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COLUMNISTS

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JASBINDAR SINGH

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ABOUT US

**ELECTION
SPECIAL**



LABOURED NATION

Vaibhav Gangan

As the results of special votes came in on Saturday morning (1 October), Prime Minister Helen Clark pulled off one of the closely-fought victories in New Zealand's political history. With the Maori party winning considerable vote, there will be 121 MPs instead of 122 in the parliament. The reduction cost a list MP to National.

As Labour (rather Helen) gets ready to form government, one thing became clear— election results showed that New Zealanders were almost divided about which party should be in power. Only two seats separate Labour from its closest opponent—National. By the time results of special votes came, it seemed New Zealanders had lost interest in the outcome. The prime minister is expected to overhaul the cabinet, possibly getting rid of underachievers.

What lies in store for the nation? Three more years of Labour, or three years of labour? Only time will tell. Will Helen and the team become over-confident? Helen has a history of providing strong and fearless leadership. What remains to be seen is whether the labour ladder will be

leaning against the wrong wall.

In the meantime, National's Dr Brash has conceded defeat and hopes to lead National into the next election. He has every reason to feel proud. He has almost doubled the number of National's MPs from 27 to 48.

National's Indian candidate Ravi Musuku feels that Helen's government, being inclusive for the sake of holding onto power, cannot last long. For now his focus will be continuing to work for the community. "I would like to thank the Indian community for the enormous support received in electioneering. I'll always be available to serve the community," Ravi told The Global Indian.



The Global Indian wishes a happy, 136th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Seen here is the life-size bronze statue unveiled at the Mahatma Gandhi Centre in Auckland.

**Gandhi
Jayanti**

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Brahma Sharma: At 28, Brahma (*pictured*) became one of the youngest partners of KPMG. For a boy from a farming family in Fiji, coming to New Zealand was a long journey, let alone aim to be a part-owner of one of the 'Big Four' international consultancies. A keen reader of novels, particularly those written by Indian authors, he loves listening to Hindi music, particularly ghazals.

Vijaya Vaidyanath: Vijaya (*pictured*) is the chief executive of Rodney District Council, New Zealand's largest growing district.

Darius Mistry: Darius heads ImageText (NZ) Ltd., New Zealand's oldest systems integration dealership.

Raveen Jaduram: Raveen is a general manager at Manukau Water, a business unit of Manukau City Council. He is also president of the New Zealand Water and Wastes Association.

Anushiya Ayingaran: Anushiya epitomises the new generation leader. She is the general manager of corporate services with Nurse Maude Association in

CELEBRATING INDIAN SUCCESS



CELEBRATING INDIAN SUCCESS

Our flagship feature, The Global Indian of the Month, completed one year in September. We introduced this feature to assist Indians achieve success in New Zealand. Today, we look back and recap the 12 Global Indians we've featured.

EMERIO Corp.

Prof C R Rao: He is among the world leaders in statistical science over the last six decades. Technical terms such as, Cramer-Rao inequality, Rao-Blackwellization, Rao's Score Test, Fisher-Rao Theorem and Rao distance appear in all standard books on statistics, and his theories are taught across the world.

Vinod Kumar: While shopping at Mitre Mega 10 in Auckland, if you bump into one of the men in uniform with the name-tag 'Vinod', chances are you have met the owner of Australasia's largest individually-owned hardware stores.

Christchurch.

Champak Mehta: Take a Taranaki boy with Indian roots and put him in corporate America, and guess what you get? A down-to-earth Kiwi with strong Indian work ethics. Champak Mehta is one of Fonterra's business development managers.

Harish Nim: IITan Harish is an NRI entrepreneur based in Singapore running a successful IT company –

Continued...

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Deepak Selvaratnam: It's often said, "Those who can, do. Those who can't, consult!" Well, not in the case of Deepak who has successfully co-founded Contact Solutionz, a business process outsourcing consulting company, and showed 'he can!' He consults in auditing and other areas within the contact centre environment.

"Being able to integrate with the mainstream society and having an overarching need to contribute to the society go a long way." - Deepak Selvaratnam, Contact Solutionz

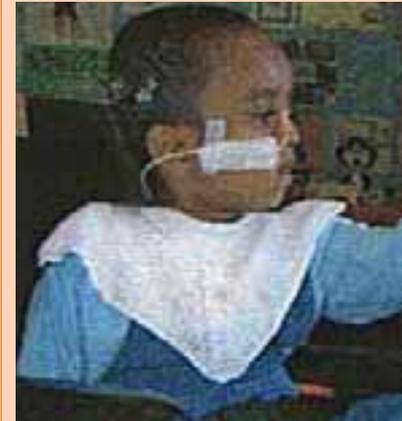
"In New Zealand, I sensed the need for auditing of contact centres. I found a market there," Deepak says.

Jacob Rajan: If there is anything Indian as popular in the Kiwi community as butter chicken, it's probably Jacob Rajan. Jacob is a performer and the author of Indian Ink's works, Krishnan's Dairy, The Candlestickmaker, and The Pickle King.

Robert Khan: Radio Tarana's Robert Khan is a proud founder today. Tarana commands 5% of Auckland's mainstream radio market share.

Would you like to nominate someone as The Global Indian of the Month? Write to the editor.

WANT TO
NOMINATE?



APPEAL FOR HELP

Have you heard a three-year old suffering a stroke? Shihab Fahim suffered a brain stroke in March, which left him paralysed. He can't swallow or speak

properly. The cost of his 21 days' stay at the hospital comes to \$37,500. Due to his father's (Ashrafuddin Khokon) non-residency status he will have to pay full hospital cost which they can't afford.

When The Global Indian came to know about Shihab, they spread the word among media, and within 24 hours, the story was reported by the NZPA, the NZ Herald (three stories), TV1, TV3 and others including ethnic media. The Global Indian thanks the mainstream media for covering this cause for the ethnic community.

You can send your donation to **ASB Bank, Albert Street Account no.12-3113-0000326-01 (Ref. customer No-RZD0107)**. This is a hospital bank account. Contact: Abdul Berek Mia, Acting President, Bangladesh Association New Zealand Inc., Ph: (09) 8152248/021-776261; Ashrafuddin Khokon, Ph-09 8282076)

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MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION

A TGI Correspondent

Yet another multi-cultural event hits Auckland. UTSAV 2005 will bring on board participants of diverse ethnicities including but not limited to Indian, Malaysian, Jewish, Philippino, Turkish, Kurdish, Korean, Maori, Chinese, South African and English. UTSAV is growing day by day into a truly Kiwi event. On the 15th of



October Corban Arts Centre in Henderson looks ready to be transformed into a tiny replica of the cultural melting pot that is New Zealand.

UTSAV is a free event which will start at 3:30 pm and continue till 10:30 pm. The event includes food stalls galore with cuisine from around the world. Performances by the artists will go on throughout the day and promise to be enthralling. The Global Indian is an official media partner of the event.

THE CULTURAL BUZZ

A TGI Correspondent

Auckland-based cultural organisation, Prayas, are presenting their debut act, Charandas Chor, a contemporary Indian classic in English. At Prayas they believe that initiatives have to be taken by minority communities to integrate. 'Charandas Chor', a contemporary Indian classic by noted playwright Habib Tanvir, has been performed all over India and has earlier won an award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. "Tanvir is known for bridging the Indian classical and the folk theatre traditions with Brechtian or other modern western techniques. The



content however is contemporary and relevant to common people," says Amit Ohdedar, the director of the play, who has been directing one Bengali (regional Indian language) production every year and has staged six productions in Auckland now.

The Global Indian magazine is an official media partner of the event. The play will be staged at the Centennial Theatre, Auckland Grammar School at 8.00 pm on Friday 14th and Saturday

15th October, and at 5.00 pm on Sunday 16th October. Tickets are \$15 per adult and \$12 for kids. For tickets, contact Sonali Geo on 09 3748452 or sonali.geo@asbbank.co.nz.

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NEW ZEALAND

FONTERRA IN INDIA

AUCKLAND—Britannia New Zealand Foods (A joint venture between New Zealand's Fonterra and Britannia from India) has introduced Anlene, a high-calcium, non-fat milk powder in India.

The move is important because India is a huge market which is heavily oriented to a dairy diet, unlike much of Asia. It's experiencing a rapid expansion of middle class consumer markets willing to buy imported foods, an NZPA report said. The Indian joint venture, created in 2001, will be launching four new cheese products within six weeks.

Incidentally Sanjay Khosla, Fonterra Brands' managing director, joined the New Zealand dairy industry following a 27-year stint with Unilever based in India, London and Europe, and was the chairman of the Board for the \$5 billion Unilever beverages category.

INDIA

GETTING MARRIED? SIGN UP

NEW DELHI—What comes after wedding? Honeymoon? Not any more if you are an Indian citizen getting married anywhere in the world. Very soon, the registration of marriage will become compulsory, if the Compulsory Registration of Marriage Bill 2005 is enacted, India's leading daily *the Times of India* reported recently. The major legislation aims to protect the rights of women, and curb child marriages, polygamy, forced marriages and large scale trafficking of women, a member of the National Commission for Women which prepared the bill, told the world's largest English newspaper.

Once the proposal becomes law, Indian citizens marrying in India or abroad will need to get their marriages registered within 30 days. If they fail to do so, a fine of Rs 2 per day will be imposed, the daily added.

WORLD

U.S. INVESTOR TO PUT US\$1B IN INDIAN REAL ESTATE

MUMBAI—A major NRI group is investing a whopping US\$1 billion in India's recently-liberalised real estate sector, the *Hindustan Times* reported. The US-based Royal Indian Raj International Corporation (RIRIC) will raise its funds from The Greenwich Group International (an American real estate investment banking firm) and develop a number of private cities in India, the country's leading daily added. Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are expected to benefit from the investment, following India's decision to allow foreign direct investment to provide for the housing shortage. RIRIC expects to create direct employment for 10,000 over the next decade, HT added.

The US\$50 billion Indian real estate market is booming and expected to grow at 25% annually.

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MR INDIA NZ 2005: BOYZ CAN DANCE TOO!

Sangeeta Anand

If this edition of The Global Indian showcases New Zealand as a happening place, it sure is, especially on the cultural front. Mr India NZ 2005 was one such event, as it attracted many from the non-Indian communities. In fact, two main sponsors of the event were Asian companies.

The event did well in attracting a multi-cultural audience; the selection of judges was good; and the opening haka performance was impeccable.

Emulating 13 contestants, 27-year old New Zealand-born Nelish Chauhan won the title. "It was great to see so many diverse backgrounds compete for one title. I feel great to have won the title, but the real winner were the New Zealand and Indian cultures," Nelish said.

The panel of judges included David Hartnell (celebrity journalist), Jim Blackman (founder of Triangle TV), Denise l'Estrange Corbet (fashion

designer), Mana Dave (Hairdresser of the year Expo NZ 2005), Kelly Swanson-Roe (TV3's lifestyle presenter), Jenene Crossan (founder of nzgirl.co.nz), Jackie Clarke (a Zealand Idol judge) and Faraaz Ali (Mr India NZ 2004). Speaking to The Global Indian, David said, "This was a great group of young men who have stepped outside the box for a once in a lifetime experience. I've been the chairman of the judging panel for the past two years and each year I've found all the contestants to be respectful of each other and everything connected with the contest."

A stronger MC team may do wonders for the show next year by tying together all the enchanting individual performances. Prakash Mani, the organiser, brought on board many entertaining acts to make the event most entertaining, and it took away attention from the real stars of the night – the contestants. The panel of judges should include someone with a background in Indian culture.

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GANDHI—AN N.R.I. DREAM

Vaibhav Gangan

136 years ago, on 2nd October, a global citizen was born. The UK, South Africa and finally India—Gandhi lived in three different cultures, was influenced by each, and finally influenced each. As we go to print with this issue, Gandhi Birth Anniversary is celebrated worldwide.

While talking to some South African whites in New Zealand, I realised the number of parallels between India and South Africa, Gandhi being one. While studying in the UK, Gandhi went full circle from trying non-vegetarian diet to coming very close to getting attracted to a white woman. His conscience stood him in good stead at crucial

times. Gandhi's story is not of abstinence because that would put him in the same league as God. It's more of getting carried away by senses first, and then learning from those mistakes, and observing abstinence. This quality of Gandhi makes him a guy-next-door while at the same time influences so many souls with his extraordinary virtues. As an NRI, he went to South Africa, saw the conditions of Indians, fought for their rights for 21 years, and brought justice to their cause.

As my South African white friend said, "Apartheid was as much detrimental to whites as it was to blacks. You can't take away rights of a few without affecting the rights of others." Let's look at NRIs throughout the world. Gandhi was an NRI, like us. Should the similarity end there?



Restore a childhood, support CRY

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

Donate online: www.cry.org. Meet us at CRY Stall at the Diwali Festival in Auckland on 30 October. To volunteer, phone Vaibhav Gangan (0212514924) or visit: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CRYNZ/>



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REMAKING CLASSICS

Vivek Singhania

After Sanjay Leela Bhansali (*Devdas*) and Pradeep Sarkar (*Parineeta*), it is now the turn of Ram Gopal Varma and Farhan Akhtar to remake Bollywood's own classics.

While

Bhansali and Sarkar chose period literary works that had earlier



been filmed by Bollywood, Varma and Akhtar have chosen contemporary classics from the Bollywood mainstream stable.

It is no hidden fact that Bollywood's writers have been reluctant to write original screenplays preferring instead to plagiarise old and contemporary Hollywood films. Now looking at their Hollywood counterparts successfully remaking their vintage classics, Bollywood too is gearing up to follow this formula. Of course, closer home too - *Hum Aapke Hain Kaun* - one of Bollywood's

biggest blockbusters was inspired from an earlier Rajshri film *Nadiya Ke Paar*.

For starters, Akhtar has chosen to remake the Amitabh Bachchan classic, *Don*, with none other than current superstar Shahrukh Khan. Although *Don* still lives fresh in the memories of most Bollywood fans,

Starting with this issue, we are delighted to exclusively bring on board yet another renowned columnist. Vivek is a Bollywood film-maker with features like *Na Tum Jaano Na Hum* and *Chura Liyaa Hai Tumne* to his credit. The London Business School graduate refuses to sit on fence while writing exclusively for The Global Indian.

what with repeat telecast on satellite television, Shahrukh's portrayal will be eagerly anticipated by Indian audiences in India and abroad. Giving Shahrukh company are Kareena Kapoor and Priyanka Chopra.

Varma, after finding success with *Sarkar*, a film inspired by Coppola's *Godfather*, has now chosen to remake probably the biggest Bollywood grosser of all times, *Sholay*, with Amitabh Bachchan likely to play the role of *Gabbar*, originally essayed by late Amjad Khan. Three decades after he played *Jai* in *Sholay*, Amitabh still

remains iconic and rules the heart of all Bollywood fans across the globe. His performance as *Gabbar* of the 21st century should decide the fate of this remake just the way Amjad Khan's portrayal wowed audiences then and paved the way for the film to create Bollywood history.

Whether it will be Feroz Khan's

Qurbani or Shekhar Kapur's *Masoom* next, only time will tell. What may be worth noting is that Frank Capra remade his own classic *Lady for a Day* in 1961 as *Pocketful of Miracles*, so perhaps it may just be time for Yash Chopra to remake his 70s classic—*Deewar* again.

FEEDBACK: You can email your selection of Bollywood films that you would like to see remade, to: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz

Due to space constraints, we are unable to publish Movie Guide this month. Apologies—Editor

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FROM INDIA, WITH FUN

Sangeeta Anand

This season's *From India With Love* was like one of those old Dada Kondke or Govinda-David Dhawan movies – where actions spoke louder than words and was greeted by even louder laughter.

The story in brief – *Manhur* and *Pushpa* migrate from an Indian village to New Zealand, with the intent of earning enough money to treat *Pushpa's* ailing father back home. The story takes us through a new migrant's days of struggle in New Zealand following rejection, before they settle and grow old in this land. The story fails to make any point (which may be intentional).

Tarun Mohanbhai and Rajeev Varma have combined drama with a movie very well, with song sequences on the



screen in the background. Rajeev Verma is more ecstatic of the two, with athletic steps and tremendous talent for playing multiple roles.

Like the Govinda movies, the story-plot is incidental. There are moments in the play where the creativity reaches its peak, but overall, the play lets discerning theatre-goers down in many scenes. There are clearly areas in the plot that lend a very good source for 'situational comedy', but the thrust of the play has been more on 'physical' comedy.

However, *Those Indian Guys* had audiences (or most of them) in splits throughout the play. The play made a mockery of Bollywood (the song sequences, the hero braving numerous bullets, and of course, the dialogue with God), and of Indian culture. At one place, *Pushpa* says, "This letter must have come from India –it smells of shit!" Of course, in a few places, the joke is on New Zealand as well – the welfare system, the racism and the like. The play was cashing on the audience's ignorance or misconceptions about Indian culture. The *NZ Herald* feels that the play "offers a sweet and funny insight into life as an Indian New Zealander." This surely is not a representation of an Indian Kiwi (I hope not!). For commercial stage, actors forgetting their lines not just once, but thrice on the final night of the show, leaves a lot to be desired.

KRISHNAN DAIRY IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE—Having captivated Australian audiences at 10 Days



on the Island and the Castlemaine State Festival, *Krishnan's Dairy* has now opened its doors in Melbourne. October 19 to 30, at The Malthouse. Not to be missed!

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FIREWORKS IN WAITAKERE

Sangeeta Anand

Waitakere City's Diwali Festival or festival of lights on 16 October at the Trusts Stadium in Henderson promises to be an entertaining night. The Global Indian magazine is an official media partner. Hosted by the Waitakere Ethnic Board and sponsored by Radio Tarana, the festival is expected to attract 7000 people who can enjoy traditional Indian dances, taste Indian delicacies, participate in Rongoli competition as well as enjoy a variety of other ethnic performances. The programme starts at 2pm and depicts the multi-ethnic nature of our

communities and reflects the modern side of Indian music and dances. The evening programme begins at 6pm and emphasises traditional and religious aspects of Diwali. Sonar Chand, who is overseeing the entertainment, says, "The line up of performers is one of the most exciting features." The festival plans to top off the night with a dazzling display of fireworks. Contact Ann Pala on 09 818 4450 or Camille Nakhid 021 045 7368 or Rachel Blundell 836 8000 ext 8461.

the global indian tell-a-friend draw

The winner of the September surprise gift competition is **Tulip Oliveira** (again!). Winner should contact us within a month. Would you like to win? Just send us email addresses of your friends in New Zealand. They'll get our future issues free, and you will go in a draw to win a surprise gift. Entries close 20th of this month. Email: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz (Open to NZ readers. Email addresses should be valid and should be of people living in New Zealand. Management's decision will be final.)

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ASURPRISE
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SPICY EGGS

Ashok Kumar Parmar

Ingredients

6 eggs; 1 medium onion/spring onion; ½ teaspoon salt, turmeric, chilli powder; 1 teaspoon crushed garlic, crushed ginger, garam masala; 1 tablespoon oil soy sauce

Method

Break the eggs into a bowl and mix in all the ingredients thoroughly. Slice the onions finely and fry in the oil till brown. Pour in the

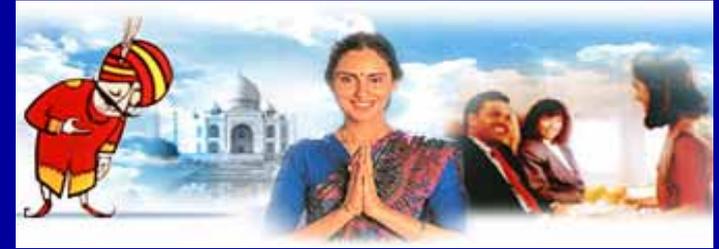
egg mixture on medium heat. Using a tablespoon scrape the cooked bits from the bottom. Keep this up until all the mixture is fluffy and cooked.

You can add anything you like - tomatoes, spring onions, green peppers etc. You can add a small amount of milk to make it fluffier. Serve Spicy Scrambled Eggs with bread or roti.

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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CHAPPELL OR GANGULY?

Sanjay Karhade

I am not a Sourav Ganguly fan. Nor do I represent Greg Chappell. However, fact remains that the after-effects of the brawl between the two will be far reaching. It's unlikely that the Ganguly-Chappell duo will be able to pose again with pool-cues together unless they imagine them as weapons. Obviously, one will have to go. Who will or should that be?



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.

Chappell has a reason to be peeved about Ganguly spilling the dressing room chat out in the open. And rightly so. Let's assume that Ganguly was 'told' by the coach to step down latest on the eve of the first test. Then why did Ganguly wait till the third day of the match - when he scored a century - to make Chappell's 'suggestion' public? Would he have done the same thing had he not scored the century? If Ganguly were to make Chappell's suggestion public immediately and had not scored, he would have put his own place in jeopardy. However, after scoring the century he is now able to portray himself in better light, justify his place in the team and also claim the ability to fight against all odds. Now we also know why he batted so

slowly (20 odd runs off 80 odd balls) on the second day. This also clearly establishes that Ganguly himself had asked for Chappell's suggestion and then 'used' the same to his advantage.

Chappell in retaliation has sent a report on Ganguly in which he has reportedly called Ganguly 'mentally and physically unfit to captain India'. Chappell has also said that Ganguly is using divide-n-rule tactic. Here, Chappell has erred as much as Ganguly. It shows that the one-upmanship was already brewing and the clash of egos was only on the cards.

And if Chappell is losing his balance only after two series then there should be a question mark against the coach's mental fitness as well. Also how will you certify someone's physical fitness who has refused to tour India in his younger days because its dusty and now has no problems coaching India for the full term?

Chappell too can be accused of using divide and rule tactic, because, immediately after his e-mail became public he's talking about how great Sehwag is and how he could be nurtured.

If both are wrong and both cannot sail together, one will have to go. If Ganguly goes, Chappell will be seen as a monster by the players. If Chappell goes, Ganguly may in fact behave as one! In such a scenario who'll take up the coaching assignment in India? And even if both stay - aren't we kissing a goodbye to the World Cup?

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POWER OF FULL ENGAGEMENT

Jasbindar Singh

If you were to pause for a few minutes and take a reading on the current levels of engagement in your organisation, what do you think you will discover? How engaged will your people be in the projects or strategy which you consider vital for the ongoing success of your business? Engagement is a critical imperative whether you are trying to initiate culture change, build a high performing team or formulate and implement strategy. Superior organisational performance has been identified as strongly correlated with high levels of employee engagement by well-regarded survey firms such as Gallup.

Your role as a leader: As a new manager or leader, you may not be fully conscious of all the dynamics that exist let alone how best to tackle it. Take my coaching client Bill as an example (not his real name). Bill was an exceptional and hugely talented individual in his technical sphere. Because of Bill's perceived capabilities, he had been promoted to lead the charge. When I met Bill, he was seriously working this out by himself. Unfortunately what Bill had overlooked was that his team was not even "in the field" with him. They felt minimised and discounted by how Bill related to them. The commonly expressed sentiment was that he did not appear to be interested in their ideas and contribution. Furthermore that he was uncomfortable in sharing his ideas with them. Bill's abrupt

and impatient manner was also considered an impediment in building good communication channels. Feelings of dissatisfaction and frustrations levels were high in the team but remained unexpressed.

Bill had been so intent on meeting the business objectives, that he had ignored utilising the talent of those around him and building a strong and competent team. Whilst his role had

changed, Bill's "head set" was still that of a technical specialist, not a senior manager or leader.

It was a sobering moment for Bill when he received his 360 degree feedback. The dawning realisation was "I can't carry on like this." Bill subsequently embarked on a long but rewarding journey of learning more about the softer skills he had previously written off as a "waste of time!"

Indeed, it could be easy to write Bill off as an extreme "techno" example but what about you? Are you aware which of your behaviours and attitudes might be posing barriers towards being a high performing individual or team? Are you getting the best out of your people? And if you were to take one step, what is one small thing you could do differently?

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



'Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships.'

Michael Jordan

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A BEAUTIFUL LEGACY

Ruth DeSouza

Sometimes it's not until you lose somebody that you realise the legacy they left you. There is much that migrating to New Zealand gave me and my family and a recent death made me reflect on those things. There are so many people who are part of our journey to settlement and it's easy to forget their contribution as we become established.

The first house I lived in when I came to New Zealand had a magical garden with kiwifruit vines, mandarin, peach, plum, apple, lemon and grapefruit trees, and a stream at the bottom of it. Quite a contrast from my family's garden in Nairobi both in size and foliage where we had bougainvilleas, kohlrabi and chickens. Here the house had no bars on the windows or guards with cane knives patrolling the street. We lived in that house and garden for a few months until we got on our feet and found somewhere more permanent. We became friends with the owners of that house and garden and as we had no grandparents in New Zealand they became our 'Nana' and 'Pop'. I am sure that that their garden was an inspiration for my long lasting fascination with growing things. Later my sister Sarah and I lived with Nana and Pop for a short time while my parents and youngest

sister were living in the Kingdom of Tonga for the last few months of their contract. The time we had with them was very precious; they embodied the finest qualities of New Zealanders.



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

“Thanks for the curried sausages (Kiwifruit style), the cinnamon toast, the love of gardening, the desire to give back to the community...

They were generous with their home, kind to people, were creative, hard working and gave their time to those who needed it.

Nana Claxton was a hospital grandmother and she too inspired me to contribute my time freely to others. Recently Nana Claxton died. Why does it take death to make us do a stock-take of what people have meant to us? Thanks for the curried sausages (Kiwifruit style), the cinnamon toast, the love of gardening, the desire to give back to the community and most of all thanks for being our Nana when we didn't have one.

"When we were young kids growing up in America, we were told to eat our vegetables at dinner and not leave them. Mothers said, 'think of the starving children in India and finish the dinner.' And now I tell my children: 'Finish your maths homework. Think of the children in India who would make you starve, if you don't'" Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times*.

QUOTABLE
QUOTE

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WE WON'T ASK FOR FUNDING

I'd like to respond to Ram Rai's comments about the Independence Day celebrations (Sept 05). I agree wholeheartedly with Ram. One of the Independence day celebrations was organised by West Auckland Indian

“the nation we live in will one day be the nation our children call home. Let's make it a better place.”

Community (WAIC) who do not get funding nor will apply for funding for simple reasons. First, we have at this point done no service to the community. Second, Ram is absolutely spot-on when he mentions the division in the community. We have several ethnic newspapers and two major ethnic radio stations and yet on the day when we hoisted the Indian flag on the Auckland harbour bridge (a first), only one radio station was broadcasting this information and one newspaper felt this didn't warrant a mention. We would like to change that. Third, WAIC was started by Indians from India but consists of people of Indian descent from Malaysia, Fiji, South Africa and so on because of the lack of cohesion within the community. One of our senior citizen members is a Pakeha and her only link with India is the time she spent in Bombay as a nurse, but she is there faithfully at every event. We are

the ordinary tax payers Ram mentions and based on Ram's comments, as one ordinary rate payer to another, I would like to extend an invitation to Ram. We need people who are active members and who want to voice their opinion, not because we have political agendas but because the nation we live in will one day be the nation our children call home. Let's make it a better place.

Amit Garg, WAIC, Auckland

(We would have loved to provide coverage to the flag hoisting if we were informed. When we learnt about it later, we sent our compliments to Yasmin Sait—Editor)

JEET SHOULD STEP DOWN

Jeet Suchdeva (Bharatiya Samaj) did not act professionally in dealing with the National Party members (Sep 05). If he does not know who Dr Brash is then he is not capable of representing our Indian community. Who is he to say no to Ravi Musuku? He does not represent community as a whole. He should step down from the community leadership . He may be a Labour supporter but that does not mean all Indians are with him.

Harish Patel

Continued...



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INDO-FIJIAN PERSPECTIVE

Many Indo-Fijians, like myself, simply vote for Labour because in our minds the Labour Party largely represents the Indo-Fijian party in Fiji and by connotation, the party to support in New Zealand. But for all the support given to Labour in New Zealand what have they done for the Fiji-Indian community? New Zealand has a serious skills shortage and knowing the plight of Fiji Indians and their overwhelming desire to emigrate to countries like New Zealand, as well as knowing the work ethics of Indians and the fact that they are good, law abiding, hard working people, Labour could have offered a variety of schemes to draw these skills, including providing funding for trade-related training schemes in Fiji. Fiji is perhaps the most important trading partner of New Zealand in the South Pacific. This is due in many ways to the much higher level of economic development of Fiji compared to the other Island nations in the Pacific.

The major contributor to this level of economic development of Fiji is undeniably the contribution of Fiji Indians. It can be said that New Zealand has benefited handsomely from the Indians in Fiji. In their time of need, when the social and economic circumstances of Fiji

Indians in Fiji have been severely deteriorating, very little in the way of friendly, welcoming help, has been forthcoming from the New Zealand Labour government. A

lot of lip service is given by the Labour Party- they speak nice words of comfort and appreciation to the Indian community during the Deepavali Festival, the Eid Festival and during Christmas and New Year. They even host Deepavali receptions in Parliament. This is commendable, but is this what I really need for the problems of my community in Fiji?

Letter of the month

Surendra Sharma wins "Letter of the Month" award. The winner should contact us within 15 days from the publication of this issue, to collect his surprise gift.

If you would like to win, send your letter to editor: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz

Surendra Sharma, Mt Eden, Auckland

MEET OUR EDITOR

Here's your chance to meet our editor, Vaibhav Gangan, at The Global Indian magazine's booth during Auckland's Diwali Festival at Aotorea Square on 30 October. We look forward to meeting you there.

PRIZES TO BE WON

The Global Indian magazine is giving away prizes to its readers. To win: Send your articles, poems, photos, letters to editor; or send email addresses of your friends. (Details in this issue). You can win surprise gifts. Send in your entries to: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz

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