and increased discrimination. Many minority groups feel marginalised by the media, withdrawing their support and turning instead towards Diasporic and ethnic media outlets.

Minority community media or programmes are a platform

for the community and a bridge to that community for others. But they do not replace accurate representation in the mainstream media. New Zealand has seen a drift towards the more overtly commercial; our newspapers and many of our radio stations are now part of global media conglomerates. The focus shifts from rigorous reporting to sustaining advertising revenue and, as seen elsewhere, a tendency develops to ignore minority groups.

As a country, we need to think about incorporating minority perspectives into majority media. As ethnic communities, we need to promote 'diversity reporting' that infuses mainstream reporting with a multicultural perspective. We have a responsibility to respond quickly to media distortions. We must build relationships with media to ensure that learning is two-way - them about us and us about them. And we must learn to communicate with the media on their terms, because time is often short where news is concerned and doing this will make it easier for the media to engage with us. Doing this goes some way towards including minorities in national conversations. The Auckland forum was the beginning of this journey.



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

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THE INDIAN INVASION

Sonali Geo

Coming straight from the bright, vibrant, radiant and colourful India I landed in Auckland on a gloomy cold, rainy and wintry night in May 1997. My eyes were accustomed to seeing bright orange saris and hot pink salwar clad women walking around. They were not used to seeing "men in black" and women in black hurrying to and fro. The people here did not seem to wear any colour other than black. A few Kiwis told me that since it was winter, black was the common colour. Besides they felt comfortable in black, they blended with others, did not stand out like a sore thumb.

Winter changed into spring. The daffodils were dancing in the breeze and the flowers along the roads and gardens burst into a flame of colours. People dug out the spring wardrobe of colour and I began to see shades of blues, greys and reds around. Still the vibrancy and bold colour combinations were what my eyes were starving for.

Many seasons rolled on and the influence of the migrant community began to make its mark on the Kiwi culture. The Indian dupatta is worn with flamboyance as scarves by Kiwis. The ghaghara and the lehngas are worn as peasant skirts and are only available in the up-market fashion stores at unbelievable prices. Mehendi (henna) is adorned on white skinned hands as ethnic tattoo. The humble kurta is now a fashion statement. Costume jewellery made of beads, sequins and stones decorate the

ears and necks of many Kiwi beauties. The roadside rolls of Kolkatta are sold as wraps in McDonalds and Burger King. Indian films have slowly crept into Village Cinemas and Hoyts. Aishwarya Rai appears in the windows of Pascoes, modelling for Longines. She teamed up with a Kiwi actor and brought the colours and tunes of Bollywood to New Zealand in the form of *Bride and Prejudice*. Jacob Rajan's *Krishnan's Dairy*, *Pickle King* and *Candlestickmaker* showed the Kiwis the Indian sense of humour. *From India With Love* followed suit and ran full houses. Now with *Charandas Chor*, Indian theatre is here to stay.

Now, being a born again Kiwi, as I walk down Queen Street on a busy lunch hour, I see a lot of colour-clad Kiwis around me and I smile to myself as I try to blend in as inconspicuously as I can, in my black suit.

HELP EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Times Foundation: Following our support to the Times Foundation during Tsunami relief work last year, we are supporting the Foundation's efforts in its relief efforts for the recent earthquake victims.

Dontate online: <http://shopserve.indiatimes.com/timesfoundation/registration.html>

Earthquake Pakistan: Earthquake Pakistan facilitates relief and reconstruction activities in Pakistan.

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DIWALI GREETINGS

Warm greetings to the Indian community as they celebrate the festival of Diwali. Diwali is a joyful time that enables us to celebrate the triumph of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and light over darkness. The lighting of candles and fireworks, the distribution of sweets and the uniting of families are wonderful reminders of the light, joy and hope that Diwali promotes.

Dr. Jackie Blue, National MP, Auckland (Dr Blue also sends Ramadan greetings—Editor)

RAMADAN GREETINGS

The significance of Ramadan lies chiefly in this being the holy month in which the first verses of the Holy Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhamed in 610 CE. The process of fasting is primarily an act of self discipline. In 1988 the American convert to Islam Louis Farrahkan wrote: Whenever the human being lacks discipline, the society reflects that lack of discipline in the manifestation of excesses. The relevance of Ramadan therefore extends to all peoples, Muslim and non-Muslim, in the universal human quest for an improved social order.

Abdullah Drury

CONGRATULATIONS

(Editor and publisher thank all readers for congratulatory messages on our first anniversary. We are publishing a few in the limited space here.)

Congratulations! I looked at the Scoop report and read that you have some 20,000 subscribers. Amazing! Most of the UK weekly print magazines can barely reach that.—**Eddie D'Sa, UK**

Heartiest congratulations on the completion of one year's publishing of the Global Indian. New Zealand needs people like you who give their time and commitment.—**Dr Ashraf Choudhary, Labour MP, Wellington**

Congratulations! This is a great achievement and makes all of us Indians proud. Wishing you more success in leaps and bounds.—**Sanjay Jumde, India**

Happy Birthday! May Global Indian have many more years ahead of it.—**Tayyaba Khan, Auckland**

Congratulations—**Robert Khan, Director, Radio Tarana**
(Congratulations.) It's such a good idea.—**Ruth Le Pla, Editor, Management magazine, Auckland**



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