

## MONTH SPECIAL

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## GANDHIGIRI IN NEW ZEALAND

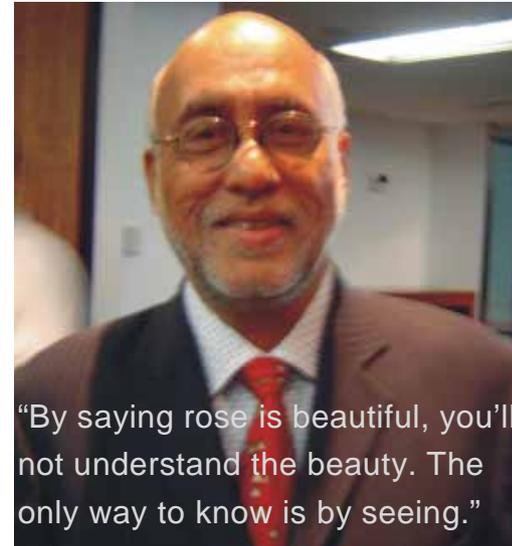
Sangeeta Anand

Maahatma Gandhi's message: "be the change you want to see in the world", may find very few takers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One of them is Indian billionaire industrialist Shekhar Bajaj.

When this chairman and managing director of NZ\$5 billion Bajaj Electricals Ltd (BEL) visited New Zealand in January this year, he was impressed by its clean environment. Why can't we be environmentally responsible in India, he wondered.

He knew that seeing is believing. "By saying rose is beautiful, you'll not understand the beauty," Shekhar says. "The only way to know is by seeing."

So he brought a group of his senior managers and dealers to New Zealand last month, so that they could



"By saying rose is beautiful, you'll not understand the beauty. The only way to know is by seeing."

experience New Zealand's environment-friendly attitude firsthand. "When a member of our group was about to throw an ice-cream wrapper on the road, I asked him to put in the bin," Shekhar informs *The Global Indian*.

And New Zealand was only too happy to receive the Bajaj team, since it was not a small group. Over 250 dealers and employees from across India came with Shekhar.

As part of its dealers-relationship programme, BEL has been taking their dealers to different overseas trips for the last four years. The group previously visited Dubai, Hong Kong, China and Switzerland. "Switzerland is beautiful, but New Zealand is clearly the best," Shekhar says. "Many of them (group members) had never seen snow in their life. So, they're enjoying this trip."

Shekhar's wife, Kiran Bajaj, runs Paryavaran Mitra (friends of the environment), a not-for-profit organisation working towards initiating measures to protect the environment.

The charity has signed up over 2400 members in the last two years alone, mostly friends and family members of Bajaj employees and dealers. BEL is part of India's fifth largest business conglomerate— the NZ\$47 billion Bajaj group, and is already involved with NZ \$5 million worth of philanthropic projects.

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Two groups of Bajaj staff and dealers toured the country. The first visited Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mount Cook and Christchurch. The second group visited Auckland, Rotorua and Waitomo.

On this trip, BEL, which produces appliances, fans, lighting and also has interests in wind energy, presented its business strategy to the group.

Benevolent Shekhar brought 40kg of Indian Tourism Ministry's promotional material with him, to promote India as a tourist destination to New Zealanders. "New Zealand should boost tourism from India, by starting a direct flight between Auckland and Mumbai," he says.

The widely diversified Bajaj group employs 32,000 people and operates in many export markets. If you have visited Indonesia, you've probably already used a Bajaj product – the tuk tuk. "These tuk tuks are called bayaaaj by the locals because they can't pronounce 'Bajaj'," Shekhar informs.

Soft-spoken, down-to-earth Shekhar's 'Gandhigiri' (a new term for Gandhism becoming popular in India) shouldn't come as a surprise for those who know his family history. "Gandhiji had accepted my grandfather, Jamnalal, as his fifth son," Shekhar adds.

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## INDIANS FEEL DISCRIMINATED

The Global Indian Survey

An Indian in New Zealand is likely to be in an administrative/physical job, be under-paid, has never been promoted, and has faced job discrimination up to 10 times or more. These are the findings of a job survey conducted by *The Global Indian*.

Almost two in three Indians (63%) felt they have been discriminated in recruitment process or at work. The nationwide survey of 232 respondents also revealed that every second Indian in New Zealand is likely to be earning less than \$50,000 a year, while every third Indian is employed in physical, administrative, secretarial, or customer service role.

One in two Indians said they have never been promoted in a job in New Zealand. Two in three Indians feel that their salary is not in line with their qualifications and skills, and that they are under-paid. Three in four (72%) Indians felt their career has been adversely affected after migrating to

New Zealand. One respondent said that he/she has not had a permanent job for the past 12 years.

Which explains this advice from another respondent, "Talented people with proven track record should be educated on the realities here and should be sincerely discouraged from planning a life in New Zealand before they burn their bridges back home."

However, the survey also highlighted

**"Talented people should be sincerely discouraged from planning a life in New Zealand before they burn their bridges back home."**

a minority group in the Indian community who have fought against all odds to achieve their goals. "In the beginning, yes I felt my career was adversely affected. However, things have got better as the Kiwis became more aware that Indians could speak English," one respondent said. "And thanks to us Indians who have proved to the doubtful Kiwis that we actually speak the Queen's English with good pronunciation, correct spelling and are

not lazy speakers." But that's only a minority, as only 10% Indians surveyed earn over \$90,000 a year.

The respondents cited a need for employers, the immigration service, and migrants to develop solutions to address the issue. "(There is a need for) cross-cultural training and diversity management skills among management personnel (not HR departments alone)," one respondent said. Another suggested that Indians should always follow up a job application with a phone call to make sure the people know that they can speak English well. According to one respondent, politicians or migrant centres have to talk to the business owners for equal opportunities.

Indians form the second-largest ethnic group in New Zealand, after Chinese. According to a Statistics New Zealand projection, Asians will be the largest growing ethnic group in New Zealand, expected to grow by a whopping 147 percent in just 14 years from now.

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## VIJAYA REPRESENTS NZ IN THE UK

Vaibhav Gangan

While many of our readers feel that their career has been adversely affected after coming to New Zealand (according to *The Global Indian* job survey), there are a few Indians who have worked hard and tasted success in Kiwiland.

One such achiever is Vijaya Vaidyanath, who was *The Global Indian of the Month* in our inaugural issue (October 2004), and since has grown from strength to strength. As we write this, Vijaya, chief executive of Rodney District Council, is representing New Zealand in the UK. This was her prize after winning the prestigious 2005 Overseas Exchange Award sponsored by SOLGM (Society of Local Government Managers), and Jardine, Lloyd Thompson Ltd.

She'll visit local authorities in England to study their ways of addressing issues such as transport and business growth, and share New Zealand practices with them. Before leaving, Vijay told *The Global Indian* that she feels proud to be representing New Zealand.

Later on her trip, Vijaya will also be meeting other senior business leaders including, Indra Nooyi, chief executive officer of PepsiCo. India-origin Indra recently shared space with Sonia Gandhi in the list of the top 10 most influential women in the world, prepared by the *Forbes* magazine (Read more about Indra elsewhere in this issue).

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Wining awards comes as a habit for Vijaya. 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.

Chennai-born, Calcutta-bred, Bangalore-educated and with career postings all over India, Vijaya had never imagined that she would land in New Zealand one day. Having acquired an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, USA and earned a Dean's Excellence

Placement in that, one of her options was to settle in the US. However, her husband Gopal and she wanted to move to a smaller country. So she came here first in 1992, then finally in 1994.

In New Zealand, she got the opportunity to work as Director of Corporate Services at the South Taranaki District Council, based in Hawera. The journey took them to Palmerston North and then to the Auckland Region to head Rodney District – the fastest growing region in the country.

## RAVEEN TO HEAD A WATER UTILITY

Sangeeta Anand

As Vijaya heads off to the UK, another leader is making waves in New Zealand's local government sector. Raveen Jaduram has taken over as the chief executive officer of Manukau Water Ltd- a Manukau City Council company responsible for providing water and wastewater services to the 328,000 residents of Manukau City. Raveen was featured as *The Global Indian Of the Month* by this publication in December 2004, identifying him as a promising



achiever.

Before joining Manukau Water, he worked for Metro Water Limited for three years and was able to reduce their operational costs by 20%. Before Metrowater, Raveen worked with Watercare Services Limited. He was also the president of New Zealand Water and Wastes Association.

Raveen came to New Zealand from Fiji in 1981 to complete civil engineering degree at the Auckland University. He then went back to Fiji in 1984 and worked for Housing Authority of Fiji, a quasi-government body, for two and a half years. He then migrated to New Zealand in 1987 with his wife, Roshni, and their eight-month old daughter Deepika.

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ROAD TO SUCCESS

Vaibhav Gangan

When IITian Abhey Kumar migrated to New Zealand in 2004, he knew he was here to contribute. Last month, he presented a technical case study on improving the structure of one of the highest-traffic roads in Auckland - the South Eastern Highway. He won the Roothing New Zealand Young Presenters' Award for his presentation titled "South Eastern Highway Pavement Failure and Solutions".

Interestingly the 23-year old engineer competed in the Under 40 category with more senior presenters from New Zealand's major roading and contracting companies at the 5th

Auckland Asphalt Group Technical Forum. Abhey received very positive feedback from the 100-strong

audience of the conference. The 23-year old joined Beca, a New Zealand engineering company, after completing B Tech (Civil) from the prestigious IIT in Delhi. Next time when you enjoy your smooth ride on the highway, you know who to think of!



GET YOUR GROOVE BACK COMPETITION

Thank you readers for sending your responses to the Get Your Groove Back Competition. And the winner is:



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Staff correspondent

As we publish this issue, Indra Nooyi takes over the reins of PepsiCo, the world's fourth largest beverage company, on 1 October.



The 51-year old India-born super-achiever replaces Steve Reinemund as chief executive officer. As India was preparing to celebrate its Independence Day this year, Indra found herself being named the fifth chief executive in Pepsi's 41-year

history.

She has been promoted from her current role of president and chief financial officer of PepsiCo, which she assumed in 2001. While working at Pepsi since 1994, she was instrumental in Pepsi's

acquisition of Tropicana in 1998.

Indra's potential to influence the global business map was recognised last year when the *Wall Street Journal* included Indra in its list of 50 women to watch.

Last month, the *Forbes* magazine described Indra Nooyi as the fourth most powerful woman in the world. Of course, Indra must be used to finding a place in these lists. Earlier, she was in the *Fortune* magazine's list of Most Powerful Women In Business.

Born in Madras, Indra has had distinctive education, graduating from the prestigious Indian Institute of Management, followed by the Yale School of Management. She also serves on the Board of Motorola and the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

AIRLINER DISALLOWS INDIAN PASSENGER

In a bizarre yet humiliating experience, an Indian passenger was not allowed to board an Italian plane on its way to Milan. The passenger was on his way to speak at a business conference in Brazil and had all the travel documentation – a passport, a valid visa and a business class ticket.

Santraj Maurya, the passenger, was a rag picker from Delhi. A not-for-profit

organisation, Chintan, recognising his entrepreneurial qualities, had arranged to send him to the conference to speak about his leadership. Since the charity organisation could not buy an economy ticket in time, they had to buy a business class ticket.

The incidence has evoked an outrage among Indians worldwide, many of whom have decided not to use the airliner (Alitalia) in future. They saw it as a racist incident. The fact that the

airline official was an Indian has added the 'caste' dimension to the debate.

Some also felt that airline had the right to refuse to fly a passenger on hygiene reasons, and felt that it was the charity company's responsibility to make sure that their conference speaker was presentable (it's unclear from reports if he was).

The charity organisation is reportedly considering legal action against the airliner.

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**AUCKLAND PROFESSOR WRITES TO INDIA'S SUPREME COURT**

In a type of action not available in many countries, an Indian citizen is challenging proposed field trials of a particularly obnoxious GM-eggplant. Several scientists have deposed statements in support. One of them is Robert Mann (Robert Mann), a senior lecturer in Biochemistry (rtd) from University of Auckland. Robert issued a statement for the Supreme Court of India on the Writ Petition of Aruna Rodrigues.

India and China produce 84% of the world's brinjal. However, brinjal requires extensive pesticide to protect it from the pest. The Genetically Modified (GM) brinjal (bt brinjal) is expected to reduce the use of pesticides and thus result in higher profits for farmers.

The USAID-funded project involves India, Bangladesh and the Philippines, and plans to trial these plants in Tamil Nadu and

Maharashtra.

However, Prof Mann warns that interfering with any natural process has its dire consequences. "The techniques of GM no more entail a uniform degree of hazard than does nuclear science," he says in a release.



Prof Mann has served as an adviser to many ministers of health in New Zealand and has taught on environmental health hazards for many years. "I know all too well how government staff get subverted by not only the specific claims but more importantly the whole value-system of the industries which they are supposed to regulate," he warns.

One aspect of 'Bt'-Brinjal which

deserves more attention, according to Prof Mann, is the concern that GM-'Bt' plants will evoke proliferation of mutant insects resistant to BT. "Insects resistant to this pesticide would be a serious threat to many types of agriculture on which a country such as India inevitably and rightly relies."

His major concern is the global ecological damage arising from inserting Bt toxin in the eggplant to make it pest-resistant. He also asserts that the effects of genes inserted by radically unnatural methods are known to be extremely variable (frequently lethal).

Explaining the fatal effects, Prof Mann says that a hundred or so people were killed, and a few thousand maimed, in the 1980s by impurities in L-tryptophan (a natural amino acid, sold as a dietary supplement) made by Showa Denko using GM'd bacterial cultures. Showa Denko has paid roughly US\$2 billion in out-of-court settlements of suits resulting from these deaths.

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COVERAGE OF ASIA IS INTERMITTENT—HELEN CLARK

Coverage of Asia in the New Zealand news media is intermittent and the lack of New Zealand-employed correspondents based in Asia is a problem, says Prime Minister Helen Clark, according to Asia:NZ Foundation's September newsletter for media. She was speaking at the Preparing for Future with Asia Summit in Wellington, organised by the

foundation.

But while there had been some good reporting of Asian matters in recent years, particularly in business reporting, Miss Clark said the withdrawal at the end of last year of TVNZ's Hong Kong-based journalist was "very disappointing".

The prime minister also noted that Asia will feature prominently next year in activities around Export Year. Participation and leadership by business and industry will be critical, with the government's role being to

facilitate initiatives developed by and for the business community.

The lack of Asian journalists in New Zealand newsrooms is just one of the challenges facing the country if it is to prepare for a future with the Asian region, says Asia:NZ Chairman Sir Dryden Spring.

He was responding to an NZJTO survey that found only about 1% of the journalists employed in New Zealand were of Asian Descent, despite Asians making up nearly ten percent of the population.

KIWI REPORTERS VISIT INDIA

The Asia:NZ 2006 media travel awards for South Asia have gone to Charmian Smith of the Otago Daily Times and Ryan Hutchings, a freelance Radio NZ programme maker.

Both intend to travel to India in the next few months to research a number of interesting story ideas. Charmian Smith is a senior feature writer with the Dunedin-based daily and Ryan Hutchings is an Auckland-based freelance documentary television and radio programme maker. (Source: the Asia:NZ Foundation media newsletter)

ASIANS LESS LIKELY TO BE HEAVY DRINKERS

People with Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Jewish genes are cheaper drunks and therefore have a lower risk of becoming alcoholics, according to a visiting expert in the genetics of alcoholism. Marc Schuckit, a psychiatry professor at the University of California, said 10% of Japanese, Chinese and Korean people had bad genes that made them ill and nauseous after a small dose of alcohol, reported the NZ Herald. Almost half of these Asians had an enzyme that was unable to break down alcohol properly. As a result, they are less tolerant of alcohol and are therefore less likely to drink heavily, the report added.

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**INDIA IMPROVES COMPETITIVENESS RANKING**

Geneva, Switzerland – India improves its position by two places in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) rankings for 2006-07 coming in 43rd, well ahead of other BRIC economies - Brazil (66), China

(54) and Russia (62), a release from the World Economic Forum said. As in previous years, India continues to score well in indicators related to innovation and sophistication of firm operations, as well as in the adoption of technologies from abroad.

"The quality of the business environment in India has improved tangibly in recent years. Goods, labour and financial markets are

making gains in efficiency and it is particularly encouraging to see substantial improvements in the quality of public institutions," said Augusto Lopez-Claros, Chief Economist and Head of the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Network.

This year, over 11,000 business leaders were polled in a record 125 economies worldwide.

**BRING IN INDIAN STUDENTS**

Adding another fair to its regular education fairs were New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and Education New Zealand. This year's fair in Chennai gave an opportunity to Indian students to meet the representatives from over 20 educational institutions across New Zealand, and to get an overview of various educational options on the offer. According to Paul Vaughan, New Zealand's Trade Commissioner to India, New Zealand is gaining popularity as a preferred destination in education. These fairs have been regularly organised in India for the past six years. "We are witnessing a substantial growth in the number of visa applications year-on-year. Though the numbers are small presently, there is potential for growth," Paul says in a release.

**INDIA'S LOSS, FIJI'S GAIN**

When Sublime Pacifica Ltd wanted to open their offshore operations for ICT (information, communication and technology), they chose Fiji over India.

"Fiji has amazing, skilled and very talented workers who are keen and accurate with their work," Craig Pellett, one of the major shareholders told the Fiji Times. He added that Fiji's close proximity to Australia and New Zealand was another reason.

According to the newspaper report, they chose Fiji over countries like Eastern Europe and India.

Many companies in New Zealand and Australia outsource their data management needs to Sublime. After setting up their first office outside New Zealand and Australia, the company has grown to 23 employees in Fiji in less than a year, and with a further investment of \$3 million, the company expects to create 200 more jobs in six to 12 months.

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## WASTED SKILLS

Thakur Ranjit Singh

In an ethnic board workshop last year in Auckland, I had an opportunity to listen to an interesting anecdote from a Chinese speaker. He said that if a pregnant woman gives birth in an Auckland taxi, she would be safe, or it is even luckier, if you can say that, to have a heart attack in one of Auckland's public buses. The chances are that the Indian taxi driver is a doctor, or the Chinese, Malaysian or Singaporean bus driver is a cardiologist. Both these classes of people and similar professionals are forced to give up their profession which they had practiced for most of their lives in their home country.

**if a pregnant woman gives birth in an Auckland taxi, she would be safe...**

Some months ago, I helped a long term friend of mine on backward migration to Fiji. The husband was a high court judge in Fiji and his wife was top paediatrician in Fiji. She will open up a clinic in Nadi's tourism belt and treat Kiwi children who she was not allowed to touch here.

Let's look at traffic problems in Auckland. We have a



pathetic public transport system. On top of that, Auckland's heavy goods vehicles tend to mobilise just between 6 to 9 am to compete with Auckland commuters on their way to work. If Auckland Regional Authority, Auckland City Council and other similar organisations had a will to solve this problem, they would have looked to recruit non-Anglo Saxons from Asian countries who have already travelled this route.

Auckland does not need to reinvent the wheel. Cities like New Delhi, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur can devour whole of Auckland in one of its suburbs.

In New Delhi, no heavy vehicles are allowed on the roads between 6.30 am until 10am by when all the working public have been safely and quickly transported to their workplace. But not in Auckland!

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Singapore allows only vehicles with odd and even numbers on certain days in the city. This forces people to pool their vehicles and not unnecessarily clutter city roads.

However those experts from New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur or Singapore who have been given migrant visas to come to this country to contribute to its economy and help solve their problems are driving buses and taxis, delivering newspapers or pumping fuel in service stations because the selective job market here does not allow them to break into positions where they could contribute strategically. Either such people do not possess New Zealand experience or their communication skills, mostly their accent, are deemed inadequate or unsuitable.

And in the meantime, retailing shops which do not start to get customers beyond 10 am continue to open at 8am which continue to further clog our roads.

If there was political will to roster Auckland's living habits then we still

have enough motorways to accommodate all of us. They need to be humble enough to learn from experience of other cities, especially in heavily populated Asian and Indian cities, and stop being so ethnocentric. You will say, why not use public transport to curb traffic congestion. Why should I waste my money when I can use my car cheaply?

Next time Stagecoach applies for a fare increase they need to consult an economist. The more you force me to pay for bus fare, the more I would try to use my own car. Where a one percent increase in price is going to result in five percent drop in revenue, this is a defeatist strategy.

In the meantime, City's ethnocentric movers and shakers are scratching their heads on how to solve this problem which the supposedly third world countries have already tackled.

*About the Author: Thakur Ranjit Singh is a columnist for ethnic and Fijian newspapers, and an advocate of human rights.*

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**GANDHI IS SO 'COOL'**

Vaibhav Gangan

As we celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Gandhigiri (Gandhism) seems to be the buzzword these days in India. A group of community members in Lukhnow recently experimented with the re-discovered weapon of resistance – satyagraha. Protesting against a liquor shop-owner, they delivered a truckload of roses to the shop-owner's doorsteps. The shop-owner was obviously not impressed, and the protestors spent a few hours behind the bar.

Though their efforts may not have transformed the shopowner's heart, it is an indication of change. And this change is seen in different forms. First, with films like *Rang De Basanti* and *Lage Raho Munnabhai*, Bollywood is harnessing its power to influence, and is instigating call for action against social issues. And Indians are rising above their habitual role of sitting on the fence in a disapproving mood, and have taken a

plunge at protesting. But now, they have a new weapon of protest – non-violent resistance (satyagraha).

Indian market is now flooded with 'Gandhi'-branded merchandise—from coffee mugs to T-shirts. And Gandhi's fan-following is growing. As one teenager said on CNN-IBN "Gandhi was a cool dude!"

The popularity of Gandhism is not only because of the medium (films) but also the language and tone. Munnabhai not simply talks like a layman, he also expresses similar concerns and ignorance. While Rang De Basanti set the stage for citizen activism, Lage Raho Munnabhai spoke to the man-next-door in their own language, instead of talking down from a lecturing podium.

Whether Gandhigiri will live through the next generation, or fizzle out like a passing fad, only time will tell. But it surely got people thinking. When the traditional systems of social justice seemed to fail, India started experiencing judicial activism in the 1990s. But with growing media

audience, India has recently witnessed media activism, especially manifested by over a dozen sting operations in the last year alone.

Add to that the recent upsurge of citizen journalists (thanks to blogs), and now the citizen activism, we have a country where its people are not only aware of their rights, but also willing to exercise it.

Since India passed its Right To Information Act (RTA) earlier this year, the government department dealing with RTA applications has received hundreds of thousands of requests for information.

Although this citizen activism reflects, to some extent, Indians' penchant to complain at the drop of a hat, most protests have a legitimate reason, and excessive activism is probably better than citizen apathy in most instances.

So the next time you are in India and power goes off, don't forget to send a bouquet of roses to the electricity department!

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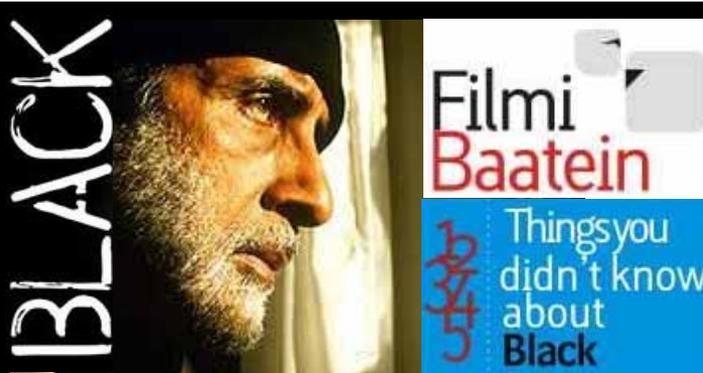
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5. Rani Mukerjee wore dark-tinted contact lenses to cover up her famous green eyes.

4. Sanjay Leela Bhansali named the film after his favourite colour.

3. The movie's title was registered with Kumar Gaurav; Sanjay Leela Bhansali approached him and requested him to relinquish the title. Kumar felt that the film was bold and path-breaking and wanted to render any help that he could to the film. Hence, the reason Sanjay expressed his gratitude to Kumar Gaurav in the opening credits.

2. After declining Sanjay Leela Bhansali's first three films, Kareena Kapoor finally accepted to do his film. Later on, Amitabh Bachchan refused to work with her because of the broken engagement of his son, Abhishek and her sister Karisma; so Rani Mukerjee stepped in.

1. At first, Rani refused to step in, as she felt she was unable to play the character she was proposed.



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DHOOM 2

The cat-and-mouse game continues as Abhishek Bachchan (ACP Jai Dixit) and Uday Chopra (Ali) continue in the lead roles along with Bipasha Basu (a police officer) and Rimi Sen (Sweetie Dixit). For the first time, Hrithik Roshan (Aryan Singh) and Aishwarya Rai (Aryan's girlfriend) will be playing opposite each other. Aryan will play a smooth-talking "perfect thief", a cool, multi-dimensional villain. His beautiful partner in crime will be none other

than Aishwarya Rai.

Picking up where 'Dhoom' left off, Jai has now been promoted to the head of Mumbai's Crime Branch division. With Ali and Bipasha as his deputies, he continues to chase after the motorcycle gang that robs rich businessmen.

The action sequences include much more than just motorcycles this time around. The cast has trained long and hard to add some breathtaking stunts including skydiving and sand

boarding, jet skiing and rollerblading into the mix. 'Dhoom II' will be released on November 24th. Don't miss it!



JAAN-E-MANN

This fairytale story tells of three friends — a rock-n-roll dude, a geek and a beautiful girl. Both guys fall in love with the girl, making it a love triangle.

Salman Khan (Suhaan Kapoor) is an immature long-haired rocker dude, totally into himself and his dreams—until a reality check comes along, and he realises what's really important in life.

Akshay Kumar is the perm-haired and glasses-wearing geek Agastya Rao. Simple, sweet, yet tongue-tied around the woman he loves. He believes in the power of love.

Preity Zinta (Piya Goyal) appears to have everything—looks, brains and money. Yet, she is plagued with a heartache that won't leave her no matter what she does.

Ten years later, the three meet up again and find that the love

still grows strong between them. Only this time a choice must be made. Who will become the ultimate love of Piya's life? Be at the theatres this Diwali/Eid to know for sure.

**This column is written by Judi Silva.**

Judi is a US-based freelance writer, publicist and author. She has written for many Indian publications in the US. She brings Bollywood briefs for The Global Indian readers.



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## BOOMING INDIA PLAYS PIED PIPER TO OVERSEAS INDIANS

Nayanima Basu

**T**hanks to better career opportunities, a booming economy and improved lifestyle options, a growing number of generationnext of overseas Indians are packing their bags and heading back to the country in what has become a trend for the past few years.

With most Fortune 500 companies having established their presence in India, the same set of Indian professionals who left the country in the past decade or two for better career paths overseas are getting increasingly attracted to India.

“The cutting-edge research, our growing intellectual property and the potential for entrepreneurship is also drawing many young people back,” says Kiran Karnik, president, National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom).

“These factors have also made India an attractive destination for foreigners,



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35,000 returned  
and still counting...

many of whom come to India because a stint here ‘looks good’ on their resumes,”

adds Karnik, who is at the helm of India’s software industry lobby.

According to Nasscom, India’s information technology sector alone has drawn some 35,000 expatriates back between 2001 and now and the trend has been growing each year.

“I basically went to the US because of entrepreneurship opportunities there and technological advances,” says Venky Rao, vice president with Satyam Computers’ Leadership Centre in Hyderabad, who has returned after a 10-year stint. “But today I find India very encouraging. I am glad to be part of probably the ‘transition time’ in Indian development history,” adds Rao, who plans to join a local flying club soon — something he could “never think of 10-15 years back”.

“We receive approximately 100 applications a month from non-resident Indians who live abroad and

want to come back,” says Nirupama V. G., associate director with the Bangalore-based Teamlease, a leading headhunting firm in the city.

Anand Ganapathy, 33, who now works in Bangalore with Infosys Technologies, — says he came back to India from the US since he thought his kid would learn Indian culture and values better if he went to an Indian school.

“India will give my kid a more stable life. As for me, staying in India today is no more different from any other — be it the US or Europe,” adds Ganapathy, who had left for the US after obtaining an engineering degree from Mysore University.

Expatriates also feel that lifestyle options in India have expanded manifold and many international brands have set up shop in the country. “The quality of life and the easy availability of global products in India today have added to the attractiveness,” says Karnik, pointing out that India is now home to sprawling malls as also upmarket global brands.

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"I must confess my wife finds that the same brands she was used to in the US are now available in India as well — and, mind you, you don't have to go to the grey market for that," says Ganapathy.

"India is also a shoppers' paradise today. So we have the going good at both the professional and personal levels. It is very satisfying."

In fact, such is the trend that some new neighbourhoods in and around cities like New Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai are named "Non-Resident Indian" colonies — like the Omaxe

Developer's NRI Green City on the outskirts of the Indian capital.

In Bangalore there is also an alliance for such "returned" expatriates— RNRI Association — which estimates that 35,000-40,000 Indians who once made their homes in countries like the US and Britain have since returned to the city.

Similarly, in the upmarket DLF Golf and Country Club at Gurgaon in Haryana, just outside New Delhi, NRIs dominate the membership. "Ninety percent of the clients at our gym are NRIs," says Umrao Singh, the club's

sports in-charge. "They feel the facilities in India are of the same standards as they were used to in the US or Britain."

According to Sangeeta Sabharwal, chief of Ma Foi, an international recruitment agency, the economic boom — combined with the demand from Indian firms for skill sets with global experience, the multi-cultural environment and the emergence of new industries like retailing — are drawing Indians back.

*Indo-Asian News Service (Courtesy: Indian High Commission, Wellington)*

**INDIAN FASHION ON SHOW IN NEW ZEALAND**

As Indian fashion started making ripples in the international markets, New Zealand shores were not unaffected. Last month, nine budding fashion designers from India took part in the Montana World of Wearable Art (WOW) 2006 held in New Zealand last month. It was a tie-up between the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) and the New Zealand Tourism

Board. India's Manish Arora was one of the designers selected from over 100 entries.

"India is a hub of creativity is quite evident from the standard of entries we received," Suzie Moncrieff, founder of the Montana World of Wearable Art was quoted in the *Hindu*.

WOW is one of the most coveted fashion extravaganzas in the world, held each year in New Zealand since the last 16 years.

Twenty-seven year old Yengkhom Devson, who presented his designs, loved the WOW concept as it gave him freedom to express. In fact, he's planning to take this concept to India, he told the *Dominion Post*.

FDCI's director general Rathi Vinay Jha says that he was pleased that the young talent of the country was being showcased at such a renowned forum, which will further strengthen India's position in the global fashion and art arena.

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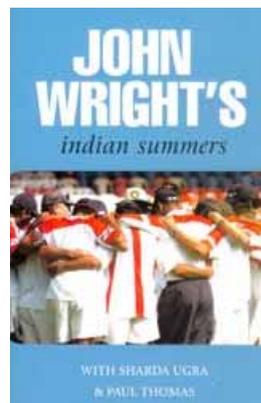
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INDIAN SUMMERS

Vishal Singh, India

When New Zealander John Wright's contract with the Indian Cricket Team was not renewed, it did not surprise many. John ended up being at the centre of a few controversies during his three-year tenure as the coach of Indian squad. Most of these issues were due to John's inability to adapt to active politics in the Indian cricket. "In cricket, there is a game more



important than cricket – its politics!" one cricket commentator had told me a few years ago. True, its just not cricket!

But it does not undermine the fact that John coached the most successful Indian team in recent times.

Which means, John Wright has a lot

to talk about that many cricket fans would like to know. And John is doing just that as he publishes his biographical work "John Wright's Indian Summers" (With Sharda Ugra and Paul Thomas; Penguin-Viking)

In this book John candidly talks about two of his passions – cricket and India. He dwells on a range of topics like selection process (the source of most evil), Indian players, and of course, his experience of living in India. In his words, "Going to India is like coming home."

STRANGERS IN MY SLEEPER

Interest in India and all things Eastern is continuing to sweep the Western world, and author Peter Riordan has jumped on the train—literally. In fact, Wellington journalist Peter married two loves – India and trains – when he travelled the 'iron threads' of the vast subcontinent.

Each chapter describes a leg of his journey, from Madras, across India and through Pakistan and Bangladesh and back to India, and is

a series of conversations – on love, life, religion, politics and more – with his fellow passengers.

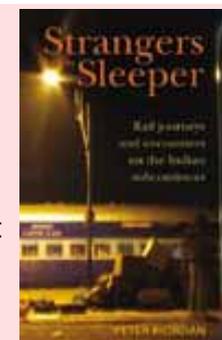
Peter encounters sadhus, salesmen, corrupt politicians, a sex doctor and boundless bureaucracy on the train lines that snake across a plethora of landscapes. He experiences modern, colourful, complex India that many tourists never see.

His affection for the subcontinent conveys his enthusiasm in an absorbing account of an epic journey that is bound to appeal to armchair travellers, Indiaphiles and railway

enthusiasts alike.

Peter has worked as a journalist in New Zealand and Australia. His interest in workings of the Indian subcontinent began during his studies in political science.

*Strangers In My Sleeper* will be released in New Zealand on October 15 by New Holland Publishers. RRP: NZ\$29.99



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## SHOW SOME HEART

Jasbindar Singh

In the business of “doing life” it is easy to become disconnected with ourselves - that which truly matters. That is until we get jostled back to a deeper level of awareness through circumstances - my recent ones being the invited flu when I was forced to take rest; and the death of someone close.

I found myself asking how open and present I had been to others lately, especially those loved ones who can easily be taken for granted.

At work, where key responsibilities and targets have to be met, it is only too easy to become disconnected from the heart and spirit of things. This point was driven home to me recently when a senior executive I was coaching said he could now “tick off” the task of

having initiated an informal get-together with a colleague he wanted to improve his relationship with. This became an “aha” moment for him as I drew his attention to how this fitted into his original goal of coaching – to become a more open and authentic leader. It opened up a helpful and advancing discussion on how easy it was to get trapped by the “tyranny of transactions” in the drive for completion. In

*Jasbindar Singh is a business psychologist, executive coach and an author.*  
[www.sqconsulting.co.nz](http://www.sqconsulting.co.nz)



People don't care how much you know but they care that you care. Take a risk, show some heart and see what happens.

this mode, the heart dimension gets shut down. Subsequently the levels of compassion and empathy (SQ and EQ awareness) also dwindle.

For many reasons, silos and politics included, we become almost afraid to show our real selves. I have witnessed with many clients, where the warm, open person at home is no longer the same person at work. As we shut ourselves down, we shut our very source of personal power, compassion and humanity.

The Dalai Lama puts it like this, “from my own small experience, I find that as soon as some kind of caring or concern increases in my heart, this brings me more inner strength. The result, I feel less fear and more happiness... I think the practice of compassion is like a medication that restores serenity when one is agitated.”

This is a reminder to “put the heart and spirit” back into whatever you are up to. As the old saying goes, people don't care how much you know but they care that you care. Take a risk, show some heart and see what happens.

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**LAZEEZ CHICKEN**

**Ingredients**

500g boneless, skinless chicken, cubed

2 onions, diced

1.5 tsps ginger paste

1.5 tsps garlic paste

1 tspn salt

1 tbspn cashewnut paste

A drop of saffron essence

2 fresh tomatoes, diced

½ tspn rose water

5 tbsps vegetable oil

1 hard boiled egg, cut decoratively for garnishing

1 tspm chopped fresh coriander

**Method**

Place diced chicken in a vessel and coat all pieces thoroughly with ginger-garlic paste, saffron essence and salt

Heat oil in a pan, and fry chopped

onions, tomatoes and cashew nut paste over medium heat.

Add chicken and cook over slow to medium heat, stirring occasionally.

Cook until the chicken is tender, and the gravy reduces, with oil starting to build up on the sides of the pan.

Transfer to serving dish, and garnish with boiled egg and chopped coriander. Enjoy the meal!

*(Courtesy: the head chef of Jewel of India)*



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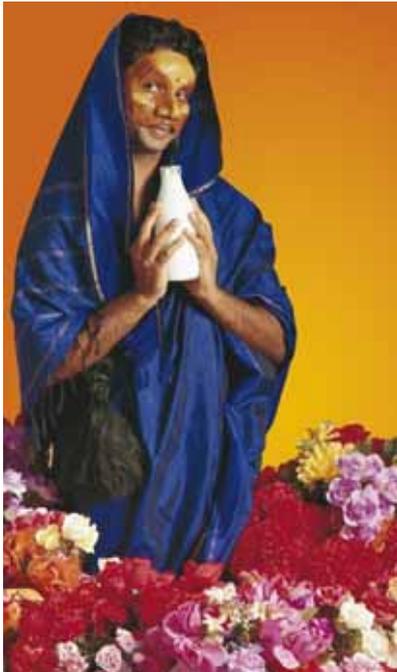
*GOURMET ZONE*

**EVENTS**

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**ABOUT US**



**KRISHNAN'S DAIRY**

Following a sell out season in Wellington Indian Ink is now heading to Auckland to perform their award winning play *Krishnan's Dairy*.

The Wellington season sold out before opening and tickets are going fast for the Auckland season so book now; don't miss the opportunity to see this outstanding production.

"Comic genius – a tour de force from a master of multicultural mayhem"  
Melbourne Age 2005

Gobi and Zina Krishnan have come to New Zealand in search of a better life. They work hard and keep their dreams stacked on the shelves of their struggling business – *Krishnan's Dairy*.

A love story unfolds behind the counter with hilarious and tragic consequences for the hopeful, vulnerable lives of this immigrant shopkeeper and his wife; you'll never look at your dairy the same way again.

This season will help raise funds for Indian Ink's new play, *The Dentist's Chair*. More info at [www.indianink.co.nz](http://www.indianink.co.nz)

*Krishnan's Dairy*, SKYCITY Theatre, Oct 26 to 28, Tickets \$22 - \$37, Book at Ticketek 09 307 5000 or [www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz)

**INDIAN SCHOOL IN NZ**

Staff Correspondent

Singapore-based Global Indian Education Foundation is setting up Global Indian International School (GIIS) in Auckland.

GIIS Auckland is the latest addition to a number of schools set up by the four-year old foundation, which has won acclaim in South East Asia for its pioneering group of GIIS schools.

"GIIS Auckland intends offering a range of curriculum including International Baccalaureate (Geneva), New Zealand national curriculum and the Indian national curriculum of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)," says the foundation's project director, Kaustubh Bodhankar.

Rated by media, including the famous Newsweek, as

the best international school, GIIS schools have blazed a trail in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo. "The parent community, largely consisting of Indian Diaspora but not excluding academically sensitive parents of other nationalities, have found the pure blend of programmes affordable, elevating and a pleasant experience for their children," he adds.

Supported by a talent pool of over 1500 teachers and 50 senior educators and principals, GIIS schools pick the finer points of education system of the host country, and integrate them into universal GIIS programmes.

GIIS starts its programme in New Zealand with parent information sessions slated for Sunday, 8th October 2006 in Auckland.

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**ACC TO MEET INDIAN COMMUNITY**

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) figures show that although Asian people make up about 6% of the population they make only about 3% of ACC claims.

ACC will meet the representatives of the Indian community in Auckland at 10am on 3rd October at the Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, Auckland.

The meeting will explain how ACC

works and what help is available if people are injured.

“Our key message to Indian people is that if they have an injury they should visit a health professional straight away,” says Dr Jan White, ACC Chief Executive.

A recent research report ‘Asian Health in Aotearoa’ also found that Asian people were less likely to have visited a health practitioner (or service) when they were first unwell than other New Zealanders.

ACC has a dedicated Asian Development Team that co-ordinates ACC work to improve access for Asian peoples.

The Asian claim rate (158 per 1000) is lower than the European (361), Maori (289) and Pacific (300) rates. For simple doctor visits claims, Asian people make only 152 claims per 1000, compared to 334 for the European population. For entitlement claims, Asians make only seven claims compared with 26 per 1000 for European New Zealanders.

**CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

**waitakere दीवाली**  
**celebrations**

Sunday 8th October, 2006  
1pm - 10.30pm  
at  
The Trusts Stadium, (House of Diwali)  
Central Park Drive, Henderson

Organised by: **Waitakere Ethnic Board Inc.**  
Tui, tui, tui-tuia nga herenga tangata  
Bringing Cultures Together

Enquiries/information:  
021 564 757  
[www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz](http://www.waitakereethnicboard.org.nz)

Sponsored by:

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**MOON FESTIVAL**

October is a month of celebrations, and along with Diwali, New Zealanders will be seen celebrating Moon Festival.

One of the founders of the Waitakere Moon Festival, Councillor Peter Chan, is urging people to come along to this year's festival at the New Lynn Community Centre in Auckland and experience a culture other than their own.

The opening ceremony begins at 6.30 pm on Friday 6 October and this year it includes a fireworks display starting under the full moon, at 9pm.

**THE MAGICAL 70S**

Staff correspondent

Those of us who grew up in the 70s had an overdose of bell-bottoms, tight-fit shirts, loud make up and elaborate hair dos but more significantly, timeless music and foot-tapping numbers evolving to the beats of Rock'n'Roll.

**DIWALI IN NZ**

Asia:NZ in partnership with Auckland and Wellington City Councils have put together Diwali Festivals of Lights. There'll be dancing, Indian food, crafts and spectacular lights and decorations. The Diwali Festival in Auckland will be held at Britomart East with free concert nights on October 12 and 13 from 6pm. Festival days will be October 14 and 15 from 11am.

The Wellington events will begin with the Bollywood dance competition on October 20 at the Michael Fowler Centre, followed by the Diwali Festival on October 22 at the

Wellington Town Hall, Civic Square and Michael Fowler Centre from 3pm.

**Light, camera, Diwali**

Yes, if you've a camera, then capture the lights, be part of an exhibition and online blog about Diwali. You can send behind-the-scene images of preparations for food, costumes and the performances, and the social aspects of Diwali in 2006. The selected Light gallery exhibition will show during the Photography Festival in June 2007. Entry details are on the website [http://www.photographyfestival.org.nz/taking\\_part/diwali.cfm](http://www.photographyfestival.org.nz/taking_part/diwali.cfm)

"The Magical 70s - The Golden Era of Indian Cinema" by Heartbeats – a group of young and young-at-heart performers - is a musical tribute to the sensational seventies catering to music lovers aged from 8 to 80.

Not confining itself to one singer or music director, the event will be a culmination of chart-topping numbers that soared to the heights of success,

making it a must-see for all music lovers. Come and sway to the beats of *Dum Maro Dum* or just relive the mellow moments with *Aap ki Aankhon Mein* among other favourites.

The event will be staged at Dorothy Winstone Centre on the evening of 9 December, 2006. Contact Arpita Chanda on 09-8180514.

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**WHEN INSULTS HAD A CLASS**

Some of the insult one-liners can be quite tongue-in-the-cheek as one of our readers finds out:

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." -- Oscar Wilde

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." -- John Bright

"He is not only dull himself, he is the cause of dullness in others." -- Samuel Johnson

"He loves nature, in spite of what it did to him." -- Forrest Tucker

"They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge."

-- Thomas Brackett Reed

"A modest little person, with much to be modest about." -- Winston Churchill

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play, bring a friend... if you have one." -- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response

"I feel so miserable without you, it's almost like having you here." -- Stephen Bishop

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." -- Irvin

S. Cobb

"There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure." -- Jack E. Leonard

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." -- Charles, Count Talleyrand

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" -- Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." -- Mae West

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others - whenever they go." -- Oscar Wilde

**Contributed by: Brian D'Silva, Auckland**

**MANNA DEY COMES TO NZ**

Manna Dey, veteran Indian singer and winner of Padmabhushan, is coming to Auckland for a live concert to entertain Indian community on Friday 3rd of November from 7.30 pm onwards at Dorothy Winstone Centre, Howe Street, Newton, Auckland.

The concert is organised by Surabhi International Cultural and Entertainment Trust. For details, contact, Pavitra Roy: pavitra@rricon.co.nz



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**WONDERFUL ISSUE**

Just finished reading the September issue and really enjoyed the varied content and high standard of journalism. I was also pleased to read the circulation figures of 33% Truly amazing indeed. Do keep up the good work as this is a great service for us overseas Indians. Happy to be on your mailing list.—**V Rego, Auckland**

I have been reading your magazine each month since you started. Firstly good on you for starting something like this. I am sure with your ingenuity and passion, this magazine will be a leading voice for Indians in NZ. Keep the good work.—**Tim (by email)**

Thanks very much for an excellent coverage of the Raj Kapoor show.—**Ram Iyer, Auckland**

We live in Australia and regularly read 'Global Indian' online magazine. We enjoy each and every article written in here.—**Ravi Krish**

Regarding your story 'Kiwis to help in India', may I point out that Pondicherry is not located in NorthEast India. Otherwise congrats on another fine issue.—**Helen Keivom, Wellington**

(Editor – we regret the error.)

**FEEDBACK**

Please write to us at [editor@theglobalindian.co.nz](mailto:editor@theglobalindian.co.nz). All communication to the editor will be considered for publication, unless otherwise requested.

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