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Melody queen turns 75

Sandip Priyavanshi



On the eve of Lata Mangeshkar's birthday, one of her fans pays tribute to the eighth wonder of the world.

On 8th September 2004, Asha Bhonsale turned 72, and on the 28th of September Didi (Lata) turned 75. With the illustrious legacy of her

father, Master Dinanath Mangeshkar, the Mangeshkar sisters have proven Newton's law of gravity wrong – what goes up does not always come down.

On the occasion of her birthday, it is very interesting to see how the nightingale discovered her musical talent. Since childhood, she was surrounded by music. Her father would teach music at his house and Lata would copy the music, sitting in the kitchen, singing for the benefit of the cook and other servants (lucky people!). Ironically, Master Dinanath never knew how talented his eldest daughter was as Lata was too shy to sing in front of her father. One day, when her father left a student to do riyaz in *Raag Puriya Dhanashri* and went out, Lata

London's The Royal Albert Hall has recorded the graph of Lata's voice with the help of a computer.



corrected the student who was singing wrong notes. Just then her father returned and the rest is history.

Today, six decades later, Lata still gives us goose pimples with her "do pal ka khwaboka karwa" (Veer Zara), as she pairs with Sonu Nigam. Its amazing how Lata has adapted her singing over the years. From a time in Aan, where instruments were complementary to the singer's voice, to a time in the 80s and 90s where Lata seemed like she had to shout over the noise of the instruments while singing 'Mein hoon khushrang heena' (Heena), to a Veer Zara time, where Lata is limiting herself to soft melodious songs, the magic is eternal. Even if she is not singing high-pitched songs today, her magical spell still abounds with her soft whispers like "diya jale jaan jale" (Dil Se).

It is credit to Lata's exceptional talent that she could make her mark at a time when most actresses sang their own songs. Even the singing style was quite different. In fact, some musicians rejected Lata as they felt her voice was too 'thin.' It reminds me of All India Radio authorities that rejected Amitabh Bachchan for an announcer's job. I can go on, but will describe Lata in her words, "*Meri awaaz hi pehchaan hai meri.*" Many many happy returns of the day, Lataji!

Mayoral elections: Who will shape the future?

Auckland correspondent

If recent polls are any indication, Auckland's mayoral election is going to be a closely-fought battle.

Each of the candidates is different. If John Banks is seen as arrogant leader, Chris Fletcher is banking on her 'no spin' image. Dick Hubbard is only playing his maiden innings on the political pitch. Comeback candidate Christine Fletcher was late to gain popularity, but is seen catching up pretty fast as the campaign matures.

The campaign is only getting nastier and all eyes are set to see who gets

the power to drive Auckland out of its gridlock. On the eve of elections, TGI spoke with some Aucklanders about the mayoral candidates.

If some spoke excitedly about the elections, many did not care.

Interestingly, we got a mixed response from people who have actively followed the election campaign. "I think John Banks is best suited to be the mayor again. He is very vocal and he wants to do things for Auckland," feels Tulsi Rajan, a sales manager with a large multinational company. Another reader (who did not wish to be named) feels John Banks has done well so far, but says Dick Hubbard should get an opportunity.

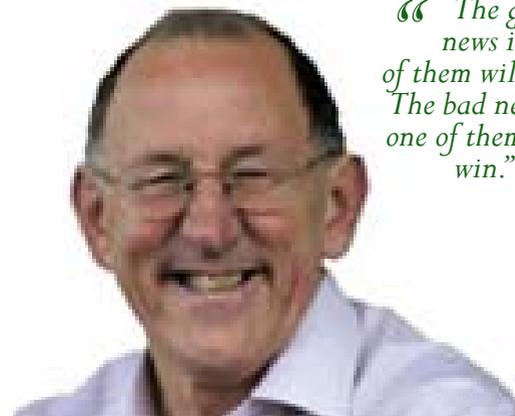
"Chris Fletcher is useless," exerts

"The good news is one of them will lose. The bad news is one of them will win."

Tulsi. "She hasn't done anything for Auckland during her term."

"Hubbard is a customer of mine. He is a nice guy but as a politician he lacks vision. He just wants to have a go at the elections." Tulsi expresses.

Many Aucklanders did not care who won the election, whereas some did not prefer one candidate to the others. But a sizeable proportion of Aucklanders did not like any of the candidates. "Let's put it the way TIME magazine describes US elections: the good news is one of them will lose. The bad news is one of them will win," says Shekhar Natarajan, a finance professional in Howick.



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We should strengthen the Diwali Festival

In an exclusive interview to TGI, Auckland mayoral candidate and former mayor Chris Fletcher shares her vision for New Zealand's most populous city.

TGI: What were the factors that prompted you to contest the elections?

My primary objectives for contesting the election are to progress the plans and strategies which we outlined in "The First City of the Pacific" document, and also because the current leadership does not allow for meaningful community input.

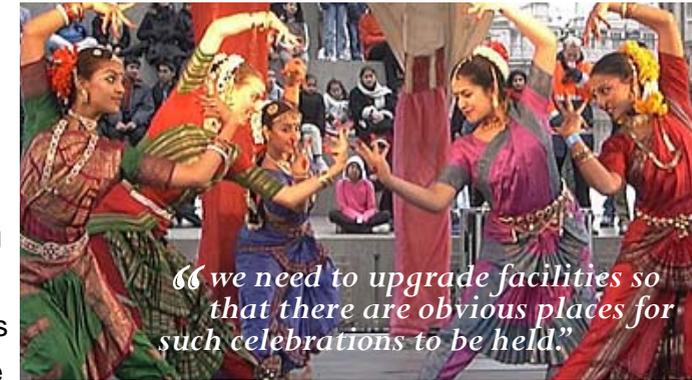
I am standing for the Mayoralty because I have an achievable vision for Auckland to be a proud, united cosmopolitan city. One that is environmentally sustainable with a diverse creative sector and business friendly. A place that creates value from its people and natural assets without compromising the individual and unique identities of the many villages that make up our city.

Auckland's strategic plan "First City of

the Pacific" provides the blueprint for this to happen. It was a plan I was proud to lead and stands today but requires action. The current leadership needs challenging because there has been little action on this plan. For plans to be meaningful and durable leadership must be inclusive. Simply dismissing citizens who disagree brings nothing but dissent in the long-term making it difficult to provide progress. Good leaders are honest and problem solvers working with everyone.

TGI: What will be your core priorities if you become the mayor?

If elected, the main area of focus will be to progress the outcomes described in "The First City of the Pacific" plan. These include: working in a leadership style which celebrates inclusiveness and respect; effective transport (both roads and public transport); celebrating and recognising diversity (of culture and lifestyle); protecting the unique and valued natural environment which makes



"we need to upgrade facilities so that there are obvious places for such celebrations to be held."

Auckland great; promoting strong and healthy communities; encouraging economic prosperity; and controlling urban intensification.

TGI: Do you have any plans for the Indian community?

I have plans for all communities, but yes, the Indian community is an important one of these, and in of lights amongst the respectful way we should be to every community, has its own outcomes described. We should strengthen the Diwali Festival, along with having successful and distinct day events which celebrate the Indian culture. Along with this, we need to upgrade facilities so that there are obvious places for such celebrations to be held.

Short-sighted Bush

The whole world is closely following America's presidential elections. I have not immersed myself into the pulp of politics here (U.S.) as I had (at least as far as being in the know on political trends, upheavals and the like) in India. If I could vote, I'd go with Kerry (democrat) and not Bush. Even though my life and worries are reserved for India, as an ordinarily resident American, I do consider America's long term interests as carefully as I would India's.

With my limited concern for this country, I consider Bush and his policies (both domestic and foreign) as being very short-sighted and very bad for Americans. It's a good thing I don't see us (India and the US) as being directly in competition for space in the world order at present, since then I would be stretched into the sphere of diplomatic posturing. I think diplomacy has its place, but never when I'm weighing interests of India against any other country on God's green earth. I fear Bush might win the re-election. you have to be here to realise what a

complete scam the media is. Money (or the lure of it) controls every single aspect of media. I don't watch any TV news (I get my information from late night comedy shows). I read only the New York Times or the WSI Online and the Economist on occasions. There's almost no such thing as popular and mainstream independent journalism.

Ambrish Kochikar, Washington

Best wishes to TGI

Congratulations on the launch of The Global Indian. It is very good to see this initiative of providing news to and about the Indian community. I applaud it wholeheartedly. Best wishes.

Christine Fletcher, Mayoral candidate, Auckland

I wish The Global Indian very best. I think it's a great idea. With millions of Indians spread across the globe, this is a good way of staying connected.

Stephanie Elam, CNN News, USA

Please send your letters to:

editor@theglobalindian.co.nz

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the global indian subscription competition

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Winners are:

Renu Swaroop: First TGI subscriber
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Indian ingenuity

Vaibhav Gangan

If Indian ingenuity is anything to go by, try www.movies2home.co.nz. If getting up to change the TV channel is a hassle, leaving your house to hire a movie can be a task. What if someone delivered the DVD or video, while you finish reading a book cook the dinner, or play with the kids?

“Staying in touch with customer needs is the key.”

“That’s the whole idea behind movies2home,”

say Paramjit Singh, Sachin Darbarwar and Sandeep Chandra, the team behind the movies online concept.

“We want to offer the convenience of Internet and phone shopping to our members.” Movies2home offers convenience of sitting at home and ordering the movies by phone or online. The delivery and pick up is free. “You can either visit our web site or phone us to rent or buy a movie, and we will deliver it to a place of your choice, even to your letterbox if you are not at home. For people without internet access, our toll free dial-a-movie facility comes handy,” informs



Sachin Darbarwar, who looks after the operational aspects.

The movies are delivered the same day and you can make advanced bookings as well.

There are many businesses in the US, UK and Europe who provide similar facilities of renting or buying Indian movies online, but movies2home is one of the first such initiatives in New Zealand. So what prompted these entrepreneurs to launch this business? “People are getting a lot busier, especially Indian families, who are traditionally very hardworking. Demands of house and work leave us with no energy to visit a video shop. We wanted to add convenience to the

quality we provide.” Paramjit adds.

Since convenience is the primary objective of movies2home, its members don't need to make payment on delivery every time they rent or buy a movie. “Under our deposit scheme, members can pay us a deposit and then pay off their rentals or purchases from that deposit.”

What about people outside Auckland? “We can courier the DVDs to any location in New Zealand. We want to take away the geographical barrier in our reach,” Sachin explains.

The response so far has been very encouraging. “More and more people are now using Internet to hire and buy movies. Our clients see the benefit of saving the time and money which they can effectively channelise in family activities,” delighted Paramjit explains. Enterprising migrants like this team are adding a welcome pace to New Zealand's economy. “Staying in touch with customer needs is the key,” says Paramjit with a tinkle in his eyes.

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Look internally

Recently Harvey Norman Holdings had their biggest drop in share prices in nine months. The business growth of Australia's largest electronics retailer is slowing as competition increases from companies such as Woolworths, the nation's second-largest retailer. Executive Chairman Gerry Harvey is not being adamant to defend the performance and is instead looking overseas for opportunities.

"We would like to look at places like China and India, because there is a billion people in both countries," Gerry told Bloomberg recently. It seems Gerry and other major retailers like him have gracefully accepted that traditional differentiators like price, service and loyalty are

“...India can benefit only when we are equipped with the right infrastructure (physical, social and political)...”

less relevant in the face of consumers' growing access to information and to marketplace.

Is exploring newer and bigger markets the best strategy? Does the answer to Harvey Norman's dismal performance



lie externally or internally to the company? That can be the topic of an editorial for the business section of TGI. This editorial looks at the other side of the equation – India.

British came to India in search of spices, and soon realised the potential of the huge captive market that India was.

The Brits shipped India's cotton back to England, processed it to make clothes, and sold it back to Indians, earning a huge margin in the process. We see a similar trend here – a bit disguised in the name of globalisation. The wave of liberalisation in the last

two decades has seen growth of consumerism following the establishment of global brands and MNCs in India. Most of the profits are usually ploughed back to the overseas parent company.

I am not against globalisation. In fact, I am in favour of it. But India can benefit only when we are equipped with the right infrastructure (physical, social and political) and when our exports are equally well accepted by the developed world. We Indians are quick to adapt and adopt, and that makes us so vulnerable. Internally too, India needs a more just system of income distribution to bridge the growing economic disparity. We need political stability, safe environment and clean bureaucracy to be able to reach there. On the positive side, ASEAN is working on a free trade agreement with India. BPOs are partially making up for the outgoing forex reserves. The global environment is very positive. Just like Harvey Norman, India needs to figure out if the key to growth is internal or external.

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Weddings feature at Te Papa

Wellington correspondent

Aainaa – reflections through Indian weddings, an exhibition celebrating New Zealand's Indian communities, closed at Te Papa, Wellington on 26 September after running successfully for two years.



Shainaz Omar at her wedding reception in Christchurch. (courtesy: Naheed and Shainaz Omar)

The central theme of Aainaa was the vibrancy, colour, and richness of an Indian wedding, and how it reveals the similarities and differences within New Zealand's Indian communities.

The exhibition was rich with jewellery, costumes, food, religious objects, music and colours that make the Indian wedding unique and fascinating.

“The central theme of Aainaa was the vibrancy, colour and richness of an Indian wedding.”

A mandap (physical wedding structure), the focal point of the Indian wedding ceremony, featured in the heart of the exhibition. The first mandap on display showed a Hindu wedding ceremony, with Muslim and Sikh ceremonies featuring later.

Visitors to Aainaa learned about the preparations and ceremonies that make up the full wedding process, through the personal stories of a wide range of community members.

Aainaa reflected the range of religious beliefs within the communities, and examined the

attitudes of different generations, including young and New Zealand-born Indians. Complex issues, such as arranged and mixed marriages, were also explored.

Aainaa also looked at the ways in which Indians in New Zealand, both immigrants and locally born, identify themselves as Indian, and how they maintain their cultures.

The exhibition highlights the complexity of these communities, and celebrates the major contributions that Indian people make to New Zealand's economy and society.

Developed in partnership with New Zealand Indian communities, Aainaa follows the Chinese community and the Dutch community as the third exhibition in Te Papa's Community Gallery.

If you will like to share your photographs or events in your community please email us at editor@theglobalindian.co.nz

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Last Dance at Dum Dum

Vaibhav Gangan

After *East is East*, Ayub Khan returns with *Last Dance at Dum Dum*, which was produced in London five years ago. The play is set in Calcutta and revolves around Anglo-Indian people British left behind. This is an aging population who are proud of themselves and don't want to follow the footsteps of the younger Anglo-Indian generation who left the country after independence. Although the new government set up retirement villages for such old population, these people wanted to look after themselves. They settled together in a home called Dum Dum. In that respect, this is a story of Dum Dum.

This play is about their struggle to retain independence from the changing environment around them. They want to cling on to the royal past. They find themselves in limbo. Indian community is hostile to them and the British have left them behind. "So they were in a no

man's land," explains David Cole who directs this play. "They were quite influential for a number of years during the British Raj. They considered themselves superior to the Indian population because of their mixed blood. This is a poignant story of these proud people."

The play reaches its climax with the backdrop of racial riots in Calcutta in the 1980s. Dum Dum has very high walls behind which these people want to protect their glorious past. You will be excused to think that David drew upon his experience in India to direct

“Anglo-Indian population was very similar to English. In fact, some of them spoke better English than the English.”

the play. "I haven't visited India yet. I came very close to visiting the country in the past, but somehow it never happened. But I will surely love to visit someday," smiles David, talking to TGI.

Why David chose to direct the play?

"This is a community play and nobody gets paid for it. It's a local production. Onehunga is a multi-cultural community and this play will be a great contribution to this vibrant society."

Looking at the cast, one wonders why there are no Indian actors. "Anglo-Indian population was very similar to English. In fact, some of them spoke better English than the English. (In Auckland) there were a lot of Indian actors, but none was an Anglo-Indian. To get the suitable accent, we chose European actors," David points out before preparing for his next venture - North Shore Music



Muriel and Daphne played by Lesley Locke and Cheryl Cameron

At [the Dolphin Theatre](#)
12 Spring Street Onehunga
runs until 9th October.
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Who helps AA?

Most of us call AA when our car breaks down. But who does this AA man call when his van breaks down? (Contributed by Sanjay Verma.)



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Classifieds

Pen friends: My name is Munawar Ali and I would like to make pen friends. Email: ali_mun2001@yahoo.com; msn chat: munawarali13@hotmail.com

Computer for sale: A 3-year old desktop PC. AMD Duron 1.20Ghz processor 38GB 248MB RAM \$500 contact 09 8464318

Handy tips

Dishwasher: Add white vinegar in the rinse compartment of the dishwasher, instead of the expensive dish rinse solutions. The dishes are cleaner than what they would normally have been and they actually squeak too.

Removing red wine stains: Red wine stains can be removed with soda water.

Net curtain-cleaning tip: Net curtains can be tricky and time consuming to take down and put up again when it comes to cleaning. Instead of using conventional fixings, fit some white Velcro strip to the top of the curtain, the other part of the Velcro strip being fastened to for e.g. the top of the window frame. This enables the curtains to be removed and fitted in seconds

Coffee Grinder: Grind a cup rice in a coffee grinder to clean the grinder and sharpen its blades.

(Contributed by Mohini Banerjee)

Got tips / recipes to share? Email us at tips@theglobalindian.co.nz

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Meet Vijaya Vaidyanath: New Zealand's first Indian CEO in Local Government

Sangeeta Anand

When you speak to her, you see a soft-spoken person. When you read about her, you see a determined achiever.

We are talking about Vijaya Vaidyanath, the chief executive of the Rodney District Council. Vijaya is the first person (not just the first woman!) of Indian origin to be a chief executive in the New Zealand Local Government.

With an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, USA and a Dean's Excellence Placement in that, Vijaya was equipped with all the resources to make it big in the world's largest economy. "However, my husband Gopal and I wanted to move to a smaller country – clean, green and beautiful – where our children could grow up with no fears of an environment riddled with crime and violence," recounts Vijaya. "New



Zealand was my husband's choice and we came here first in 1992, then finally in 1994."

Back in the 1980s, while with the Reserve Bank in India, she was selected from a national pool to pursue higher management studies overseas with full scholarship. Not just in India, Vijaya's capabilities were quickly recognised in New Zealand too.

A month after her arrival in New Zealand, Vijaya joined the South

Taranaki District Council as director of corporate services, based in Hawera. "This new style of living suited our goal of absorbing ourselves into mainstream/rural New Zealand and since then I have never looked back." The journey took Vijaya to Palmerston North before moving to New Zealand's fastest growing district - Rodney District.

Next page: "My career is not just a job" Vijaya's exclusive interview with TGI.

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Continued...

Chennai born, Calcutta bred, Bangalore educated and with career postings all over India, she never imagined that she would land in New Zealand one day. When TGI contacted Vijaya for an interview, she was very helpful despite bereavement in the family. "Its part of life," she told this interviewer.

The appointment to head the Rodney District Council was a high point in her career. "The acknowledgement and recognition of my role as CEO in transforming and influencing New Zealand communities was also a big plus. I have found my niche," Vijaya says. Sure she has! After all, she is in an influential role – operating an entity with assets worth a billion dollars, leading 400 professional staff, managing a range of services from roads, bridges, water supply, sewerage, parks and reserves, to planning and shaping the future, monitoring the environment and enforcing statutes.

That's a long list. How she manages this hugely challenging, complex task?

"I have to ensure that all the four aspects of local governance - social, economic, environmental and community well-being - are well balanced and well served." If hard work and tenacity are Vijaya's recipe, there is a third ingredient to Vijaya's achievements. "I connect with our communities - business, residential, political – not only because of the leadership role that I play but I have an innate passion, people skills and commitment to interact with our communities in a less than formal manner."

“My career is not just a job, it is an expansion of my enthusiasm and commitment to shape and deliver community aspirations.”

Staying connected is her mantra and she walks the

talk. Every weekend Vijaya is out listening to several hundreds of residents and integrating their feedback into Rodney's long-term sustainable strategies. "I also speak at several Rotary Club, Lion's Club, Probus meetings, sharing, listening and learning along the way," Vijaya informs. She is professionally aligned to the Society of Local Government Managers, New Zealand Institute of Management, Local

Government New Zealand and is also a leading participant in the Auckland CEOs' and Mayoral forums, "to feel the pulse and have an understanding of the greater community of Auckland."

Of course, this high-pressure job entails a lot of sacrifices. "My husband Gopal's influence, encouragement and advice has meant that I have a very steady rock that I can rely upon. My success is largely due to Gopal, my mother and my in-laws who have exhibited family values and encouraged me to practise these values. Also, my children are my source of strength and inspiration."

Vijaya's knowledge and expertise is aptly supported by a healthy frame of mind towards her work. "My career is not just a job, it is an expansion of my enthusiasm and commitment to shape and deliver community aspirations. My job is really more of a soul satisfying experience than a mere goal driven or paper pushing activity." Do we need to say more?

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Note in your diary

Oct 2: Bollywood Musical Nite at Beaumont Centre. Shaan, Hema Sardesai and comedian D. Mahes will be performing. Contact Yasmin Garg on 09 8264601 ([Read more](#))

Oct 3: Daylight saving commences at 2 am on the first Sunday in October.

Oct 9: Last Dance at Dum Dum:At [the Dolphin Theatre](#) 12 Spring Street Onehunga. Runs until 9th October. 24 hour booking line: 09 636-7322 ([Read more](#))

Oct 13: Shradh Paksha (Saradhas) ends 13 October. (Pitru Paksha is observed in the dark fortnight of Aswin month. This year this 15-day period commenced on September 28. Hindus avoid buying durables, marrying, or starting a new project during this period.

If you would like to include your event on this page for free, email:

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Interviews: make the impossible.....possible

Sangeeta Anand

Competition for available jobs in New Zealand is high. Migrants with standard skills find it difficult to find relevant jobs, as they may not have any New Zealand work experience, which many employers seek, simply because it will mean less training.

Those with English as a second language will find the added burden of communication difficulties, which less enlightened employers will perceive as a larger problem than it may in fact be. Our advice is always accept the first job offered, as it will then get that person the valuable New Zealand work experience.

"People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I



“Any fact facing us is not as important as our attitude toward it, for that determines our success or failure.” **Norman Vincent Peale**

don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and make them" George Bernard Shaw.

Your moment of truth has arrived and it is important to make the most of it. The key to a successful interview is research and preparation. Interviews should not be perceived as adversarial, one-sided interrogations but forums facilitating the exchange of interactive information.

Identify key valuable strengths

focusing on the ability to stay calm, willingness to work long hours, lateral thinking, team leader, team player, sense of humour. Demonstrate

these by obtaining an opportunity during the interview.

Confront some of your weaknesses without sharing these necessarily with your interviewer/s.

Know the organisation

"Do your homework before the big

interview" says John Rossheim. If you can't demonstrate some interest in how the company makes their money, they're unlikely to offer you any of it. "Learning about the interviewer is probably the most valuable thing you can do," says Ron Fry, author of *101 Great Answers to the Toughest Interview Questions*.

Research prior to the interview facts relating to company size, locations, products and services, target market; reputation; financial performance and history, including turnover, profitability and exports; major competitors.

Dress appropriately

Dress comfortably and professionally but err on the side of conservatism, avoiding loud ties, bright socks or esoteric clothing.

In the next issue, the second part of this article will explore the best ways of dealing with tricky questions. Watch this space.

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The bedrock that trust is

Jasbindar Singh

Take a minute and ask yourself, "how do I go about cultivating trustworthy relationships with people?" and "how do people know they can trust me?" The goodwill of trust built over years can be totally destroyed in a matter of minutes. The troubling signal that gets heard about a manager can be "I don't trust him or her." Employees may follow the required rules and even meet the performance expectations but that is all you will get. Their hearts, minds and spirit remain disengaged or worse engaged elsewhere. Here are **four tips** in cultivating a climate of trust.

Being respectful through being consistent

Be respectful of others and be consistent in your messages to people. A manager I once worked with was totally unaware of the impact of his behaviour on himself and his team. By giving 'somewhat different messages' to different people he not only

undermined himself by not being trusted but he ended up creating a whole culture of disrespect and distrust. As Robert Cooper and Ayman Sawaf write in Executive EQ "Trust and believability must be built and sustained through consistently demonstrating them in our choices and actions."

Not giving false hope

During times of organisational change when levels of anxiety and uncertainty amongst people can be high, it is important again to be consistent in your messages AND to not give false hope. If the situation is still unclear regarding redundancies

and/or reporting lines, it is far better to tell it as it is and that the process is still being worked through rather than give false hope and any sense of raised expectations which are not going to be followed through. Whilst the former may not feel comfortable, the personal and organisational goodwill gained will far outweigh the negativity, sense of

betrayal and let down incurred with the latter.

Attending to broken trust

We are not infallible. However, what is critical is how we deal with it. Steps taken to first acknowledge the breakdown and then re-build the relationship and communication go a long way rather than 'glossing over' and or pretending it never happened. In fact, relationships tested and come through be even stronger than those that haven't had their tests.

Trust is not an overnight phenomena

Building trusting and trustworthy relationships takes time and like good wine, slowly matures into vintage class. Sow good seeds with your actions now, nurture the relationships with your time and attention and then harvest, enjoy and sip the rewards!

"Trust and believability must be built and sustained through consistently demonstrating them in our choices and actions."

Jasbindar Singh is a business psychologist and executive coach.



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Shaan-Hema bonanza for Aucklanders

The musu musu man Shaan received his due recognition with Koi Kahe Kehta Rahe for Dil Chahta Hai, whereas Hema Sardesai shot to fame with Sapney while singing Aawara Bhawarein for Kajol. Aucklanders get the opportunity to see the magic re-ignited when Shaan and Hema visit Auckland for Bollywood Musical Nite on 2nd October, 2004 at Beaumont Centre. The Global Indian will bring tête-à-tête with the stars. Look out for our November issue.

Contact Yasmin Garg on 09 8264601



After Saif and Amir, is it Govinda?

If our sources in Bollywood are to be believed, Rani Mukherjee and Govinda are seeing each other. The news is creating a wave in Bollywood after much-talked about affairs of two Khans—Amir and Saif. Few months

ago, Amir walked out of his fifteen year old marriage, whereas Saif is still trying to sort out his troubled marriage with former actress Amrita Singh.

Govinda's supporters say that the gossip about the alleged Govinda-Rani affair is an act to spoil Govinda's political career, whereas Govinda's critics say it is Govinda's publicity

stunt. Interestingly, like Amir and Saif, there are kids at stake for Govinda—a daughter and a son.

Govinda and Rani came together for Had Kardi Aapne four years ago, and have said to be seeing each other since then. Some even say that they have moved in together. TGI will find out more.

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Diana revisited

Sangeeta Anand

Recently, Princess Diana's seventh death anniversary refreshed memories of her tragic death. The Princess's power and fame provided comfort to those whom society frequently forgets—the victims of poverty, disease and social injustice. A truer princess this world has never known.

Sixteen years ago, Lady Diana

Spencer, a beautiful school teacher from Northampton, married the dashing heir to the British throne, Prince Charles. Around the world, admirers watched her in delight as the young princess attended her official duties with grace and style and stood in marked contrast to the formal, demure approach of other members of the royal family. The British Monarchy



overnight was brought from a stiff and formal 19th century remnant to a photogenic and accessible 20th century institution. The "ideal" marriage churned cracks and by the early 90s, a long anticipated separation in August 1996 ended in divorce.

Diana remained a dedicated and supportive mother to her sons, William and Harry. Even in a state of dire

straits there was not a moment when she did not exchange fond hugs with them despite the contrary

traditions of the Royal family. Everyday her routine largely comprised of dropping her sons to school, which she never compromised on, as those were her treasured moments.

Despite her family commitments, Diana championed a number of charitable causes, including AIDS awareness and causes for the destitute. The billions of people who

grieve for her perhaps will follow her lead in working to end the sale of land mines, to find a cure for aids, and to address the issues which plague victims of poverty.

On the night of August 31, as Diana left the Ritz hotel in Paris with her friend Dodi Al Fayed, she was pursued by close to a dozen photographers on motorcycles, as demand for her pictures was high. The chase ended in a disastrous accident, causing the deaths of Princess Diana, Dodi Al Fayed and their chauffeur. And now she is gone. Her tragic death is as much highlight of her extraordinary life as her life itself.

“The British Monarchy overnight was brought from a stiff and formal 19th century remnant to a photogenic and accessible 20th century institution.”

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Latest buzz is medi-tourism

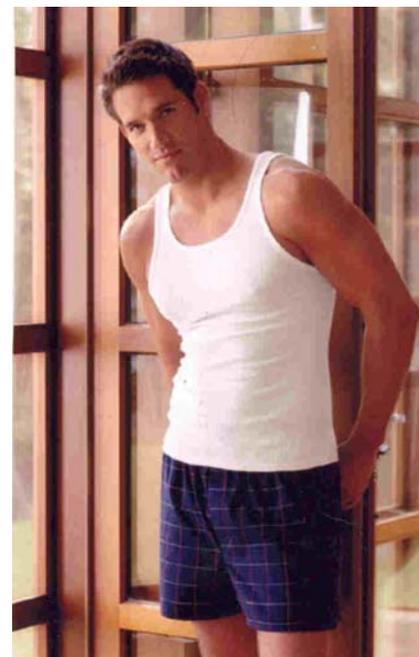
India correspondent

Don't like your smile? Wish your had a sharp nose? Well, the help is here, and you don't have to spend thousands of dollars. India is attracting international patients looking for cosmetic surgeries, and one such provider is Bangalore-based Dental Lavelle, a specialised centre for oro-facial cosmetics. Their international team of doctors bring together expertise in an array of fields such as, general dentistry, oral and maxillo-facial surgery, plastic and cosmetic surgery. Dental Lavelle will shortly be opening service apartments in Bangalore and the facility is already flooded with international patients. Whoever said outsourcing is call centres only?

Yeah Andar ki Baat Hai!

India correspondent

Jockey has introduced "Itch free label less" vests in India. Jockey says the best comfort features are "at no additional costs." Research undertaken by Jockey revealed instances of customers reporting the discomfort caused due to the tags attached to the back of the garment. To address this problem, Jockey has introduced this creative innovation. "We have introduced this unique range, wherein the heat transfer technique replaces the traditional labels on vests," informs Nischal Puri, Manager - Marketing, Jockey India.



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Remembering Gandhi

Nilesh Chedda

Come 2 October and India, and the world, will celebrate the birth anniversary of one of the greatest leaders of all time – Mahatma Gandhi.

For many of us Gandhi is a mystery. Just as each of us takes for granted our knowledge of our first language, and take extra care while learning a foreign language, same is the case with Gandhi. Indians take him for granted, and westerners take extra pains to know about him, before forming an opinion. A colleague (New

One of our reader says:
"Gandhi led India to Independence. His theory of non-violence was pretty good. These days you cant practise it. Its not easy to put these principles in action. These (principles) are the right ways but nobody has patience."
 Dhruv Rajvanshi

Zealand-born and bred) told me how she was impressed by the principle this leader followed and preached. She gave me a new perspective on this

great leader, when she said, "It is difficult to be simple. In the face of adversity, violence is our easy and natural reaction. It takes courage to be non-violent."

Einstein felt that the world should strive to do things in his (Gandhi's) spirit: not to use violence in fighting for our cause, but by non-participation in anything you believe is evil.

In



politics today, we often find leaders constantly using ends to justify means. Do ends justify means? Gandhi faced the same dilemma. His studies of religious literature came to his rescue

and he concluded that both ends and means must be noble. And he practised this philosophy in South Africa. South Africa was an ideal learning ground – same victims, same rulers and same tactics of discrimination.

In a country where a political leaders can not visit their own constituency without an army of bodyguards even in a

“Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this walked the earth in flesh and blood.” - Einstein

normal situation, Gandhi visited riot-stricken Rourkela district at the peak of Hindu-Muslim riots after partition. Such was the strength of his character.

Another sign of character is ability to change. Most of us are averse to change. But Gandhi's strength of character helped him change very quickly. One of Gandhi's supporters, Ghanshyam Das Birla, once said, "He was more modern than I. But he made a conscious decision to go back to the Middle Ages."

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About The Global Indian

Welcome to the inaugural issue. Why this magazine, and why in email form?

We know everyone likes to read the printed word. But electronic form is becoming easier and faster to use. Proliferation of various forms of media leaves us with less time to spend on reading. 'If you have a story to tell, tell me, and tell me fast,' is the attitude. Well, that's exactly what an electronic publication ensures. Less is more.

This magazine is not an electronic version of a print publication. This e-

zine is specifically designed as electronic publication. The stories are shorter and straight to the point, and language is direct and concise. All pages are in full colour, image quality is high, it reaches your inbox directly, contains interactive links, and its easy to send feedback. But there is a more important reason: it will create an electronic platform to connect all the Indians across geographic boundaries. And this last reason also answers the first question – why this magazine.

Here you will find articles of general interest that affect or improve our daily

life. This e-zine is by Indians, for Indians, but its not about only Indians. It will feature non-Indian articles and stories which are of interest to Indians. Readers can contribute articles, opinion pieces, letters, feedback, photos, community notices, and classifieds. Happy reading!

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