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“The Muslim world is filled with extraordinary people who simply want to live their lives and see their children live better lives,” said the US President Barack Obama.

President Obama has spoken of ‘finding a new way forward’ in the relationship

Zealand. They interviewed and photographed an ethnically, culturally and theologically diverse group who were honest.

One of those featured in the new book, Shegufta Molla said “9/11 was very painful because America had been my

Arts Foundation of New Zealand Icon artist.

Other people whose pictures and stories feature in *The Crescent Moon* include halal butcher Yakub Khan whose sausages do a roaring trade among Muslims and non-Muslims alike in the

FACE OF ASIAN ISLAM IN NEW ZEALAND

between America and the world’s Muslim population, something which Asia New Zealand Foundation’s director of culture, Jennifer King, says also resonates in New Zealand and among its Asian Muslim population.

Ms King says New Zealand, like the rest of the world, was also deeply affected by the attacks in New York in 2001. “The attacks created a huge chasm between the Muslim world and the rest, and fuelled an atmosphere of fear and distrust. It is important to help build ‘mutual interest and mutual respect’ in this country too.”

To this end, the Foundation is launching a book and an exhibition this month that gives faces and voices to the Asian Muslims living in New Zealand.

Author Adrienne Jansen and documentary photographer Ans Westra travelled throughout New Zealand to create the photo-essay *The Crescent Moon: The Asian Face of Islam in New*

home since I was four years old. But I didn’t want my kids growing up thinking they were bad because they were different; so we came to New Zealand.”

Or consider Noorayesha Jones and Shaystah Dean who are two students who feel distrust affects their daily lives, “Because I dress as a Muslim, people make assumptions,” says Dean. “I’m endlessly having to explain why I’m not going to blow myself up,” says Mr Jones.

A long-time teacher of English to new migrants, the Wellington-based author was co-founder of one of the first home tutoring language programmes in New Zealand. In 1993 she established the creative writing programme at Whitireia Community Polytechnic.

The photographer of the book and exhibition, Ans Westra, was born in the Netherlands. In 1998 she was awarded the Companion of the Order of New Zealand Merit for services to photography and in 2007 she became an

Wellington suburb of Newtown; Mahmood and Fatima Bhikoo whose grandchildren are fifth generation New Zealanders and who own and operate the Hollywood Dairy on Auckland’s Dominion Road; Najib Lafraie who served as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the government of Afghanistan and teaches politics at the University of Otago; and Mohammad Amir, imam of Wellington’s Kilbirnie mosque.

“Muslims of Asian descent make up the largest proportion of Muslims in the world, and they are an integral part of the fabric of New Zealand society too,” says Ms King. “The first to arrive here were Chinese gold miners 130 years ago.”

The exhibition features 37 individuals and will be launched at Wellington’s Pataka Museum and Gallery on Thursday 19 February.

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Prominent management thinker, C K Prahlad (pictured) is one of the nine non-resident Indians to receive one of the most-coveted civilian awards conferred by the government of India on its republic day, 26 January.

C K Prahlad who received Padma Bhushan (India's third highest civilian award), has authored popular business books like "Competing for the Future"(with Gary Hamel), "The Future of Competition," (with Venkat Ramaswamy), and "The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid: Eradicating Poverty through Profits". He is Paul and Ruth McCracken Distinguished University Professor of Corporate



most popular books in the field of engineering.

The recipients of Padma Shri award were:

Pratapaditya Pal, the author of 50 books, has done research on Himalayan art and helped to give this section of art global recognition through exhibitions, lecture sessions.

The US-based Panchapakesa Jayaraman is a scholar in Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu and Tamil. He is the founder and executive director of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in the US.

Dubai-based Sunny Varkey is the

CIVILIAN ACCOLADES

Strategy at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. He was also one of the recipients of Pravasi Bharatiya Sammaan awards earlier this year.

Another prominent overseas Indian to receive Padma Bhushan was Khalid Hameed, a member of Britain's House of Lords. Hameed works with charities to promote cultural harmony in the UK.

America-based Bhakta Rath and Thomas Kailath also received Padma Bhushan.

FOR INDIANS ABROAD

Vaib Gangan

Mr Rath is the head of the Materials Science Directorate and is an associate director of research of the US Naval Research Laboratory. He oversees planning and administration of research in physical and natural sciences by a team of 720 scientists and engineers and with a budget of US\$240 million.

An electrical engineer by training, Mr Kailath is the Hitachi America Professor Emeritus of Engineering at Stanford University. One of his popular books, "Linear Systems", ranks as one of the

chairman and founder of international education provider GEMS Education. He supports for an initiative to provide education to 100 million children in India.

Doha-based Cheril Krishna Menon is the chairman of the Behzad group.

Bavaguthu Raghuram Shetty established the NMC Hospital in Abu Dhabi with branches in Dubai. Sharjah and Al Ain, treat more than one million patients a year.

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DON'T BE SILENT



ASK FOR VOTING RIGHT FOR OVERSEAS INDIANS

If you are an Indian citizen living abroad, you can't vote in Indian elections. Citizens of India have to be 'ordinarily resident' in the place where they wish to register as a voter. To be ordinary resident, the citizen must have stayed at the address for at least the

past six months. This makes most citizens of India ineligible to vote in the upcoming general elections if they live outside India. Sign the petition to the Election Commission of India requesting postal voting to be extended to overseas Indian citizens.

SIGN ONLINE PETITION:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/abvindia/petition.html>

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THEY SAID IT

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When I was a young man, I thought life was all about me—about how I'd make my way in the world, become successful, and get the things I want. But then the two of you came into my world with all your curiosity and mischief and those smiles that never fail to fill my heart and light up my day.

And suddenly, all my big plans for myself didn't seem so important anymore. I soon found that the greatest joy in my life was the joy I saw in yours.

And I realized that my own life wouldn't count for much unless I was able to ensure that you had every opportunity for happiness and fulfillment in yours.

In the end, girls, that's why I ran for President: because of what I want for you and for every child in this nation. "

-Barak Obama, in an open letter to his daughters.



This Isn't Child's Play



Ask the children of the tribal/backward communities in drought-prone areas in Andhra Pradesh, India. For most of the year, they are bonded labour in cotton fields. No school. No opportunities. No future. And no play either. Your support can change that. The way it did for the children under the CRY-supported project, **Sharmik Vikas Kendram(SVK)**.

SVK & CRY- Success through Holistic Child Rights Approach

CRY's Support	SVK's Efforts	Impact On District Mahbubnagar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Project Planning Management Training Evaluation Techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness on Child Bonded labour Community Mobilisation Promoted Collective Action Women Empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eradication of Child Labour Universalised Elementary Education Enhanced Economic Standard of Living



For more information write to CRY- Child Rights and You, Global Operations, DDA Shum Wing, Barat Star, Bapu Park, Kirti Mubarakpur, New Delhi 110 003, India or email: del@crymail.org, or contact by telephone at +011 24653502.

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GOVERNMENT OFFERS SUPPORT TO RETURNING NRIS

A S Rao, New Delhi

Capitalising on the reverse brain drain, Government of India is offering an attractive package to students and NRIs returning to India to start their own technology ventures. Pre-seed capital is provided under TePP (Technopreneur Promotion Programme) of DSIR (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) to incubate innovation and enterprise. Maximum support is Rs 6 million (NZ\$200,000) in phases. The innovator retains all rights on intellectual property and technology commercialisation. The support is provided as grant without need for any guarantee or

collateral.

Incubation support is also provided in incubators promoted by DST (Department of Science and Technology) at IITs, NITs and in special zones like Technopark and Knowledge park.

Among the first to avail this benefit is Kranti Kiran, a doctoral student of MIT, who returned to start a venture to develop Clima Gear, an outer garment with temp controlling circuits. He received funding from TePP and incubation support from NID, Ahmedabad.

For details of TePP support, contact: A.S.Rao, Adviser, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, Technology Bhawan, New Delhi; email: asrao@nic.in

GOAN CONNECTION

Over 300,000 Indians of Goan origin who live overseas are likely to benefit from a new scheme, 'Know Goa', launched by the ministry of NRI affairs in Goa. A first batch of a dozen NRIs from Australia, Canada, Mozambique, Trinidad, Tobago and America visited Goa recently on a familiarization tour. Most of them had never visited the place of their ancestors and felt a sense of belonging.

"This programme would enable the visiting youth to

interact with the chief minister, governor, academicians and religious leaders and visit places of historical and religious importance," says the commissioner for NRI Affairs Eduardo Faleiro.

The youth, aged 18 to 26, visited St Francis Xavier feast, Pilar Seminary, Mangueshi, Shantadurga and Chandreshwar temples and Safa masjid. They also visited several villages and learnt the art of making handicrafts and participated in a mock gram sabha (local council).

Reach out to New Zealand's Indian community

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SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

Jyoti Sarkar

Indian cinema might be described in a different way after the success of *Slumdog Millionaire*. It may not be an overstatement that this movie could mean to India what *Lord of the Rings* has meant for New Zealand, though in the opposite sense (depicting poverty rather than beauty).

British director Danny Boyle must be a very happy man.

For he was working on this project with many unknowns—shot in the subcontinent with predominantly Indian actors and the crew.

However the end result is most pleasing. It is a story of a 15-year old slum-dweller (played by Dev Patel) who participates in a reality game show, similar to *Who Wants To Be a Millionaire*, and to everyone's surprise,

goes on to answer most questions right. The host of the show (Anil Kapoor) becomes suspicious of the boy's methods and calls the police. The police officer

(Irfan Khan) is sympathetic towards the boy. As the plot unfolds, the movie showcases an array of human emotions, social patterns and economic disparities in India. It's a movie that begins on a violent note only to progress on a journey that the audience would want to be on again and again.

A R Rahman's compositions are proving to be so popular that they were used for background in a fashion show in Paris. The movie is loosely based on Vikas Swarup's popular novel, *Q & A*.

"Alongside a heart-warming story of survival and success, it carries with it a very strong critique of a corrupt society." —David Stratton, *The Australian*.



REVIEW



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MUMBAI TERROR-ATTACKS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Vaib Gangan

Our attempts to find answers to Mumbai terror attacks might benefit from our shopping habit.

When we go for shopping, we look around, visit shops, and check out different products. Sometimes, we end up buying the products we don't need or forget to buy those we need. When we go for our shopping with a shopping list, we know exactly which shops to visit and which isles to walk through in the supermarket. We come out happy, knowing we bought everything we wanted, nothing more.

This is because we were very specific about what we wanted, we went out looking for it, and we came out happy because we got a sense of fulfillment. To feel fulfilled, we must first know what we want. And we must be specific. For example, instead of saying I will go and buy a new television, we should be able to say, I want to buy a 50-inch wall-mountable plasma. You may throw in a brand name if you want to be more specific.

Being specific not only helps us focus better, and thus achieve better results, it also gives us a sense of achievement since we can measure it.

Now, what's this got to do with Mumbai terror attacks? The violent attacks has given us a cause. A cause to improve our lot. We need to improve our security and put in place systems to check such lapses. But more than that, we need to overhaul the political machinery and clean the system.

While the wide reaction has been one of anger against politicians, there is an undertone of awakening among people. They have started to think. While nine out of ten voices are still busy criticising politicians, there is often one voice, not so weak, which suggests a civil movement. This is good. It's a good start. We need civil movement.

How to mobilise public opinion is a subject of different article at a later stage.

But here we must first form a public opinion. As someone once said, "In India, we have far more opinions than information." In such a noisy environment, it is as much important as it is difficult to form a common opinion and vision that is shared by a majority, if not by everyone. We all must think collectively. Normally it is a role that is played by a leader - to provide common vision.

In this instance, there is no single leader to play that role. We don't have a visionary among us to look up to.

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But we can't move ahead until we have that common vision. In this case, each one of us has to be the torch-bearer. Each of us will come up with an agenda that we want to see the government fulfill.

We must collectively agree on that agenda and ask our political leaders to address. And this is where we must be specific. Let's not just say: get rid of corruption. That's too abstract; and it's too vast a goal to achieve. It's like saying "let's clean the house" when the whole house is in a mess. We must set a smaller, achievable goal first. For example, "let's clean the kitchen", or even, "let's tidy the cupboards in the kitchen."

If getting rid of corruption is our first goal, then let's identify a government department and start from there, instead of trying to get rid of corruption from the whole country all at once. Let's tell our politicians that we want them to clean the tax department, or the police department, or the ministers.

We collectively have to agree which one department should be cleaned first.

Once we have identified the issue to be fixed (corruption), and a specific area to be fixed (the tax department for example), we must add a timeframe to our goal. We must give our politicians a deadline to meet our demands. For example, we could say, "Make the tax department absolutely corruption-free by March 2009."

We should be prepared to explain what we mean by corruption-free. What is the extent of cleanliness we want to achieve? Do we want every single staff member of the tax department to be corruption-free, or do we want to start at the top first? Should we target only big cases of corruption involving millions of rupees, and tolerate paltry cases of corruption, or do we want the whole department to be absolutely corruption-free? Corruption is like cancer; even a single cell of cancer left in the body can re-grow and

infect the whole body fatally. If we agree with this, then we must get rid of corruption completely from the tax department, in this example.

But who will be the judge on whether the department has become tax-free or not by the deadline? Each of us. We should be able to walk into a local tax office and expect to receive the service which is rightfully ours. The clerk or officer should be polite to us, if not friendly, and assist us in filing our returns without having to be bribed. He should be honest in his tax assessment, and should not harass the tax-payer unnecessarily.

Finally, we should be able to tell the government what happens if they don't meet our request by the deadline? We must define the consequences for the government if they fail to get rid of corruption by the due date.

What can an ordinary resident do? Non-cooperation. We have effectively used this noble weapon against the British. It is time-tested; it is non-violent; it doesn't harm anyone. And most important, the results are long-term.

The fuel for government's survival is cooperation of its citizens. No government can survive without our cooperation. It is not only our right to stop co-operation with an inefficient government, it is our moral duty too. A passive onlooker of crime is a perpetrator of the crime.

Not paying taxes could be one way of non-cooperation. But for this to be effective, it must be a nationwide movement. Every person must participate in it. But it should not be for an infinite period. It must be time bound. It should be carried out for a week or for a month. Only then it will be controlled and it will be effective.

But above all, each of us must be prepared to stay non-violent. As a Chinese proverb says 'journey of a thousand miles begins with a step.'

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TOGETHER, WE CAN

Sangeeta Anand

“Come together, Care together, Love together and we can CURE together”

That is the message Christchurch business owner and graphic designer, Jayshri Ganda of Red Dot Design would like people of all cultures to take in this year. Jayshri speaks passionately about breast cancer.

When she combined this passion with her graphic design skill, it brought her accolades at a national competition in New Zealand.

Her t-shirt design, incorporating the message for breast cancer, won an award at Glassons Cancer Research Trust Fashion Week competition, which brings the country’s top fashion designers together.

High profile names such as Karen Walker, Trelise Cooper, Kate Sylvester and Zambesi support the campaign each year, with 27-year old Jayshri and her design joining them.

Jayshri’s design, featuring a series of interlinking circles to symbolise breasts, was in the shape of a map of New Zealand. The circles are in a variety of fabrics and patterns each representing a different culture.

“While I was born in New Zealand, my

family heritage is Indian. I really wanted to introduce the cultural aspect to my design and convey that anyone of any culture in New Zealand can get breast cancer. To be successful in overcoming breast cancer and finding a cure, we need to unite our multicultural society and be there for one another.

Jayashri hopes her design will encourage people from all cultures, including her own to visit doctors regularly for check ups and mammograms.

“It’s not a huge thing in India so coming here and being opened up to these things it a huge step for them, and I think the same goes for Maori, Samoan and other cultures.”



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NO MORE COUCH POTATOES

Staff correspondent

While the summer is expected to be warmer than usual in New Zealand, an Auckland group wants to make the most of it, while reaping the health benefits of outdoor activities.

SPROUT, rather Sports Recreation and Outdoors Trust, is a new charitable trust set up to provide opportunities in sports, recreation and outdoor pursuits to achieve well being for people of Indian origin in the Auckland region.

This group is a result of huddled talks in living rooms of a few Indians who, in the rut of the daily grind, let the adventure slip out of their lives.

It's an example of community coming together for community. It's ordinary people coming together for a cause.

Meet Munish Bhatt, who was part of the founding team of GiveIndia.org, a

not-for-profit organization in India. Munish currently serves the migrant settlement sector in Auckland and Manukau. He gave up smoking the day SPROUT was born.

Or how about Ram Lingam who is currently the captain of the Papatoetoe cricket club's senior 20/20 team. Ram works as a corporate trainer.



Savinder Pasricha, who, when not graphic designing, is caught playing badminton or tennis. Kavitha Raj is typical mum of two, who would hang up her running shoes to find time for her kids. A recruiter by profession, Kavitha is someone many Indian women can relate to: she had an extremely active sporting lifestyle,

until she had kids.

But what prompted them to set up SPROUT? "We conducted an informal research among Indian families and the most common reasons for not getting involved in any physical activities were: we are not able to find a team; I migrated here for my kids, or all things over here are so expensive," says a SPROUT spokesperson.

With SPROUT, one could choose from a dazzling array of sporting activities devised by passionate Indians.

"We are not aiming for an Olympic or Commonwealth medal but we surely want to reduce the health risks in our community.

"Between adventures the breathtaking scenery, the yummy curries and the warmth of the friendly Indian families will blow you away."

Formation of this group couldn't have come at a better time. Findings from a recent Asian health needs assessment by the Counties Manukau District Health Board highlighted areas of concerns for Indians: cardiovascular disease, diabetes (type 2), obesity and high rates of low birth weight among children, high cholesterol, blood pressure and obesity, and decreased physical activity and vegetable consumption.

For more Information, visit www.sprout.co.nz, or call 09 2504509.

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NATIVE TALES FROM ALIENZ

Staff correspondent

Aucklanders have an opportunity to peep into some Asian culture with a theatre presentation offering Asian perspectives into our community.

The Oryza Foundation, [6]ten and STAMP at THE EDGE are bringing Asian Tales: Native Alienz – stories from the lips of Asia at Auckland’s Herald Theatre for a ten day season from 12 February.

These seven short format plays make up the first episode of the Asian Tales™ series:

- Mount Head – In Rakugo style, with only a handkerchief and a fan, and seated in a traditional Japanese fashion, Hiroshi Nakatsuji tells the surrealistic story of an avaricious cherry eater and the cherry tree that sprouts from his head due to his gluttonous ways. (Written by Hiroshi Nakatsuji, directed by Tony Forster.)
- The Mooncake and The Kumara – 1927: In a market garden in Manawatu just before the mid-autumn Moon Festival, a relationship grows between Chao, a Chinese man, and Alice, a Maori girl. But in the shadow is Chao’s

wife back in China. (Written by Mei-Lin Hansen & Kiel McNaughton, directed by Alex Lee.)

- Midnight, State Highway 01 – A young Indian man and an East-Asian woman meet after a late-night accident on a deserted highway. As they wait for a tow truck, they find things to share... (Written by Mukilan Thangamani,



directed by Alex Lee.)

- Intrusion – Despised and condemned for the colour of his skin, a Lone Figure holds on to his golden dream of being with his lover. When the pressure invades his soul, he snaps

into action to fight for his rights. (written by Misa Tupou, directed by Gerard Urquhart.)

- Mask – A Chinese girl growing up in New Zealand tries to come to terms with her split identity, while her father tries to respond to his daughter’s changing ideas. Masks both hide and reveal... including bravery in the face of change. (Written by Renee Liang, directed by Gerard Urquhart.)

- The Loyal Customer – In the contemporary world of Auckland’s food hall culture, a pregnant girl who dreams of fashion school becomes a regular customer at a Vietnamese stall. An opportunistic action inadvertently changes the course of the chef’s life. (Written and directed by Ying Ly.)

- Citizen 3 – Sean is a young Malaysian-Chinese man having trouble living up to the expectations of both his nationality and ethnicity. A sudden turn of events exposes the effects of Sean’s upbringing. (Written by Davina Goh, directed by Yee Yang ‘Square’ Lee.)

Asian Tales™: Native Alienz plays: Thursday 12 February – Saturday 21 February (8pm)

Bookings through 0800 BUY TICKETS (0800 289 842) or www.buytickets.co.nz

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the English.

2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the English.

3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the English.

4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the English.

5. The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the English.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you!

Beware

An old man and woman were married for many years, even though they hated each other. When they had a confrontation, screaming and yelling could be heard

deep into the night. The old man would shout, "When I die, I will dig my way up and out of the grave and come and haunt you for the rest of your life!"

Neighbours feared him. They believed he practised black magic, because of the many strange occurrences that took place in their neighbourhood. The old man liked the fact that he was feared. To everyone's relief, he died of a heart attack when he was 98.

His wife had a closed casket at the wake. After the burial, she went straight to the local bar and began to party, as if there was no tomorrow.

Her neighbours, concerned for her safety, asked, 'Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way up and out of the grave and come back to haunt you for the rest of your life?'

The wife put down her drink and said, "Let him dig. I had him buried upside down."

Compiled by Brian DeSouza, Auckland

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NZ's e-zine for Indians abroad

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WHEN THE GATES OPEN

I was at the Wagah border which is 35km from Amritsar (India) on the road to Lahore (Pakistan) which is also known as 'Attari (India) - Wagah (Pakistan). All I see here is one wall - one gate - that separates us from the neighboring

country. The gates open for a short while. We are seated on one side and our neighbors on the other. Before the sun sets the BSF (India's border security force) on the Indian side and Sutelej Rangers on the other put up a well-coordinated display. The sounds of bugles blow together from both sides. Flags of the two nations are retrieved. My heart is filled with joy. I want to 'stay connected' and share it with my friends.

Bindu Chopra, New Delhi, India

Letters to editor can be sent to editor@theglobalindian.co.nz. The magazine reserves the right to edit, reject letters.

CRANBERRY RICE NOODLES

Gita Iyer

Ingredients

- 2 red chillies
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup Spanish peanuts
- 2 cups diced cranberries
- 1 teaspoon tamarind paste

- 1 teaspoon asafetida powder
- 2 teaspoon fenugreek powder
- 2 cups unsweetened cranberry juice
- 16 1/2 oz bag fine rice noodles

Method

Split rice noodles into half. Soak noodle in hot water for an hour. Drain and microwave on high, each half separately for 10 minutes each. Let cool. Knead the noodles until most strands are

approximately 1/4 inch long. Sauté in oil until brown, all but the tamarind and cranberry juice. Add the juices, and cook until the quantity reduces to a thick paste. Add the paste to the noodles and mix well.

Gita Iyer, author of *American Curry*, brings interesting recipes from the US, exclusively for the readers of The Global Indian magazine.



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ABOUT US

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