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INDEPENDENCE OR LABOUR-DEPENDENCE?

Auckland celebrated India's Independence—three celebrations in the same weekend! Femina Miss India 2005 Sindhura Gadde (extreme right) was a special guest at one. The functions were the usual patriotic song-and-dance sequence. What do these functions achieve? Can this platform be used more constructively? Many people raised these questions. [Read our "letters to editor"](#) page for some introspection. (Photographs: The Global Indian resource)



SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT

Showcase your talent at this year's Waitakere Diwali festival on 16 October. The festival is being organised by the Waitakere Ethnic Board with the support of the Waitakere City Council. If you'd like to perform at the festival, contact either Ann Pala (818 4450), Camille Nakhid (021 045 7368) or Rachel Blundell (836 8000 extn 8461). Stalls are available at \$200 and are a great way to market to your local community. **The Global Indian** magazine is an official media

PRANIC HEALING IN AUCKLAND

Pranic healing is one of the fastest growing alternative therapies practised in 80 countries. Pranic healing techniques are non-touch, and have treated asthma, addictions, stress, depression and other diseases. There's a free two-hour Infotalk at 10.00am on 24 September at 1 Hercules Drive, Henderson, followed by a weekend workshop (ticket fee applies) on Pranic healing on 24-25 September. Contact Sukhi Arora 09-837 4320 or 021-160-8403. (Issued in public interest: **The Global Indian**)

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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. But for someone who effortlessly combines Eastern values with Western culture, it's a natural progression. Please meet Brahma Sharma, an Auckland-based partner in the global business services firm – KPMG. "Achieving partnership status, particularly in a foreign land, was a huge achievement for me," Brahma tells Vaibhav Gangan, in an interview for The Global Indian magazine.

Being part of a large global firm like KPMG has been a phenomenal experience for his personal growth and the ability to help others. But his journey of success started pretty early on in his career when he decided to specialise in taxation consulting. "Well, I have done this for the last 25 years and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience," he adds. He has been the Head of Tax for KPMG New Zealand for many years. Starting this year, he has a new KPMG New

"TAKE A DAY AT A TIME" – BRAHMA SHARMA

Vaibhav Gangan



Zealand role of Head of Business Development for the whole firm. "This is an exciting and new challenge for me," Brahma reveals.

Born and raised in Fiji, Brahma is the youngest of four boys to parents who managed a farm and a general merchants store with dad becoming a practising priest (*pundit*) in his retirement. Looking back, Brahma has fond memories of his early childhood in Fiji. "Early life was full of great opportunities and experience - working on the farm before school, and in the store at lunch time and after school from early age to about 10 years – it was a beginning of a hardworking ethic," recalls Brahma.

He migrated to New Zealand in 1979 to pursue tertiary education after secondary schooling in Suva. Like most

teenagers, Brahma was split between two choices. "I had originally thought of studying law but decided on accountancy as it was a better option to study and work," he says. He completed a year of full-time studies and joined an accounting firm which later became KPMG. He then completed chartered accountancy qualification in Auckland followed by an MBA from the Massey University later.

Continued...

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Continued... At a young age of 28, he became a partner with KPMG, being one of the youngest to be admitted to partnership in the firm. He's also part of a minority who have had only one employer throughout their career!

Brahma attributes most of his success to his parents in Fiji. "My parents are very strong advocates of good education and observance of the values of culture, tradition and religion," he says. Little wonder then that Brahma's day begins with offering a prayer "thanking the good Lord for everything given to me". Incidentally, the word '*Brahma*' is a Sanskrit word and means God or the ultimate truth. "The prayer is my motivation for the day – the goal for which is to do what I do well and, hopefully, be effective in making someone else's day!"

Making someone's day comes naturally to Brahma whose role models are Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi. As he puts it: "They both stood for something and were prepared to make incredible personal sacrifices to achieve their goals for others." He's actively involved with Rotary Club Auckland, and is an active member of the Institute of Directors, and a committee member of the Employers and Manufacturers Forum.

Even with such a busy schedule of professional and community commitments, Brahma maintains work/life balance. Married with a 16-year old son and a very supportive wife, Brahma is very much a family person. He plays squash, tennis and goes to the gym regularly with his son. A keen reader of novels, particularly those

written by Indian authors, he loves listening to Hindi music, particularly ghazals. "I enjoyed the Jagjit Singh show in Auckland. I'm also a fan of A.R. Rahman and I'm definitely going to his concert in Sydney in September," Brahma concedes. Has being an Indian impacted his career? "While it does not directly mean much from a career point of view, how I approach what I do is still shaped by the fundamentals of my heritage - respect, understanding, tolerance of others."

What's his message for migrants? "Learn as much and as quickly as you can about the new environment, ways of doing things, a bit about politics and sports," Brahma advises. Do not expect others, particularly the work place, to change to your culture, he adds. It is good to educate others on your heritage but do not expect to change things. "This does not mean giving up your own culture– in fact it becomes even more important to focus on these – but there is a time and place for this – it may not be the work place," he concludes.

Finally, his take on life: take a day at a time and make the most of it! But that doesn't stop him from looking ahead. He hopes to learn Sanskrit and seek to spread that knowledge. "It would be a shame to lose the beauty of this wonderful language," he says. "I'm still looking for a guru to teach me." Anyone keen?

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

**WANT TO
NOMINATE?**

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Sangeeta Anand

Yes, it's been a year since we first met you—our readers! It's been an eventful journey. We still remember our first subscription request. That was August last year. Since then your support has grown exponentially. Our August issue achieved a circulation of close to 20,000, giving us a readership of over 60,000. We could not have done it without you. It's time to celebrate and to thank you. Could there be a better way to celebrate than by rewarding you—our readers and advertisers?

Here's how you can win a gift:

Best "letter to editor" of the month: if your letter is

chosen the best letter, you stand to a surprise gift.

Tell-a-friend: Recommend this magazine to 20 or more friends by sending their email addresses to us, and you can go in the draw to win a gift.

Best article of the month: If you have a story, poem, photo or experience to share, just email us, and if your article is published you can win a gift.

We also thank our advertisers. Their support and trust has made this journey enjoyable. If you have advertised with us in the last year, we are extending a special 50% discount to all our advertisers. Write to us for details. Once again, thank you everyone for your support. Let's keep the flame burning!



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. Or mail a cheque or draft, including your postal address, to CRY, Global Operations, DDA Slum Wing (Barat Ghar), Bapu Park, Kotla Mubarakpur, New Delhi, 110 003, India.

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THEY 'RE EXPLOITING OUR FEARS

Anjum Rahman

A combination of the attacks on London and the up-coming election in New Zealand has put the Muslim community in the spotlight. Not that we haven't been here before. After the attacks on September 11, and the Bali bombings, reverberations were felt here in New Zealand as well. The fear generated by these events requires a scapegoat, a target on which to vent itself.



In all the noise, the political basis for the attacks is lost. A long history of grievances that has been used by terrorists becomes forgotten, or even worse becomes linked to the terrorist acts and so loses legitimacy. So we forget about those injustices in our great fear, and in doing so, not only perpetuate them, but sometimes create new ones.

There are those who are waiting for the chance to exploit our fears for their own political ends.

I can't remember who said, "Truth is the first casualty of war". And so, in the political war, truth is set aside for innuendo, unsubstantiated claims and outright lies. The

politician knows that the target group will never get the media time or space to clear up the mess he has created. At the most, one or two issues will be addressed, the others left unanswered.

“Truth is the first casualty of war”. There is little room to stop the political mischief-maker. The institutions set up to protect minorities are as helpless as the minorities themselves. The Human Rights Act does not cover religion under the section related to speech. The Bill of Rights does not give precedence to freedom from discrimination over freedom of speech - to do so would be dangerous.

So the mischief-maker runs wild and free. His targets suffer the resulting backlash so that he can have another day in parliament. It doesn't seem right. That's why we need more minority representation in parliament, so that we can face the politician in his own space, especially when he refuses to come to ours. (*Anjum is a chartered accountant in Hamilton and is currently a List candidate of the Labour Party.*)

"I was nauseous and tingly all over. I was either in love, or I had smallpox." Woody Allen.
(Contributed by *Bharti Hira*)

Thought of the month!



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INDIAN SCHOOL IN NZ

A TGI correspondent

AUCKLAND—Bharatiya Samaj Charitable Trust will soon be opening an Indian school in Auckland where registered teachers will teach New Zealand curriculum and Hindi as a language, Jeet Suchdev, who heads the Trust, said. Later, other languages will be added. "The main objective is to provide our children with a flavour of Indian culture set within the excellent standards of the New Zealand curriculum," Jeet added. The school will initially offer primary school classes (Years 1 to 6) while gradually progressing to intermediate and secondary levels. After-school extra-curricular classes will make it easier for parents to pickup kids after work. While many have welcomed the initiative, some feel that this will hinder children from effectively integrating with the mainstream society - a crucial success factor.

INDIA

MUMMY FOUND IN INDIA

Overseas correspondent

Indian archaeologists have accidentally dug up the mummy of a youth of pre-Harappan era at Sinauli village in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, in a startling find, which could pre-date the famed mummies of Egypt, India's state-owned broadcaster DD News reported. "The mummy is about five feet tall and possibly dates back to 3500BC," Uttar Pradesh Tourism Minister Kawkab Hameed told DD News, indicating that it was a burial site. The excavation, which has fired the imagination of archaeologists, is being carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and may lead to vital clues to the country's ancient past in mummification. "It may prove to be a startling excavation given the fact that mummies have so far been found only in Egypt," said the minister.

WORLD

U.S. STUDENTS HEAD TO INDIA

Overseas correspondent

Graduate students from top schools in the United States, most from master of business administration programmes, are vying for internships at India's biggest private companies, reports the New York Times. "The India opportunity grabbed me," said Omar Maldonado, a student at the New York University, while talking to Saritha Rai. "I wanted to get a global feel for investment banking and not just a Wall Street perspective." He and Erik Simonsen, both 27, are spending three months at Copal Partners, an outsourcing firm with 100 analysts. They are part of a virtual invasion of India by American students, Saritha Rai writes in the New York Times. India is not just a line on an American student's résumé, says Kiran Karnik, president of Nasscom (a trade body), "but also culturally fulfilling."

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**WHAT COMES FIRST:
MONEY OR SAFETY?**

At a time when the election debate is revolving around tax policy and student loans, four incidents of 'brainless' violence within 48 hours rocked the country. First victim was 20-year old Chris Currie who lost his life after an 8kg concrete slab (thrown from an overhead bridge by a 14-year old teenager) smashed through his windscreen. The same day, a 24-year old bus passenger was knocked unconscious by a stone thrown at the Stegecoach bus she was travelling in (the bus driver happened to be an Indian – Harinder Singh). The front page of the NZ Herald next day carried a picture of a truck driver who was almost beaten to death with claw hammer in a road rage incident. On the same day, police discovered another incident of stone pelting in Auckland (described as actions of 'brainless copycats' by NZ Police Acting Superintendent John Kelly). Three instances of stone-pelting and another one of road rage rocked everyone's faith in the law and

order situation, even as we try to get over the grief of dairy-worker Vaghela's brutal murder a couple of months ago. New Zealand First Chief Winston Peters' anti-Muslim remarks have done more damage than good for New Zealand's peace-loving multicultural society.

**“Why is our electoral
debate so short-sighted?”**

Why is New Zealand's electoral debate so short-sighted? The NZ Institute of Economic Research made an alarming prediction that our economic growth rate is expected to fall from 3.6% in 2005 to 1.5% in 2007. At a time when economic growth should be our driving factor, we are debating over \$8 a week savings in tax? Overseas experience has established a direct correlation between crime rate and unemployment rate. Empty mind is devil's workshop. Economic growth generates more employment, and positively counters crime rate. Should we cure the disease or treat the symptoms? Well, let's cure the symptoms first, by tackling the

existing crime rate, rather than wasting valuable policing hours on catching speeding motorists.

In the long run, the focus should be on nurturing our entrepreneurs and on attracting more foreign investment to boost economic activities. We need to look at factors that attract foreign investment. Yes, it's indeed easy to set up business in New Zealand and we score very well in the OECD group on this front. But what happens next? How easy is it to run a business in New Zealand? The business-owners that I have spoken to, express two common barriers: lack of skilled labour, and a very high tax rate. Almost 90% of New Zealand companies are small and medium enterprises. On an average, every small business employs between two and 10 staff, creating valuable jobs.

Improved economic growth will create more jobs, put more money in New Zealanders' pockets and create an overall sense of well-being. A healthy (and wealthy) society creates an environment that discourages such "brainless crime"!

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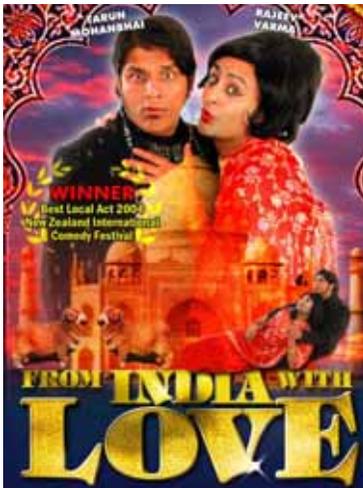
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THOSE INDIAN GUYS



The Maidment Theatre, Auckland, 8pm, Sep 13th – 17th, Bookings: 09 3082383

adventures of Manhur and Pushpa; two of the famous characters from Those Indians Guys' first show D'Arranged Marriage. Manhur is a fisherman with nothing and Pushpa is a simple village girl with a sick father. After they meet and fall in love thanks to a hilarious Bollywood dance routine they decide to journey to New Zealand to earn money to pay for papa's treatment. But the journey is not what they expect. After getting shipwrecked on the shores of Aotearoa and meeting the local Iwi, they are forced to live in a floorless shack with no running water and power. But with the help of some Hindu gods, and local Indian community, Manhur and Pushpa get on their feet and a living in this land called New Zealand.

After 'sold-out' success at the 2005 NZ International Comedy Festival and Malaysia tour, 'From India with Love' has returned for a five night season in Auckland! With projected movie sequences, puppetry, Bollywood style dance routines and witty

repartee, this show is a true winner. 'From India with Love' is set in the 1950s and follows the

Reject prejudice, vote for principles, give your party vote to Labour



Ashraf Choudhary MP

Ashraf Choudhary

Labour's Policies for the Future

- Extend Language Line
- Invest in settlement strategy
- Fund workplace language programmes
- Boost industry training
- Promote better health
- Fund ethnic liaison within the police

To find out more about Labour's policies for the future, including my seven commitments, contact me or visit www.labour.org.nz



Labour is committed to building an inclusive and tolerant nation that celebrates diversity and difference.

It is the party vote which determines the next government. So give two ticks to Labour on September 17.

Helen Clark

Helen Clark
Prime Minister
Leader of the New Zealand Labour Party

Authorised by M. Smith, 160 Willis Street, Wellington.

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Jacob Rajan's plays – the Indian TrilogY – that concluded in Auckland and Wellington last month

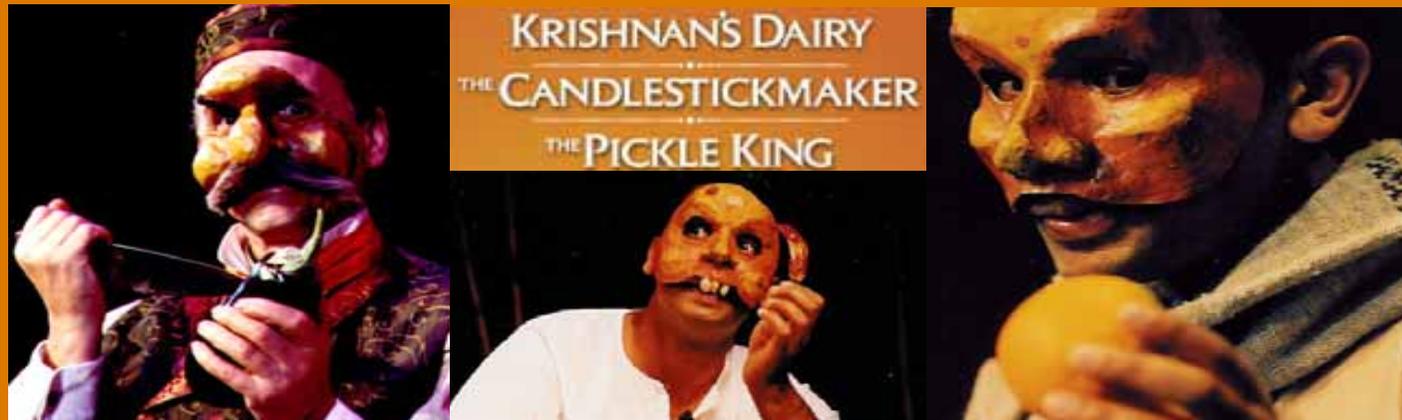
MERSMERISING JACOB

Sangeeta Anand

were a treat! These three masterpieces transport you to a different world during the 90-odd minutes of work-of-art. Although each play is full of laughter, Jacob has taken the humour to a different level. His humour is incidental

is through the waves of laughter, there is a constant undercurrent of sadness. Sad moments come so swiftly, that you

occasionally hear a stray giggle in the audience at a sad moment. The special effects (for want of a better word) are well-rehearsed and creative. The use of mask in all the three plays can be a bit of a handicap for the



audience to get used to in the initial few moments, but that forces the audience to concentrate and

as you realise only in the end. Each play is a journey, like a jigsaw puzzle, where you are given different pieces, and you put them together to complete the picture. You get these pieces of information throughout the journey, punctuated with many funny spots on the way, and as the story progresses you get more and more curious to know "what is this leading to". You get the answer only in the penultimate moment in the story, as all sub-stories naturally merge to complete the picture.

Another unique aspect of Jacob's plays is that each moment is quite unpredictable, and although the journey

engrosses them throughout the journey. The mask poses a challenge to actors as well, since three quarters of their face remain covered. The actors are forced to rely on their movements, posture and voice. The handicap is strength of Jacob's plays. His well-practised voice modulation almost re-creates the characters on stage that keep lingering in your mind long after the play is over. Although traditionally Jacob's plays attract a majority of white audience, this year we saw quite a few Indian faces in the auditorium. Narrating the stories of the plays will be futile here, since it is the delivery and the medium that make the experience unique. Don't miss the trilogy when its back in your town next.

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IQBAL

Afer claiming his fame with *Hyderabad Blues*, and proving his mettle with *Rockford*, *Bollywood Calling* and *Teen Deewarein*,



Nagesh

COMING UP

Kukunoor is back. This time, he surpasses all previous deliveries and reaches new heights. Producer Mukta Arts, known for many popular teleserials, introduces Shreyas Talpade, who has proved his talent in many Marathi teleserials. Don't miss this story of a deaf and dumb man dreaming to join the Indian cricket team.

SALAM NAMASTE



Yash Raj Films seem to have hit the gold pot with their formula of comedy movies, after years of dominance with romantic talkies. Directed by debutant Siddharth Anand (who wrote *Hum Tum*), this is a story of a live-in experiment of a

Melbourne-based Indian couple. This is first Bollywood movie to be completely shot in Australia. A must watch for some lighter moments!

PROMISING MOVIES

Mere Jeevan Saathi

PROMISING MUSIC

(None)

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Chocolate

Director: Vivek Agnihotri

Cast: Anil Kapoor, Suniel Shetty, Arshad Warsi, Irrfan Khan, Emran Hashmi, and Sushma Reddy

Dil Jo Bhi Kahey

Director: Romesh Sharma

Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Revathy, Bhumika Chawla, Karan Sharma, Annabelle Wallis

Aashique Banaya Aapne

Director: Aditya Datt

Cast: Emran Hashmi, Tanushree Datta, Sonu Sood

Ramji Londonwale

Director: Sanjay Daima

Cast: R Madhavan, Sameera Bangargi, Harsh Chhaya, Raj Zutshi, Satish Shah, Akhilendra Mishra and Dayashankar Pandey

Mere Jeevan Saathi

Director: Suneel Dharshan

Cast: Akshay Kumar, Karisma Kapoor, Amisha Patel, Gulshan Grover, Ashish Vidyarthi, Maya Alagh and Alok Nath

Movie Guide compiled by: Vishal Singh

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FINANCING YOUR HOME

Hamish Patel



There are three areas which bankers look at when assessing your loan application: your ability to pay the loan and other fixed expenses; the house value and how much you want to borrow; and your personal characteristics.

The bank's view on your ability to pay a home loan varies from bank to bank. I have found some banks lend up to \$40,000 more than other banks, for an average home loan. Generally banks want to make sure they do not commit more than 35% of your gross income to the loan repayments, house insurance, rates and any other debts which will remain after the house is bought.

Banks will use the lower amount between your purchase amount and valuation as being the property's worth. The banks these days can provide finance up to 95% of the

property's worth. There are of course ways to obtain a 100% finance, but expect to pay a few thousand dollars more in the long run.

Banks also look at your personal characteristics. They look for stability in past employment, residence history and your savings history. They usually want to see that you have saved at least 5% of the value of the property. They of course do a credit check where they will look for any defaults, judgments or collections in the past five years. In this country if you don't have a credit history, you have a good credit history. Some banks also look at the number of recent enquiries at Baycorp, to understand your use of short term debt.



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VIEWS IN NEWS

INDIAN JOURNALISTS SHOULD PROJECT INDIA POSITIVELY

HYDERABAD—Indian media houses should invest to build their network abroad as an alternative to dependence on foreign news agencies for content and pictures, said Dr Sajaya Baru, media advisor to the India Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, according to the *New Indian Express*. Giving a snapshot, he said India had just one foreign correspondent in China, while China has seven correspondents in Delhi to give a Chinese view of the Indian developments.

"After engineers, doctors, scientists and teachers, it is now the turn of the journalists to project India," he said.

Elaborating on the losses due to not having Indian journalists abroad, Baru said the good work by the Indian Navy in Sri Lanka during tsunami went unnoticed in the media here, the *New Indian Express* added.

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KADHI (YOGHURT SOUP)

Ashok Kumar Parmar

Ingredients

½ cup un-sweetened yogurt/water

½ teaspoon salt/turmeric/chilli powder

1 teaspoon black mustard seeds, dry chillies, bay leaves

2 teaspoons oil, pea flour

Method

Mix the yoghurt with water and pea flour in a small pot and heat on medium.

Add the salt, turmeric and chillies. Do not let this mixture boil else the curd

will separate. Take it off the heat when it is sufficiently hot. In a very small fry-pan heat the oil, black mustard seeds, dry chillies and bay leaves. Heat until smoking and all the seeds have popped. If you do not have anything small, use a larger pan and when ready, pore the yoghurt mixture into it. Carefully pore into the yoghurt mixture and cover immediately.

Usually eaten with rice and a vegetable curry like Potato and Peas, Alu Fry or Alu Baigan.



Ashok, born in Fiji and living in Dunedin, develops software, and for a hobby, experiments in the kitchen.



National will:

- Strengthen families as the core of our society
- Help you get ahead with lower taxes
- Reduce your cost of doing business
- Ensure a world-class education system for all New Zealand and international students
- Re-establish law & order in our communities
- one standard of citizenship and equal opportunities for all



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YOU ARE AN INDIAN IF...

Your dad is some sort of engineer or doctor.

Your parents say, "Don't forget your heritage."

You drive mostly Japanese cars

Piles of shoes tend to make it hard to open the front, back and closet doors

You learned about the birds and the bees from someone other than your parents

You've learned to keep bargaining even if the prices are rock bottom.

Your parents say, "Calculus? I took calculus in 8th grade!!"

Your parents have either made you play the piano, the violin or both.

You own a rice cooker or two

Everyone thinks you're "Indian" no matter what part of South Asia your ancestors were from.

You know what's going to happen in every Hindi movie before it happens

Contributed by Prerana Prasad

Would you like to share some of your favourite jokes, or funny anecdotes? Email us at editor@theglobalindian.co.nz

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TENDULKAR ON INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Sachin Tendulkar (As told to Sanjay Karhade)

August 15 - the Independence Day - obviously has a great relevance for me and for every Indian. It reminds me of the determination and commitment shown by the freedom fighters and, of course, the sacrifices they made to achieve the freedom. I think this achievement will stand taller than any other accomplishment. We should all feel indebted to all those who fought for the cause. They fought, and how! Mahatma Gandhi had his own style, so did Subhash Chandra Bose! Their approach may have been different, but both showed aggression without doubt and remained



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.

committed to the cause. In my opinion, they are the real heroes!

Personally, I was taught the meaning of word "freedom" by my parents—not verbally but by their actions. They gave me all the freedom to decide what I wanted to do and never forced their ideas. I think this was very important. This not only boosted my confidence but also gave me a sense of responsibility. It also meant that my parents had

the confidence that I will not misuse the freedom given to me and will single-mindedly walk the right path. And yes, I will try and continue to be the same as far as Sara and Arjun are concerned. I firmly believe that one must enjoy what he or she is doing. The force, if it has to come, should come from within. That's the key to success.

I am always asked whether or not I feel lost out on the teenage *masti* (fun). As I started representing India at the young age of 16, they feel I have missed out on that. But frankly, I have not. Tell me, will a strict vegetarian miss a non-vegetarian meal? He will not. It's the same with me. I have never tasted that teenage *masti*; how and why will I miss or feel lost out on that front? I have enjoyed every bit of my struggle and success, ups and downs! I think I am a

“I was taught the meaning of word "freedom" by my parents – not verbally but by their actions.”

winner all the way.

Well, I did feel little cramped post the July-26-deluge. However, considering the loss caused to human lives and the difficulties faced by the disaster-struck people from my Mumbai and Maharashtra, my "cramped" feeling is just like a vapour. I think the warriors who fought the floods so courageously showed the character of Mumbai and Mumbaikars. And it will be more fitting to remember July 26 for the spirit shown by the Mumbaikars rather than for the deluge-related tragedy.

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PROTECTING YOUR KEY ASSET

Jasbindar Singh

What is the most important asset you possess? I hope your answer is something more than your good looks or net worth! It is your health actually – something so fundamental that we take it for granted. After all, it is your health that enables you to achieve all that you hold dear and significant including that financial balance! And yet it seems we assume it as a given until we have just about lost it.

I had a good lesson in this after a long and nasty bout of winter flu. Having forced myself in the “doing department,” was it any surprise that my system was ready for a much deserved rest and recuperation. The body, like the car, wheels us around. And to avoid unnecessary breakdowns, we need to keep it in prime condition. A good, regular health check along with restful breaks is not only pre-cautionary but gives us peace of mind and confidence. So how

are you doing in the physical and mental stakes? When was the last

“Everyday do what gives you pleasure. Passion is doing what you love everyday!”

time you listened to the body's signals of dis-ease and took appropriate action? Don't leave it till too late, will you?

I gave myself the luxury of a few days in Sydney this month. It was a beautiful winter day with just the perfect temperature to walk around the harbour bridge. The cream camellias were in full bloom and diagonally across from the Museum of Contemporary Arts, the Opera House stood proud and majestic. The many ferries along with the birds were in full flight in the harbour. Time stood still as I was both mesmerised and restored by the moment. A mini nirvana!

I was reminded that as we go about our busy days, we have to tune in and relish those sacred moments, which give us a sense of joy and lift our

spirits. We have to enjoy the journey otherwise we are forever arriving.

Develop an orientation of

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



gratitude and appreciation - this not only makes you feel good; it also boosts the immune system. Cherish the special moments as they all make up the kaleidoscope of your unique and remarkable life. And make sure you give your health the priority that it deserves.

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BEING INTERTWINED

Ruth DeSouza

Two inspiring events in one weekend and I didn't even win Lotto! The Muslim women's Hui held at Zayed College in Mangere and the Engaging Communities conference in Brisbane. Among the presenters was Warren McMillan (Multicultural affairs Queensland) who emphasised the importance of being deeply connected and intertwined with all who live in our communities, so that we don't accept any intolerant behaviour toward any one group because they are part of our lives, our extended family, our colleagues and we won't stand for anyone harming or being intolerant of our family. The Muslim women's Hui was part of the larger project of Islamic awareness week and is a great

example of opening our lives up to others. How can we expect to be included if we ourselves are not inclusive?

Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland and Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta

“How can we expect to be included if we ourselves are not inclusive?”

Foreign Minister, Timor Leste and Nobel Prize winner spoke of not just our rights as citizens but our responsibilities. Queensland's multicultural policy encapsulates this notion and we could learn from it while maintaining our obligations to Māori under Te Tiriti. Simply put, they revolve around three principles:

Access, participation and cohesion and I've adapted them somewhat for our New Zealand context. We need to ensure that all who live in Aotearoa/New Zealand enjoy equitable access to services and programmes; enjoy equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities to participate in, contribute to and benefit from all aspects of life; and finally all share responsibility for the continuing development of Aotearoa New Zealand as a cohesive and harmonious society. Contributing to our communities and venturing outside them, would be a great start.



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

the global indian tell-a-friend draw

Would you like to win a surprise gift? Just send us email addresses of your 20 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 July. Email: editor@theglobalindian.co.nz (Open to New Zealand readers. Email addresses should be valid and should be of people living in New Zealand. Management's decision will be final.)

August winner: Babita Prasad. Congratulations! Please contact us before 10th September.

WIN ASURPRISE GIFT

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INDEPENDENCE OR LABOUR-DEPENDENCE?

I would like to bring to the notice of the readers of The Global Indian the happenings at the Indian Independence Day celebrations at the Aoetea Centre on organized by the Bharatiya Samaj.



Jeet Sachdeva who is heading up this organization did not know who Dr. Don Brash was. When the opposition leader's office contacted Jeet to give Dr. Brash an opportunity to greet the Indian community, Jeet refused and said that he did not know who Don Brash was. I went with my party colleagues Dr. Richard Worth (MP Epsom) and Dr. Jackie Blue (National candidate of Mt Roskill). We were also not given any opportunity to greet the Indian community. Jeet introduced Helen Clark and said that all the Indians will vote for her and that she would return to power. As representatives of a charitable trust collecting funds from donors and other government and charitable trusts, Jeet and the organizers have acted in a partisan manner by supporting the Labour party and its leader. I very strongly condemn this and feel that Jeet Sachdeva should not be heading this Trust. Jeet's motive in running the organization and the way it is run are questionable.

Ravi Musuku, National Candidate for Mt Albert

I happened to attend three Indian and one Pakistani Independence Day celebrations last weekend. All but

one at Mahatma Gandhi Centre could have been called the 'Labour Party Celebrations'. With the pretext of providing free entertainment, these organisers seem to be utilising the crowd to achieve their political goals. Helen Clark was the Chief Guest in each of the four functions and the organisers were openly praising the good deeds of Helen Clark and she should be returned to

power. Organizers can not assume that every Indian/Pakistani is a Labour supporter. The community leaders are walking down a dangerous political path by aligning themselves with a single party. What happens if National comes to power? Yes, it is an honour to have the Prime Minister of the country in any function, but promoting a single political party is not healthy in the long run. I am sure these organisations receive some form of funding/grants/subsidies which come out of ratepayers' money!

Also, having three Indian celebrations within a span of 24 hours in Auckland clearly indicates that there are deep divisions within the community. The whole purpose of this exercise is to pursue personal agenda. Perhaps few more JPs and QSMs?

Ram Rai, Auckland

(We did not get any response to our email on this matter from Jeet Suchdev—Editor)

WE WELCOME LETTERS TO EDITOR. BEST KETTER WILL WIN A SURPRISE GIFT!



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