

 Indian
newslink

20Th
Anniversary



Strength, Solidarity, Serenity, Sincerity, Simplicity.
December 15, 2019





The vital link between people and solutions

The Link2 Group brings the power and expertise of trained staff for your benefit

LINK2SERVICES

Contract Logistic Services
Picking, Packing, Labelling,
Sorting, Recycling,
Assembling, Transporting

LINK2SOLUTIONS

Offsite work including
Reworking, Packaging
Warehousing Distribution

STIRLING
RECRUITMENT WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Innovative Agency
dedicated to Industrial and
Technical Sectors

Founded by Manasa Sirigiri and managed by Indra Sirigiri as Chairman & Managing Director, the Link2 Group of Companies employs more than 400 staff with 50 different customers across Auckland. As well as providing personnel onsite and at its own facilities, the Group offers wide-ranging services that enable customers to optimise their productivity and efficiency.

Awards and Achievements

Indian Newslink Business Awards

- Supreme Business 2016
- Best Employer of the Year 2016
- Business Excellence in Customer Service 2015 & 2016
- Best Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2013 & 2016
- Business Excellence in Health & Safety 2018
- 20th Anniversary Commemoration Award for Business Ethics and Compliance 2019

Westpac Awards

- Supreme Business Excellence 2018
- Best of the Best Employer of the Year 2018
- Employer of the Year 2018
- Excellence in Strategy & Planning 2017 (South)



Manasa (extreme right) and Indra Sirigiri, Directors, Link2 Group, with Leader of the Opposition Simon Bridges and Fiji Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum after receiving the Indian Newslink 20th Anniversary Special Commemoration Award for Business Excellence in Ethics & Compliance at the Twelfth Annual Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards on November 25, 2019.



Indra Sirigiri, Chairman & Managing Director, Link 2 Group (Winner of the Supreme Business of the Year Award) with (from left) Manasa Sirigiri, the then Prime Minister John Key, BNZ Chairman Doug McKay, the then BNZ Managing Director Anthony Healy, Rahul and Jaya Sirigiri at the Ninth Annual Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards held on November 28, 2016

LINK2 GROUP
LINK2SERVICES
LINK2SOLUTIONS
STIRLING

FLEXIBLE PERSONNEL
RECRUITMENT
SOLUTIONS

Career Opportunities:

We have multiple Casual/Fulltime/Part time jobs in following areas for:

- General warehousing (pick-packing, labelling, sorting, rework)
- Forklift/Reach hoist/Stock pickers drivers
- Container devanning

Quality and affordable brand new homes

Kenderdine Square, Papatoetoe – Launching in February 2020



- total of 42 units of terraces and apartments designed by award-winning global architect & built by one of the largest residential builder Mike Greer Commercial
- 2 minutes walk from Old Papatoetoe Town Centre and train station; 5 minutes drive to Auckland Airport and Middlemore Hospital
- the apartment units are designed to Lifemark Universal Standard for accessibility future-proofing for wheelchair and disability access
- the three-level apartment block includes a lift and basement parking
- all properties at Kenderdine Square come with Master Build 10-Year Guarantee

Parklane Terraces, Russell Road, Manurewa – Under Construction



Oaks Property Management

Specialising in management of investment properties, family homes, apartments, short term rentals & boarding houses across Auckland & Hamilton. The only company accredited with ISO9001:2015 International Quality Service Standard in the industry.

Our Objectives : Maximize return on investment. Enable Landlord's focus on their portfolio investment. Maintain investment properties at optimum condition. Risk management. Manage Healthy Homes Compliance.



- Property Investment • Property Management • Quality Affordable Homes

Homage to our Founder, Greetings to you, on our 20th

Indian Newslink steps into its Magic Year

Venkat Raman

Indian Newslink marks its 20th Anniversary on November 15, 2019 and the news of the passing of our Founder Ravin Lal on November 28 hit us like a bolt.

The name who established this newspaper and set it on a journey is no more. It is hard to reconcile that we publish this issue in his absence. Although he ceased to be the owner from May 4, 2015 (when Jacob Mannothra became our Managing Director & Publisher), we never lost the connection, until that fateful day last month.

Inspiring Leadership of Ravin Lal

We dedicate this 20th Anniversary Special to his leadership and pledge that we will continue in his tradition of courage, commitment and editorial integrity.

We plan to suitably commemorate his memory at our various events from next year.

We also salute our readers, advertisers, contributors, sponsors and well-wishers who have guided us on our journey that began on November 15, 1999.

It has been a journey of challenges and opportunities, threats and gratifications, bouquets and brickbats and more but we have reached this milestone solely because of you.

But let us first look back at George Orwell and his prophecies.

Journalism is no longer the domain of a few, who, through qualifications and tough training, get their first by-line after a year or two of cub-reporting.

In a fast-changing socio-economic landscape, almost everyone is a scribe, thanks to social media such Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, people can report people, events and opinions. The world thrives on instant posts- messages, reports, pictures and even love and hate.

The Big Brother in 1984

My first reading of 'Nineteen Eighty-Four,' a classic novel in content, plot and style by George Orwell, was one of petrification. I read it as a teenager (the book was actually published in 1949) and did not think of it as a literary political fiction and dystopian science-fiction as many others did at that time.

I was astounded because it was beyond human imagination of a time when everyone would 'feel naked' even when fully clothed in public or even private. I did not perceive then that there would be the Internet of Things that will carry our words instantly from one corner of the earth to the other, crossing time-zones, seasons and political territories. Life was simple; we read books and newspapers, holding them in our hands or occasionally placing them on little stands. We never thought that the world itself would be in the palm of our hand, waiting to be tapped and clicked.

Orwellian Concepts

Many of the concepts propounded by Orwell, startling then, are reality today.

Many of his terms, such as 'Big Brother,' 'Double Think,' 'Thought-crime,' 'Newspeak,' 'Room 101,' 'Telescreen,' '2+2=5' and 'Memory Hole,' have entered common usage.

'Nineteen Eighty-Four' popularised the adjective 'Orwellian,' which



The Road ahead is rough and challenging (Unsplash)



Ravin Lal at our Business Awards 2011



The newest bird has just taken to the sky (Unsplash)

connotes official deception, secret surveillance, brazenly misleading terminology and manipulation of recorded history by a totalitarian or authoritarian State.

In 2005, 'Time' chose 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' as one of the Best English-Language novels from 1923. It was awarded a place in both Lists of 'Modern Library 100 Best Novels,' reaching Number 13 on the Editor's List and Number 6 on the Readers' List.

In 2003, the Novel was listed as Number 8 on 'The Big Read,' the BBC Survey.

Change and Constancy

While lifestyle of people has changed dramatically, information gathering, and analytical reporting fortunately has a place even in today's rushed-world.

That is where **Indian Newslink** has retained its steadfast beliefs in quality and investigative journalism, becoming a forthright fortnightly. As it is often said, it is relevance and not frequency that matters.

However, our presence among our people has been strong and pronounced. We reach them several times a day through new posts on our website, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, twice a week through our Newsletter that reaches several thousand people on our select list and every fortnight through our print edition.

Twentieth Milestone

We have just completed 20 years of publication and stepped into our 21st Year, strengthened by your patronage, care and often times, constructive criticism.

Twenty years may be a wink in the vast canvas of time, but it becomes a milestone in the history of a newspaper.

Twenty years have brought with them challenges, hardships, struggle, mishaps and a mixed bag of bouquets and brickbats.

Twenty years of constant battle with the ends, to make them meet, so that a publication keeps ticking in its attempts to reach its readers.

Twenty years of anxiety coupled by excitement and despair, accom-

panied by hope.

Twenty years of professional pursuit to reach up to the expectations of its audience.

These short twenty years seem like a millennium for a small community newspaper that ventured out of the mind of a sole individual whose penchant for the media industry played with a passion for marketing.

The Beginning

It all began in the Spring of 1999 when there was not a publication around to speak for the growing Indian community.

There were voices that were never heard.

There were concerns, issues and matters that existed but never raised.

Simply because there was no platform to allow a dialogue to take place and for exchange of information and experience.

And then appeared an individual who dared to act. A one-man army that was prepared to launch, lead and sustain a campaign with a sense of purpose.

There was no bank balance or venture capital to speak of, there was no one willing to lend an ear for the project, leave alone lend money but there were plenty of people to run down the idea.

Distracting comments

And the failure of the **Auckland Star** that year did not help either to boost one's morale or assuage the feelings of those who were apprehensive of the concept.

"It will never work."
"You are wasting your time."
"Who will read your newspaper?"

As the sound of the detractors and doomsayers became loud, the determination to launch the product and allow for public reaction grew even stronger.

The idea had already begun to grow into action.

People who never tried would never know if they would fail or succeed.

Encouraging Response

The first issue of **Indian Newslink** was a much discussed topic.

There were a few who encouraged its continuation and many who still considered it a nonstarter.

It was not long before they were proved utterly and depressingly wrong.

The market seemed to have accepted the product, but a number of challenges remained.

For, producing a newspaper, aiming to institute itself as the voice of the community was not easy. It required resources – financial, no less human, with all the attendant issues of marketing, production, printing and distribution.

There was no competition but erstwhile efforts of some to publish a community newspaper had fallen into troubled waters, enough to dissuade similar attempts.

And yet there was no looking back.

Despite the challenges, even problems that at times appeared insurmountable, the newspaper rolled on, issue after issue, carrying news, reports, events and developments that either affected or appealed to the larger Indian community.

There were undoubtedly moments of despair but never a throw of hands.

Because we wanted to be counted.

Sustaining interest

As **Indian Newslink** began to evince reader and advertiser interest, one issue was of serious concern and discussion.

How to sustain reader interest?

Was it enough if the newspaper was a give away? What about the duty owed to advertisers who had reposed faith in the individual who had invested his meager savings into the project?

Responsibility-that's what perhaps distinguished **Indian**

Newslink then and now.

From its inception, one objective was clear: there must be integrity, transparency and honesty in all operations and the publication should stand the test of market scrutiny.

The first year came and went, so did the second, bringing with it increasing market support, accentuated by advertisers and readers.

Disaster strikes

And then disaster struck. November 11, 2001 was the day when the offices of the publication were gutted by a merciless fire that raged through the precincts.

Everything perished-computers and computer equipment, software, newspapers, documents-three years of hard work reduced to ashes in less than three hours.

Everything went up in smoke. Except our determination and the will to carry on relentlessly in our professional pursuit.

Less than 24 hours later, we were back in action, with the work station shifting from place to place every 24 hours, giving way for loss adjustment officials, builders, painters and others to do their job.

Indian Newslink was released on schedule, thanks to the cooperation of the then production team.

But 11/11 became a nightmare in our thoughts.

That was 18 years ago.

Today, the newspaper wears a new look-smarter, stronger and more responsive to the needs of the community.

It has been a journey characterised by a mixture of rough and smooth rides, success and failure and achievements and drawbacks. The one has instilled in us a spirit of fortitude and the other a sense of humility.

Year of Progress brightens 2020 prospects

Jacinda Ardern

This Government has a very clear vision for New Zealand's future.

It is one where everyone has a warm, dry and safe place to call home.

It is one where everyone who is able is either earning, learning, caring for others or volunteering.

It is one where we have a strong economy which lets us share the benefits fairly to lift the living standards of all New Zealanders and their families.

It is one where we look after our beautiful environment for the generations to come.

Year of Progress

We have delivered considerable progress on this in the past twelve months.

Let me run through some of the specific things we have done:

Education: When we came into office we were faced with a teacher supply crisis, including a 40% decline in initial teacher enrolments and no plan to get on top of the situation.

We introduced a comprehensive set of teacher supply initiatives to improve supply in the short to medium term and we have also given most teachers an average pay rise of \$12,000.

This has resulted in 2000 additional teachers in classrooms in the past two years, compared to an average of 350 per year in the previous three years.

Transport: When we came into office, the road toll had been increasing every year.

That's why we made safety our top transport priority and are investing \$1.4 billion in safety upgrades on our most dangerous highways.

The result is that we have already made safety improvements to 2406 kilometres of state highways and we are rolling out another 900 kms.

Finance: When we came into office, Budgets

measured the wealth and success of New Zealand on just the narrow metric of economic growth - GDP.

We have fundamentally changed the way budgets are put together and how they are delivered.

The result is that Budgets now reflect what New Zealanders value including how many children have been lifted out of poverty, how much cleaner our environment is and how we are future proofing the economy.

Environment: Since we came into Government, we have done more to help solve climate change and make our communities cleaner and healthier, than previous administrations.

The progress we have made includes passing the Zero Carbon Act - a comprehensive framework to ensure we are all playing our part; reform of the Emissions Trading Scheme, to ensure major polluters are paying their fair share and taking action to reduce emissions; more clean and renewable energy; and support for electric cars so the journeys we make are cleaner and more affordable.

It is an approach that has not been seen in New Zealand before



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern comforting a Muslim woman in Christchurch on March 16, 2019 (Picture Supplied)

- one that works for people and the environment.

Policing and Community Safety:

In November, we delivered the Government's commitment of adding 1800 new Police officers to frontline policing meaning that, after nine years of neglect, we had turned around the decline in numbers of frontline police who help keep our communities safe. Officers work to remove unlawful firearms from our communities, fight the threat from organised crime, gangs and extremist networks, reduce harm from methamphetamine, and disrupt transnational crime, child sex exploitation, and cyber-crime.

They are also committed to reducing family harm, cutting the road toll, and responding to mental health callouts which have now grown to around 33,000 a year.

That is just a taste of the work that we have done this year that builds towards the vision for New Zealand that I outlined.

Obviously there is more to do so bring on 2020.

Engagement with India

New Zealand's future is also increasingly as part of the global community.

As a small, trading nation at the bottom of the South Pacific (where else would you rather be!), it is vital that we engage with the rest of the world. Including, and especially, India.

The Government's vision for our future involves increasing trade that benefits both countries, making it easier for Kiwis to engage with India and vice versa, and strengthening our important cultural connections.

Your community will be vital in helping us make this a reality and I look forward to working with you.

For now, I wish you all a very happy 20th anniversary and note, with sadness, the recent death of the **Indian Newslink** founder Ravin Lal. His legacy in shaping the voice of the Indian

Community is important and strong.

Jacinda Ardern is Prime Minister of New Zealand.

World hails Ardern as humane, genuine leader

Venkat Raman

Leaders and people across the world paid tributes to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern for her compassion and leadership in handling the tragedy in Christchurch on March 15, 2019.

A terrorist attack on March 15, 2019 at two Mosques in the Garden City killed 51 men, women and children and injured more than 50 others.

'They are Us'

Ms Ardern was acclaimed for reaching out to the Muslim community and mourning with them in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. Her speeches were noted for their love and care, offering solace and comfort to the victims of the families affected by the massacre and by the Muslim community in general.

Soon after the shootings occurred, she said that there was no place in New Zealand for such acts of extreme violence.

"This is one of New Zealand's darkest days. Clearly, what has happened is an extraordinary and unprecedented acts of violence. Many of those who will have been directly affected by this shooting will be migrants, they will be refugees here. They have chosen to make New Zealand their home and it is their home. They are us. The person who perpetuated this violence against us is not; they have no place in New Zealand," she said.

Solidarity and hospitality

Ms Ardern said that the Muslim community showed its hospitality towards all New Zealanders by opening the Mosques throughout the country 'and allowing us to be with

them,' at a time when it would be completely justified to close the doors and lock the gates.

"You did the exact opposite and on behalf of New Zealand, we thank you for that. We are a Nation of 220 ethnicities speaking 160 languages, from all walks of life, from different religions, different ages; you are a reflection of who we are as a Nation. And so, I am incredibly humbled to stand before you and see the act of solidarity from so many New Zealanders here," she said.

Another tragedy grips New Zealanders

On December 9, 2019, Whakaari (White Island) erupted. There were two explosions, one after the other in quick succession.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said: "I want to acknowledge the courageous decision made by first responders and those pilots who, in the immediate rescue effort, made an incredibly brave decision under extraordinarily dangerous circumstances in an attempt to get people out. As a result of their efforts a number of people were rescued from the island. However, it is now clear that there were two groups on the island - those who were able to be evacuated and those who were close to the eruption.

"To those who have lost or are missing family and friends, we share in your unfathomable grief at this moment in time, and in your sorrow. Your loved ones stood alongside kiwis who were hosting you here. We grieve with you, and we grieve with them. For now, our duty is to return loved ones. As the Police have pointed out, there is much more work there to be done.



Congratulations

to Indian Newslink
on your 20th Anniversary



Left to Right: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand, Leader of the Labour Party and MP for Mt Albert, **Hon Jenny Salesa**, MP for Manukau East, Minister for Ethnic Communities, **Priyanca Radhakrishnan**, Labour List MP based in Maungakiekie, Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Ethnic Communities

The Labour Ethnic Communities Team

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Onehunga, Auckland 1061

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Labour

Forward steps entail closer engagement with India

Simon Bridges

First of all, a big congratulations to the entire team at the-celebrating their 20th Anniversary.

It is a huge achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication that has been apparent over the last two decades.

I greatly appreciate the role you play in our vibrant Indian community, and I thoroughly enjoy getting involved in local events and traditions.

Festivities highlight culture

This year's Diwali Festival was a particular highlight of mine, and I look forward to next year's festival as well.

Events like this give us the opportunity to come together and enjoy the diversity and richness of our cultures.

The National Party respects and admires the work, diversity and culture that the Indian community brings to New Zealand.

I got a further taste of this culture when I travelled to India earlier this year. I was blown away and found the pace of life over there both exhilarating and confronting, it was a true assault on my senses but I can't wait to return.

Fostering Indo-Kiwi relations

I made the trip to India because I believe we have an important friendship that I want to see develop further, in a way that can be mutually beneficial for both nations if explored properly.

We have a long shared history and culture, whether it is the Commonwealth and Cricket, or those who have come to New Zealand and made this country their home since the 1890s, we have a basis for deep personal friendship.

Currently, our two way trade is worth approximately \$3 billion, but I think it can increase further. This will be no small feat and will require a huge amount of work from the New Zealand Government. This means regularly visiting India and ensuring we have a free and frank line of dialogue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his team.

Potential for trade

If I was Prime Minister, I would ensure I am doing this and furthering this relationship.

There are plenty of products that we could sell to India. I'd love to see more New Zealand Lamb and Wine on the shelves there, and for some of the tariffs to be relaxed to ensure they are more affordable.

Currently, there is a 150% tariff on New Zealand wine, which unfortunately is hugely limiting the amount of people who can consume it.

It needs to be about more than just selling our great products though. We want to do more with India, not just sell more.

There are plenty of other areas that we can advance our relationship, youth Cricket exchanges for example, encouraging more tourism ventures between our countries, collaborating on research and development with mutual interests and greatly improving our connectivity.

Immigration blockade

A major hindrance to enhancing all of this comes down to the issues we are currently experiencing in immigration. Visa processing times are far too long and make it too difficult for tourist or student visas to be issued.

Meanwhile, the Government's flip-flopping on partnership visas was deeply unsettling and highlighted how divided they are on immigration policy.

The reality is that partnership visas for arranged marriages have been a normal part of immigration policy for a long time. To think they could arbitrarily shut it down shows how naive the Government is.

Direct flights to India

Accessibility is another area that would need to be addressed to improve our relations with India. As Minister of Transport I signed an agreement to strengthen our air ties with India and I would like to see this continue to progress. One day this could

even mean direct air flights between India and New Zealand.

New Zealand and India have a lot we can offer each other and there are plenty of opportunities worth exploring.

There is a huge opportunity for our relationship to grow both trade-wise and as allies.

If National earns the right to form a Government in 2020 we will look to grow our ties with India in a way that is mutually beneficial for both nations.

Simon Bridges is Leader of the National Party and Leader of the Opposition

Trip to India an eye-opener

There is huge potential for improving relations. It has to be approached in a modern way with sophistication. It's not just about selling more stuff, particularly dairy. We are not and will never flood this market. We want to do more with India, not just sell more.

If we say it's about cricket, how do we work together on that? Youth exchanges? And what about something

as left-field as space cooperation. India will any day now become the fourth country to land on the moon. New Zealand manufactures components for space exploration, it may be a fertile area for us to explore.

We should be encouraging direct flights, that's the next logical step of the air services agreement that I signed as Minister, and we need to fix the length of time it takes to get a tourist or student visa,

which currently takes too long and is costing us tens of millions of dollars in lost revenue.

Like I said, India is an exciting place. It is the biggest population of under 35-year-olds in the world and growing, reportedly needing a million more jobs each month for that younger demographic. Our countries have plenty we can offer each other and we need to realise the potential.



Opposition Leader Simon Bridges at the market place in Old Delhi (Facebook Picture)



Opposition Leader Simon Bridges with Gerry Brownlee and Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi inside the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India in September 2019 (Picture Supplied)

Supporting the Kiwi Indian community



Simon Bridges
National Party Leader

Congratulations to the Indian Newslink team on **celebrating 20 years** of being an important voice for the New Zealand Indian community.



Simon Bridges
National Party Leader
Leader of the Opposition

    [simonjbridges](#)



Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi
National List MP based
in Manukau East

 [bakshikanwaljit](#)



Dr Parmjeet Parmar
National List MP
based in Mt Roskill

 [DrParmjeetParmarMP](#)



Funded by the Parliamentary Service. Authorised by Simon Bridges, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.

Responsible fiscal management delivers general wellbeing

Grant Robertson

20 years ago New Zealand was a different place. The economy was recovering from the 1997 Asian financial crisis, people were on high alert for the Y2K computer bug and rugby fans were mourning the All Blacks loss to France in the World Cup semi-final.

The fifth Labour Government had just taken office and was faced with rebuilding the country's social services after nine years of neglect (this phrase may sound familiar).

Nine years of neglect

When we took office two years ago, we were also confronted with nine years of neglect – particularly in the country's infrastructure.

You will remember news stories about mould and raw sewage in hospital walls, overcrowded school classrooms, a shortage of state housing, and roads that had been announced but not paid for.

There were many problems in a range of different infrastructure around the country and it is taking time to repair the damage – but we are making good progress.

We have been doing this while also managing the Government's accounts carefully, keeping public debt low and the books in surplus across the economic cycle.

Challenging times

It will not have escaped anyone's attention that the global economy is facing challenging times.

Headwinds like the US-China trade war and uncertainty created by issues like Brexit are having an impact on confidence and activity around the world, including in New Zealand.

The good news is that New Zealand is in a strong position. Relatively, we are growing stronger, and forecast to grow stronger, than the countries we compare ourselves to.

Our unemployment rate

is low – a full percent lower than Australia's, and wages are rising – particularly for low and modest income earners.

This comes down to the strength of our businesses, and the investments that we are making as a Government to support the economy and working New Zealanders.

Since we have been in office, the interest rate on new long-term Government debt has more than halved so we now have a once in a generation opportunity to rebuild and invest for the future.

New capital investment

On December 11, 2019, I announced \$12 billion of new capital investment to be spread a range of areas including transport, health, education, justice and climate change.

Of that 12 billion, \$8 billion will go to specific projects and \$4 billion to the Budget capital allowance which will be spread over four years.

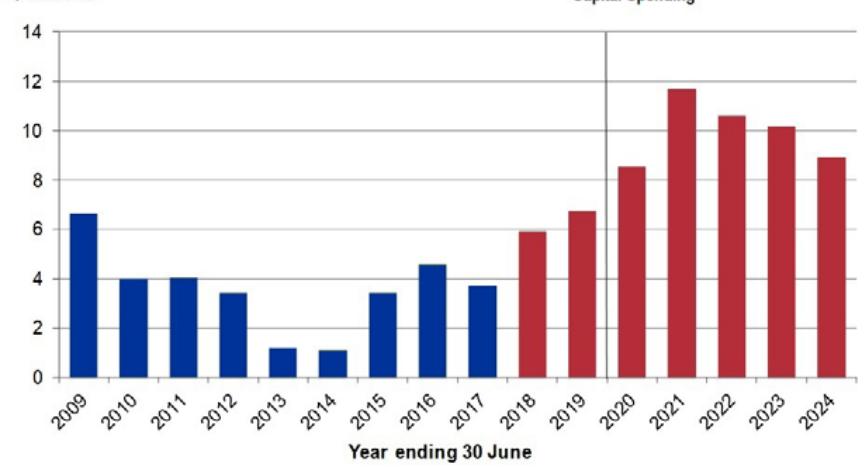
This new investment is forecast to boost New Zealand's economic growth by an extra \$10 billion over five years – this will benefit everyone in New Zealand and that is why we are doing it.

Futuristic vision

We want New Zealand to grow and prosper with modern infrastructure that is fit for purpose, strong and resilient.

We are going to build a better New Zealand while also keeping debt down and running sustainable surpluses across the economic cycle.

\$ billions



We are doing this so that in 20 years' time when a future Labour Finance Minister is writing an article for Indian

Newslink 40th Anniversary Special issue, they can look back proudly on the work we are doing now to build a better New Zealand.

Grant Robertson is Finance Minister of New Zealand.



A new course for public accountability

Venkat Raman

Finance Minister Grant Robertson was the Guest Speaker at the Ninth Annual Indian Newslink Lecture held on Monday, July 29, 2019 at Pullman Hotel, Auckland.

He said that New Zealand has adopted a new approach that underscores its fiscal policy and ensure the progress and prosperity of people.

Raising Standards

Describing the approach as the 'Living Standards Framework,' Mr Robertson said that the Wellbeing Budget that he presented to Parliament on May 30, 2019 was 'the essential first step.'

"This is based around the Four Capitals, or Stocks of Wellbeing, Financial/Physical, Human, Natural and Social. Or, to put it into non economist speak- our money, our people, our environment and our communities," he said.

The Year's theme of the Lecture was 'Good Financial Management contributes to Good Governance,' and Mr Robertson said, 'Good Government means Good Governance.'

Expanding his theme of 'Four Capitals,' Mr Robertson said that getting them in balance and harmony, strengthening them all now and into the future is the essence of wellbeing.

Sixty Measures

"And to back that up, the Framework has around 60 measures of Wellbeing. These range from the traditional such as levels of income, employment and home ownership, to the more subjective such as life satisfaction, connection to community and culture," he said.

Mr Robertson said that in preparing the Budget, he had used the Framework to decide on priorities, with internal and external advice.

He defined Mental Health,

Child Wellbeing, Addressing Disparities for Maori and Pacific peoples, Building a more productive nation and a Sustainable economy, in particular meeting the challenges and taking the opportunities related to climate change as the priorities of his government and Budget 2019.

"At each stage of the Budget process we focused on two important elements- how to break down the silos of government and what would have the biggest impact on future generations.

If there is one thing that will erode trust in government, it is the inability of government to work together," he said.

Individuals do not wake up in the morning and think about each of the government departments they need to deal with, yet that is how we have been structured and organised, he said and cited Mental Health and Domestic Violence as examples.

Finance Minister Grant Robertson with other ministers, Auckland Mayor Phil Goff, MPs and some of our guests at the Ninth Annual Indian Newslink Lecture held on July 29, 2019 at Pullman Hotel, Auckland.



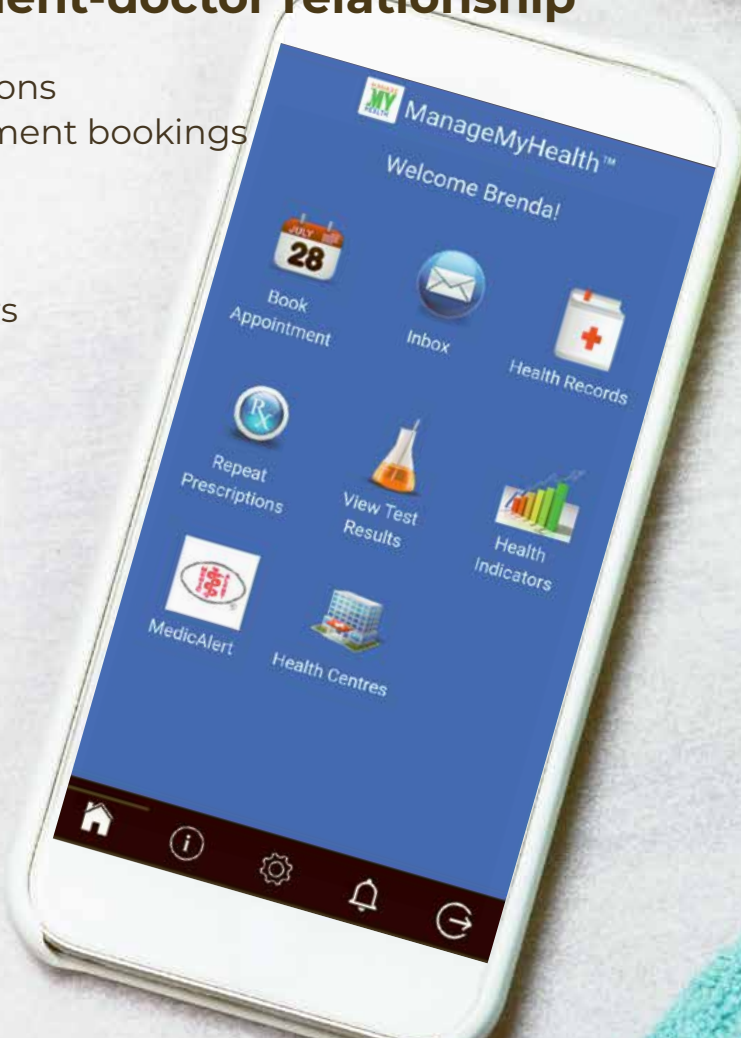
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Economic Plan creates pathways to sustained growth

Phil Twyford

New Zealand's economy is going great guns. But it could be going even better.

We need to seize New Zealand's potential, while tackling the long-term challenges our country faces. And this year, our Government released a plan to do just that.

Our Government is committed to building a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy that creates good jobs, higher incomes, and more opportunities now and for future generations.

That's why in September we released the Economic Plan – a roadmap to grow and share New Zealand's prosperity.

train the workforce we need, and support thriving and sustainable regions.

Understanding the basics

Our Economic Plan embraces a wider view of what meaningful success looks like, because we understand that the health and wellbeing of our people, the protection and enhancement of our environment, and the strength of our diverse communities will allow us to

achieve our potential.

There are some key shifts we need to make.

We want to move New Zealand's economy from volume to value.

This is an important step change.

It is about Kiwi busi-

nesses becoming more productive. Think about exporting raw logs and then think about creating cross laminated timber housing products.

It is a no brainer.

We are supporting this step change through initiatives such as Industry Transformation Plans to lift the productivity of our key sectors, and providing tax incentives for research and development investment.

Promoting small businesses

Small businesses are a vital part of our economy and employ over 600,000 people. We want to help these businesses and people to achieve their goals.

We have launched new tools and resources – like the business.govt.nz Funding Explorer which helps business owners identify the right finance options for their circumstances.

We are also encouraging entrepreneurs to innovate by changing tax rules, so that costs associated with exploring whether to invest in new assets or businesses can be deducted from tax bills.

The Government wants there to be deeper pools of capital available to invest in businesses, infrastructure and New Zealand's productive assets.

We are improving access to capital through Green

Investment Finance and introducing a Venture Capital Fund to help innovative firms scale up.

Sharing benefits

The benefits of a strong economy should be fairly shared. We want people and businesses in our regions to thrive.

Through the Provincial Growth Fund, we are investing to support regional businesses to grow, and building the rail, ports, roads and communications infrastructure that our regions need to connect and flourish in a modern economy.

Workers are critical to the economy.

We are making changes to make sure people are skilled, adaptable, and have access to lifelong learning. Our initiatives will address skill and workforce needs in different sectors and regions, through reforms to our education and immigration systems.

We know that new migrants and diverse communities are critical to New Zealand's economic growth, providing fresh ideas and helping fill skills shortages.

Welcoming skilled workers

A new streamlined process for employer-sponsored work visas will come into effect, to make it easier for businesses to fill genuine skills shortages and give po-

tential migrants more certainty.

These changes are being made alongside the reform of vocational education, which will see our skills and training system better matched to industry and employer needs.

We have to transform our housing market to unlock productivity growth and make houses more affordable. We want people to have a choice in where they live, learn and work, and make it easier for workers to live close to the best jobs for them.

Having inherited a housing market under extreme pressure, our Government has been focused on increasing our housing supply to better meet demand, and tackling long-standing failures at every point in the system.

These shifts will not take place overnight. However, we are identifying them so people and businesses can adapt to new working environments and respond confidently.

At the heart of this economic vision is the wellbeing of people: the business owners, workers, investors, innovators, researchers, lifelong learners, migrants, iwi, farmers, families and future generations who will call New Zealand home.

Phil Twyford is Economic Development Minister.



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Protectionism and tariffs challenge the free world

David Parker

Trade deals prepare New Zealand, and our region, to weather the coming global trade storm

In the face of rising global trade tensions New Zealand's strong regional relationships are more critical than ever.

At the same time, the protection of the rules-based international order, through bodies like the World Trade Organisation, are crucial to world trade and in particular to small economies like ours.

Deepening relationships

This year the Government has redoubled its efforts to broaden and deepen our trade relationships, including the upgrade of our free trade agreement with China and good progress on RCEP, while joining like-minded countries in promoting and protecting the rules-based trading system.

Additionally, we are making New Zealand's trade more inclusive and sustainable through our Trade for All agenda, which aims to ensure the benefits of trade are spread across the whole community, including small and medium businesses, the regions, women and Maori.

Protectionism, trade wars

Protectionist trade wars, such as the China-US tariff hikes, have worsened a slowing global economy, while nationalist policies, such as Turkey's incursion into Syria, have caused fractures in organisations tasked with tackling regional and global issues.

In the past two years we have seen a 30% increase in trade protectionist measures – the biggest since 1995.

Protectionist measures will ultimately exacerbate the causes of the concerns of those who already feeling left behind. In short, they will make worse what they purport to make better.

Ensuring that our exporters have access to a broad range of markets is how we bolster them against an increasingly uncertain international trade environment.

Trade deals like CPTPP provide us with insurance

against the threat to the effectiveness of the WTO.

Great deal with China

By anchoring ourselves to other regions, countries and economies, through agreements with legally enforceable rules, we tether the economy to calmer, more predictable shores, which in turn supports the jobs of some 620,000 New Zealanders.

About 67% of our goods exports are now covered under FTA rules, compared with 57% before CPTPP entered into force.

Meanwhile, the recent conclusion of the China upgrade ensures our trade deal with China remains among the best it has with any country. It lowers tariffs for our wood and paper products, locks in the removal of all safeguard tariffs for dairy products by 2024 and includes new commitments to environmental protections. This flows through to more jobs and higher wages in New Zealand.

The agreement on the text of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), announced last month, was a significant milestone for New Zealand's trade policy.

RCEP represents huge strategic, as well as commercial, value to New Zealand.

RCEP and India

Once fully concluded it will anchor New Zealand in a regional agreement with half the world's population and markets that take more than half our total exports.

Under the RCEP deal virtually all issues have been agreed between 15 countries, with the aim

to resolve outstanding issues with the 16th, India, in 2020.

I hope that can be achieved.

India is New Zealand's 11th largest trading partner, with total trade in goods and services worth more than \$2.6 billion. If India joins RCEP, this will give New Zealand's exporters increased access to a market worth US\$2.7 trillion.

The increase in two way trade with India would also significantly benefit importers of Indian goods through reduced trade barriers.

India and New Zealand have a longstanding and warm relationship and India's importance to New Zealand is growing, reflecting its expanding economy, its growing geopolitical importance, and its increased international

engagement.

We share similar political and legal systems as a consequence of our shared Commonwealth heritage, complimentary horticultural export seasons, common interests in the Indo-Pacific region, and existing business-to-business and people-to-people linkages.

Commonwealth links

Those Commonwealth links provide an opportunity to collaborate regionally and at the global level on shared good regulatory practices, to shape practical outcomes on the development of the digital economy and to promote the importance of a strong enabling environment for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to participate in the global economy.

We would encourage India to take an active leadership role within the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda work programme, given the size and importance of the Indian economy in the Commonwealth.

One practical area where New Zealand and India share a common focus is on the Ease of Doing Business (EODB). New Zealand is a global leader in the area of public sector innovation and there are opportunities to develop a comprehensive bilateral work program that supports Indian ambitions at both the state and federal government level.

David Parker is Minister for Trade and Export Growth and Attorney General.



Without India, RCEP is low on potential

Venkat Raman

The East Asia Summit, held in Bangkok on November 4, 2019, held the litmus test for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) between the members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Dialogue Partners including New Zealand.

Regional pacts have had their use in Europe, Arab Gulf and Africa.

But a cross-border Treaty involving India has been challenge for this RCEP, since 2012 and despite 27 rounds of negotiations, there is no deal in sight.

Optimism overstated

New Zealand has a major stake in the process since its dairy products can find an entry into the world's second largest consumer market (after China) through the ASEAN corridor since a direct Free Trade Agreement has thus far eluded progress.

But Associate Trade & Export Growth Minister Damien O'Connor was overly optimistic when he said that the Partnership Agreement will be signed by the end of this year.

New Zealand sees this RCEP as harmonisation of existing agreements between ASEAN,

India, China, Japan, South Korea and Australia.

India's concerns

As an agro-based economy, India sees flooding of its markets by foreign dairy and agricultural products as a serious threat. The country undoubtedly has the right to protect its farming sector but the policy runs counter to global partnership that it wants.

As expected, India decided to say 'No.'

Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that India decided to distance itself from RCEP after its concerns were not adequately addressed by other negotiating countries.

He told Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Parliament on December 10, 2019 that the deal in its current form does not provide a level playing field for India as it does not account for its huge population, unequal levels of economic development and human development indicators, contrasting levels of prosperity, investment capacity, cultural diversity and significantly different political and judicial systems.

"During the RCEP meetings, we highlighted that India has a relatively low per capita GDP as compared to other RCEP countries, and there

are concerns about the livelihood of our farmers and employment generation provided by the industrial sector, particularly the MSMEs. India focused on its demand for a level playing field, fair trade practices, transparency and market access. We also repeatedly cited serious concerns regarding the non-tariff barriers to trade, and opaqueness in the subsidy regime in some RCEP countries, and sought credible resolution of such issues. In addition, to be able to take advantage of regional value chains, all countries must ensure that the rules of origin are not circumvented," Mr Goyal said.

Larger benefits

As the Economist observed, "An RCEP without India would probably make South-East Asian countries an even more attractive destination for companies seeking to relocate some production out of China. Vietnam, which is also a member of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a trade agreement with Canada, Mexico, and Chile, would be particularly well-placed."

But there is little hope, at least as we have written earlier.





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Immigration Policy and Practice should improve: agreed

Iain Lees-Galloway

Celebrating our achievements is something we don't do enough of so firstly I want to say congratulations! *Indian Newslink* has provided information and commentary on our community and economy for a good 20 years and it's time to celebrate it.

Please accept my best wishes for celebrations.

Over that time, our community has changed and we have become more and more multicultural as we welcome communities and families as visiting relatives, temporary workers, and residents.

Global phenomenon

We are not alone in our increasingly multicultural community.

It is something of a global phenomenon. Today there are over 272 million people in the world who were not born in the country they now reside in. That is a reason to celebrate the diverse and interesting world in which we live.

In New Zealand, we support a state-led approach to migration that upholds the human rights and wellbeing of migrants and their families and that promotes inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

We value and respect our migrant communities. You make a huge contribution to our communities and our economy. Even more important to us is to continue to build an inclusive and tolerant society, this is an essential part of our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's focus on improving the wellbeing of our communities.

Immigration p

One of the areas we are working hard to improve is immigration policy and practise. You will be aware that there have been a num-

ber of areas where we need to do better.

Clarifying Partnership Visas

Like you I am concerned about the results of Immigration New Zealand's recent clarification of processes around partnership visas and treatment of culturally arranged marriage. While it is being sorted out now, there is still a lot of work to do to clarify this to communities, but also to work with communities more, especially for Immigration New Zealand (INZ) to build understanding of the issues facing migrant communities.

I have also been ensuring Immigration New Zealand is fully focussed on bringing visa processing times down.

In 2017 under the previous National Government, INZ decided to close a number of offices and lay off experienced visa processing staff.

Back then, demand was forecast to grow around 4%. This was less than half of actual growth which has been between 7% and 8% year on year since then.

There were 40,000 more applications than expected in 2018-2019.

Rising volumes and staff

In the last year, there were over 1 million visa applications.

Volumes for all visas are increasing. People want to come to New Zealand because the economy is doing well, un-employment is

low and we have a great Prime Minister in Jacinda Ardern.

This Government has supported INZ and invested significantly in visa processing to reverse these changes. 177 additional staff have been employed and a number of offices that were going to close, are being kept open (Henderson and Manila).

This is starting to make a difference but as I say, there is more to be done.

In all our work in immigration, from global cooperation on migration, to the prevention of people trafficking and the support

for refugees, we must bring our humanity.

We like to think we are in a modern and tolerant world, but we forget quite how much work it takes to keep it that way. But what better work to do than to protect our humanity and build a global culture where everyone is valued.

I would like to finish on another comment from our Prime Minister: "Every choice someone makes to learn about another culture, to experience the simple act of trying out a different food, seeing a different form of dance,

hearing a different language, that is a choice, to open yourselves up to another culture, ethnicity and to diversity."

The benefits of being tolerant and inclusive are enormous, both culturally and economically, so we need to continue to make the right choices, and continue to contribute to a modern New Zealand that is inclusive and tolerant and welcoming.

That's a New Zealand we can all be proud of.

Iain Lees-Galloway is Immigration and Workplace Relations & Safety Minister.



Our Guests of Honour at the Twelfth Annual Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards Presentation Ceremony held on November 25, 2019 at SkyCity Convention Centre (from left) Vijay Singh, Jenny Salea, Iain Lees-Galloway, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Grant Robertson, Simon Bridges, Muktesh Pardeshi, Paul Goldsmith and Michael Wood. (Picture by Narendra Bedekar)

Government creates Culturally Arranged Visitor Visa

Venkat Raman

The government has set up a new category called 'Culturally Arranged Visitor Visa' to cater to people who subscribe to arranged marriages conducted overseas.

An additional complement of 177 staff have been recruited since June this year to help with visa processing and reduce delays.

Immigration Minister Iain Lees-Galloway told *Indian Newslink* that the new Category has come into effect.

We understand that it would specifically benefit people from India, since according to community leaders, a majority of them get married as per the desire of their parents and elders.

Addressing concerns

"There were issues with the process used by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) to issue visas for culturally arranged marriages. It was inconsistently applied," Mr Lees-Galloway said.

"Although the procedure to grant visitor visas to new brides (or grooms) already exists, the new category will specifically address the needs of people who get married offshore. INZ is working with the communities to understand their culture and practice better and take appropriate decisions," he said.

Mr Lees-Galloway said that the government is now en-

suring that people in a culturally arranged marriage can visit their spouses here subject to usual risk management processes.

"I will make a small change to instructions to allow INZ to provide culturally arranged marriage visitor visas to partners of New Zealand residents and citizens as the policy originally intended. This removes the need for work arounds, and maintains the ability to appropriately accommodate the cultural dimension around arranged marriages and have robust clear processes," he said.

Checks and risk management

INZ will insist on hard evidence of the arranged marriages and scrutinise applications thoroughly. The evaluation of applications will be more stringent in cases where one or both spouses are less than 20 years of age.

"Marriage alone will not be sufficient evidence for immigration purposes and the applicants will be required to provide a range of documents to prove that their relationship meets our requirements. In New Zealand, people aged 16 or 17 need consent from a Family Court Judge before they can marry," Mr Lees-Galloway said.

These may include as appropriate (1) Marriage Certificate if married; Civil Union Certificate, if in a civil union (2) proof of shared residence (such as joint mort-

gage, tenancy agreements, or rent book (3) financial dependence or interdependence, proof of shared income or bank accounts, or accounts that show money transfers to or from the applicant and their partner; birth certificates of any children (4) any documents showing public or family recognition of the relationship correspondence including postmarked envelopes to the applicant and their partner at the same address (5) photographs of the applicant and their partner together (6) evidence of the duration of the relationship (7) the degree of commitment to a shared life (8) evidence of communication between the applicant and their partner- this may include cards, letters, emails and social media conversations (9) tickets from shared travel/activities (10) divorce documents from previous relationship(s) (11) evidence the couple own assets together and (12) joint utilities accounts.

Indian Newslink has handled a large number of cases which include young brides facing extortion by their in-laws, ill-treatment by their husbands and other forms of abuse.

There have also been cases of fake documentation to gain resident status and in a few instances, the groom is already married with wife and children in New Zealand. Reassessing declined cases



Funding boost enhances community development

Jenny Salesa

We have over 200 ethnicities who now call New Zealand home. And our ethnic community population is growing fast.



It is set to grow from around 777,930 today, to 1.5 million people by 2038.

Our people being able to take pride in who they are and where they come from is critical to a modern country's sense of social harmony.

How we promote and celebrate our ethnic diversity makes all the difference in showing this home belongs to everyone.

Social harmony on priority

For the last two years, I have had the honour of being Minister for Ethnic Communities in a Government that has prioritised social harmony and inclusion.

We recognise that Aotearoa

New Zealand is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in the world.

Our Government is working towards greater social harmony and inclusion by supporting our ethnic communities on the ground.

Recently, I had the honour of announcing a significant increase to the Ethnic Communities Development Fund from \$520,000 per year to over \$4 million each year.

This is the largest increase in the Fund's history.

Emphasis on inclusion

We have also changed the focus of the Fund to ensure there is a strong emphasis on growing an inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand, including supporting campaigns that educate New Zealanders on the value ethnic diversity brings to our country.

Every New Zealander should know about the contribution that our ethnic communities bring.

The Fund will now operate as a rolling Fund, with applications assessed and decisions made throughout the year, rather than just once annually.

Eligible groups with initiatives that benefit ethnic communities in Aotearoa New Zealand have been able to apply from early December.

If you, or organisations you

work with, believe your work could be enhanced with this support – please, apply today.

Community engagement expanded

Inclusion also requires making sure your Government department, the Office of Ethnic Communities, has the resources required to help build stronger ethnic communities within and across Aotearoa New Zealand.

We have expanded the community engagement team by investing \$9.4 million.

Having people on the ground working alongside communities helps to broaden and deepen relationships between communities, and gives communities like yours a real voice in government decision making.

Voice of the People

Another way that ethnic communities make your voices heard is through publications like *Indian Newslink*. This free, fortnightly newspaper for the New Zealand communities has promoted news, views, businesses and culture in print since 1999 and online since 2000. I wish to acknowledge the incredible success of the *Indian Newslink* team over the last 20 years.

I have had the pleasure to attend the Newslink Indian Business Awards in recent years, and these events have been love-

ly opportunities to recognise and celebrate Indian business excellence in New Zealand.

This publication also established the Sir Anand Satyanand Lecture in 2011, aimed at promoting good governance; and the Indian Newslink Indian Sports and Community Awards in 2012.

Remembering the Founder

I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Ravin Lal, Founder and first Publisher of *Indian Newslink* on November 28, 2019. Ravin was a media veteran and held several positions of importance in the publishing industry in Fiji, United Kingdom, Ireland and other countries before migrating to New Zealand more than 30 years ago.

His legacy lives on through these pages.

I would like to thank our 800,000 New Zealanders who make up our ethnic communities population in Aotearoa for your ideas, goodwill, and hard work this year.

Together we are building a home we can all be proud of.

All the best for a prosperous 2020.

Jenny Salesa is Minister for Ethnic Communities, Building and Construction and Customs.



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Freedom, inclusion ensure our growth with diversity

Phil Goff

Congratulations to *Indian Newslink* on its 20th anniversary of publishing in New Zealand.

Over the past two decades, this newspaper has established itself as a highly regarded source of news for Auckland's as well as New Zealand's growing Indian population.

As well as providing informative and entertaining content to its growing audience, it plays a valuable role supporting events such as the Indian Business Awards, the Sports, Community, Arts and Culture Awards and its Annual Lecture Series.

These events help build the social and economic success of the extended Indian community and contribute to the cultural vibrancy of our city.

Significant changes

Since *Indian Newslink* was established in 1999, Auckland has experienced significant social, economic, cultural and demographic changes.

Our population has grown from around 1.2 million to almost 1.6 million.

Over the same period, Auckland has become significantly more diverse and we are now one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world, home to people from more than 180 different ethnicities.

Auckland's Indian population has grown from less than 40,000 to well over 100,000 and continues to thrive, playing an increasingly important role in the social, cultural and economic fabric of our city.

Diwali, a general celebration

This is seen in the increasing profile of cultural events and festivals such as Diwali.

Twenty years ago, Diwali was mainly celebrated by members of the Indian community at home. Today, it is one of the biggest events on Auckland's cultural calendar, with more than 60,000 people attending the Auckland Diwali Festival in Aotea Square each year and thousands more participating in regional events.

Notably, Diwali Festival is enjoyed not only by the Indian community, but brings together people of all cultures, faiths and ethnicities.

So too do many of the other cultural festivals celebrated in Auckland—Matariki, Polyfest and Pasifika, the Lantern Festival and Eid al-Fitr among others.

Positive influence

This sense of shared community and acceptance of diversity is undeniably positive for our city. It brings vibrancy and makes Auckland a more interesting place to live and visit.

I am committed to ensuring that Auckland continues to grow as a multicultural and multifair community, one that respects all peoples' rights to practise their faith and maintain their cultural identity in the way of their choosing.

Unfortunately, there are some people in our society who do not support these rights.

Instead of embracing diversity and multiculturalism, they choose to peddle bigotry, prejudice and racism. Instead of acknowledging the humanity we all share and that unites us, they attempt to divide us from each other.

Massacre in Christchurch

These sorts of attitudes are inimical to the creation of an inclusive city. While we saw their effects most tragically and shockingly in Christchurch in March, with the mosque shootings in which 51 people lost their lives, Auckland has also been marred

by incidents of racism and intolerance, though thankfully none so terrible.

As a society, we need to stand up to them and say we have no place for them in our society—that we have zero tolerance for racism, bigotry and prejudice. Only by doing so will we be able to create a safe and inclusive city for all.

Everyone in our society has a role to play in supporting this—including governors and politicians, members of the public and the news media.

And in today's age of fake news, the role of trusted media organisations such as *Indian Newslink* becomes increasingly important.

As well as helping to build a sense of community, they increase communication and understanding between people of different backgrounds, building mutual respect and acceptance.

As mayor, I am determined that our city will embrace diversity as something that enriches and does not divide us, and to ensure that people of all faiths and ethnicities are welcome in our city.

I thank *Indian Newslink* for the support it has shown in this endeavour over the past 20 years, and wish it all success for the next 20 years.

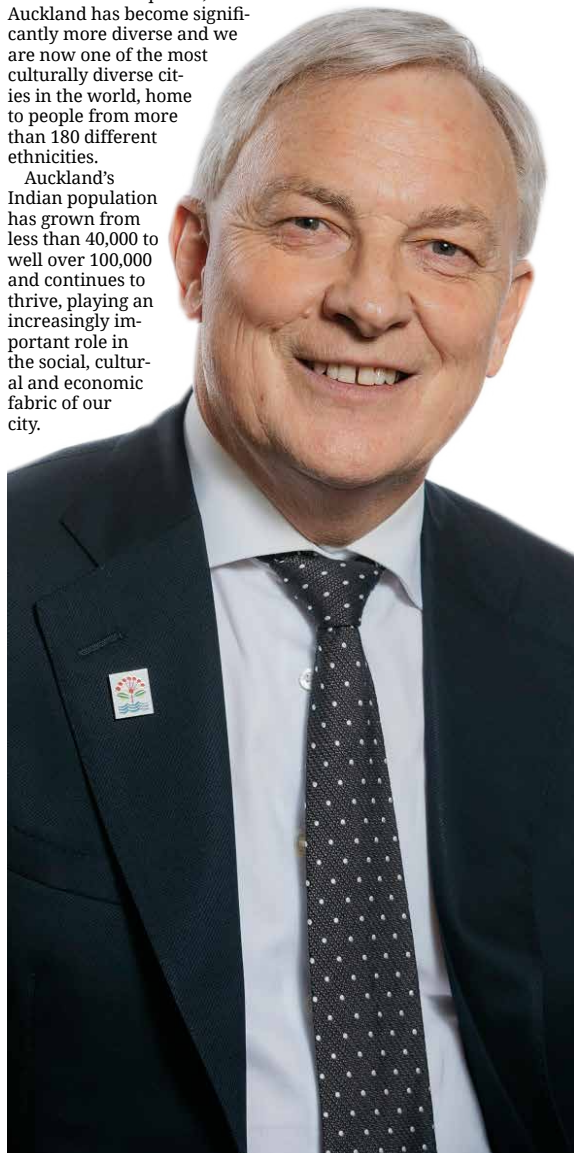
Finally, it was with huge sadness that I heard of the passing of *Indian Newslink* Founder and first publisher Ravin Lal on November 28, 2019.

Ravin was a journalist of great integrity and conviction.

In *Indian Newslink* he has established a legacy that reflects his vision.

My condolences to Ravin's wife Arin and their son, Ronan, and to all his family, friends and colleagues.

Phil Goff is Mayor of Auckland.



Phil Goff in his chains and robes Mayoral Regalia (Photo Supplied)

Auckland City continues to grow in diversity (Pixabay Picture)

Welcome Back, Phil, build the City Great!

Venkat Raman

Phil Goff won his battle for Mayoralty of Auckland for a second successive term on October 12, 2019.

Aucklanders have given the veteran politician a massive mandate; compared to the dismal polling number, his acceptance rate of 48% (a marginal increase of 0.4% over the 2016 election) is convincing.

In his Victory Message, Mr Goff said that he would build on the foundations to make Auckland a world class and inclusive City.

"We will continue to invest strongly in our transport infrastructure, in the City Rail Link, Light Rail, busways, arterial roads, cycle and walkways to decongest our city and give people choices in transport modes," he said.

Keeping promises

Mr Goff said that the Council, under his leadership, will keep up our rate of building new homes to meet demand and also cater for the vulnerable, working with government to build

more social homes and remove the blight of homelessness.

As an *Indian Newslink* Columnist, he said, "We need our city to be New Zealand's best performing city. That means an efficient Council that cuts waste and duplication. It means changing the culture of Council so that it is transparent, responsive and accountable. We have to sustain a City that is inclusive of and celebrates all cultures and faiths."

Fear of rates rise

Mr Goff now has an opportunity to turn Auckland in to a City of his dreams and that of common people.

There are fears that he would raise the rate structure, which would squeeze the wallet of Aucklanders, who are already being pinched by spiralling cost of living, would find any further hikes unbearable.

We will pin our hopes on Mr Goff, wait and watch with interest how he performs.

We have always held our Customers and Staff Supreme. They have returned the compliment.



Supreme Business of the Year Award: Raj Pardeep Singh and Ashima Singh, Directors of Legal Associates and their team with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Leader of the Opposition Simon Bridges after winning the 'Supreme Business of the Year Award' at Eleventh Annual Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards held on Monday, November 26, 2018 at SkyCity Convention Centre, Auckland. The picture also shows Rrahul Doshhi and Bhavini Doshii, Managing Director and Chief Executive of the Rainbow Corner Group of Companies, the Title Sponsor,

As we proudly accepted the 'Supreme Business of the Year Award' at the Eleventh Annual Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards held on Monday, November 26, 2018 at SkyCity Convention Centre, we dedicated it to our staff, customers,

well-wishers and people of New Zealand, with a resolve to serve them better.

We were also humbled to receive the 'Business Excellence in Marketing Award' for Legal Associates, while our young Barrister & Solicitor Haseeb Ashraf was honoured with the 'Best Young Entrepreneur

of the Year Award.'

Shyama Sharma, our Barrister & Solicitor received the Raman (Ray) Ranchhod Commemoration Award as the Best Businesswoman for her distinguished services to the Community.

Congratulations to Indian Newslink on their 20th Anniversary



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With no delivery, 2019 has missed opportunities

Paul Goldsmith

New Zealand has a lot going for it. The world wants our goods and our terms of trade, the prices that we are getting for our exports, are still at very high levels.

Our economy had gathered enormous momentum since the Global Financial Crisis and (Prime Minister) Jacinda Ardern's government inherited huge surpluses at a time of very low interest rates. We should be doing well.

Instead, we have got growth per person slumped to near zero and business confidence has collapsed.

Tight labour market

The labour market currently remains tight, but the worrying signal is that the

country's jobs creation machine is sputtering.

We are generating barely a third of the new jobs that we had been creating in 2016-2017.

Rapidly slowing job creation figures point to a lack of investment.

Sooner or later it will mean

fewer opportunities for Kiwis to get ahead.

This is exactly what we expect when confidence has evaporated.

Jacinda Ardern, (Finance Minister) Grant Robertson and (Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister) Winston Peters will keep blaming President (Donald) Trump, Brexit, China and the other 'global headwinds' for the slow down, but they need to look in the mirror.

Irredeemably complacent

This government has been irredeemably complacent about the sources of growth and is undermining several of them.

We know all the industries this government doesn't like – oil & gas, mining, dairy, international education, banking – but what do they like?

The current Government have been slack, confused, and lazy in their spending choices.

The hundreds of millions on free tertiary fees, for fewer students, is the classic example; as is the Provincial Growth Fund, at a cost of nearly half a million dollars for every full-time job created.

They have driven down business confidence by adding costs, creating massive uncertain-

ty and by demonstrating incompetence, most famously with KiwiBuild.

Nothing delivered

In the so-called 'Year of Delivery' nothing has been delivered. On transport in Auckland, where congestion blights our lives, they've cancelled several major projects that were ready to go and replaced them with projects, such as the slow tram down Dominion Road, that make little sense and are still years away from starting.

Their only policy on transport seems to be to slow us down.

And while the Prime Minister is known for her empathy, she has zero empathy for the 500,000 small business owners, who struggle each week against rising costs and regulations.

Restoring confidence

A National government would restore confidence and revive our economy, by making it easier for businesses, large and small, to get on with it and by being disciplined and effective in government.

We will spend carefully and demand specific results from that spending.

We will have a clearly articulated plan for growth.

We will concentrate on re-

ducing costs by being more disciplined about regulation – recognising that we were not perfect in Government in that area – by taxing people less and by tackling the cost of new housing head on.

We will provide more certainty and predictability in the way we govern so that investors feel confident to take their hands out of their pockets and start putting their money to work, to start new businesses, take on more staff and take a chance.

National goals

What's the goal? To deliver a strong economy and world-class public services that enable Kiwis to look after themselves and their families, to find satisfying work, and to lead full lives.

New Zealand should still be doing well.

We should still be creating 10,000 new jobs a month.

We have got a lot going us – we just need a government that can get the settings right and inspire some confidence.

Paul Goldsmith is Member of Parliament on National List based in Epsom, Auckland and the Party's Finance Spokesperson.



Bilateral relationships gain value in multilateral environment

Todd McClay

As a small trading nation, New Zealand depends on the strong relationships we can build with friends and partners overseas.

For us to succeed, we need to be ambitious about trade and seek to break new ground, secure new relationships, and deliver better opportunities for everyone in New Zealand.

That is especially true in the current global context.

We currently exist in a period of trade uncertainty. Global tensions, uncertainty at the World Trade Organisation and major events like Brexit all add to a tenuous global scene.

New Zealand in demand

But in this current context, New Zealand's role is clear.

The world clearly wants to buy what New Zealand has to sell. We are seeing record and near record high prices for our goods overseas and exports levels are growing.

The slowdown in growth we have seen in New Zealand is down to policy settings made in New Zealand, not as a result of global uncertainty.

Even as trade across the world faces headwinds, New Zealand is well paced to turn this uncertainty into opportunity.

Promoting exporters

The way we do this is to ensure we are putting the work in with our global partners and securing deals that lead to better access for our exporters.

This is where the value of

bilateral relationships in a multilateral world becomes particularly relevant. It is through securing strong bilateral relationships that New Zealand can secure new opportunities.

Links with India

India is an excellent example of a partner New Zealand can and should be working closely with to seize new prospects.

New Zealand and India have deep links forged through a shared history, a faith in democracy and strong person to person links.

The Indian community in New Zealand makes up about 4% of the total population and Hindi is the fourth most spoke language here. Last year alone, over 34,000 visitors came to New Zealand from India and over 20,000 students came to study.

Our relationship is strong and working together in trade makes sense.

We can deepen our relationship through trade. India is New Zealand a seventh largest trading partner, our largest in all of South and South East Asia, and there is a huge amount of room for growth.

Reservations on RCEP

Already India and New Zealand trade about \$3 billion worth of goods and services.

Every time our people do business, we strengthen our ties.

This is why the previous National Government was committed to pursuing trade deals with India.

We worked on starting nego-

tiations for a free trade agreement as well as engaging in negotiations for the multilateral Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

However, India has made it clear that there are reservations for them still in the multilateral RCEP.

This should not close the door for New Zealand to push for an ambitious deal with India ourselves.

Significant Strategy

Our bilateral relationship adds value to our efforts to secure deeper links to India and it is something National is committed to furthering.

Under the previous National Government, we saw the importance of our bilateral relationship symbolised by the efforts made to organise the then Prime Minister John Key to visit Prime Minister Narendra Modi in India.

Moreover, we launched the India - New Zealand Inc strategy which outlined an agenda for closer economic relations.

That is another value of the country to country relationships New Zealand forges, we can push for closer partnerships on a range of issues outside of the trade of goods and services.

This is why our leader Simon Bridges, recently travelled to India and talked of the value of adding new flight connections between our countries, refreshing the Government's economic strategy with India and fostering our trade relationship.

It is important that we are not complacent.

We must prioritise relationships with important partners.

Opportunities like this are able to exist because of the strong bilateral relationship we have.

Todd McClay is an elected Member of Parliament from Rotorua and National Party Spokesperson for Trade, Economic Development, Workplace Relations & Safety and Tourism.



Victims should be at the heart of Justice system

Mark Mitchell

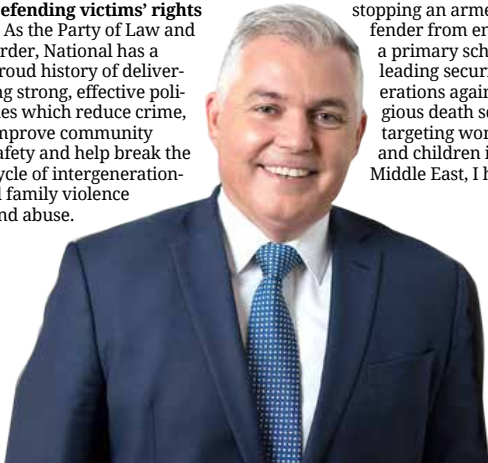
To deliver effective justice in today's changing world, we must put victims at the heart of our criminal justice system.

National understands that through no fault of their own, victims are often left with deep physical and mental scars, and often feel let down.

These victims should have the support that they need to help heal and move through our justice system with as little stress as possible.

Defending victims' rights

As the Party of Law and Order, National has a proud history of delivering strong, effective policies which reduce crime, improve community safety and help break the cycle of intergenerational family violence and abuse.



We do this by staunchly defending the rights of victims and holding serious, recidivist offenders to account.

Our approach to justice is proven and effective. Between 2011 and 2017, National reduced youth crime by 31% and overall crime by 14%.

As National's Justice Spokesperson, I have dedicated most of my adult life to law enforcement and community safety, both here at home and overseas.

Whether it be as a young New Zealand Police dog handler

stopping an armed offender from entering a primary school or leading security operations against religious death squads targeting women and children in the Middle East, I have al-

ways fought hard for the rights of victims.

No meaningful reforms

Under the current Government, the rights of victims are taking a backseat. More victims are suffering at the expense of a slow and clunky system. It now takes about 46% longer to get through cases in the District Court.

Labour has made no meaningful reforms to the criminal justice system since they came into Government. Instead, the number of serious harm cases before the Courts have increased by 25 per cent, while the percentage of crime reported to Police has decreased by 10 per cent.

National is focussed on making sure the Court process is easier to navigate for victims.

We strongly believe that no victim or their family should ever leave a courtroom feeling like they have not been heard.

Led by Simon Bridges, our Justice team is determined to restore faith in the criminal justice system.

Strong National record

Our record on law and order is strong. Whilst in Government, we put together a package for shop keepers who were dealing with armed robberies and assaults, which included a range of security and prevention measures, like

fog cannons, high volume interior alarms and panic alarms. This package has been incredibly useful, and has meant more Kiwis can feel safe at work.

Now, we are seeing increases in gang membership.

There has been a 26% increase in patched and prospect gang members under the current Government. You only have to watch the news to see story after story of gang members refusing to hand in firearms and brazen gang meetings in public places.

Harmful Gangs

From my time in the Police, I have seen first-hand the harm that gangs inflict on our communities. They are responsible for an enormous amount of social harm.

To get rid of gangs in our communities, we need to change the way we deal with them.

National has recently released our law and order discussion document which highlighted a number of ways to interrupt gang activity, shut down their criminal businesses and place harsher sanctions on gang-related offending.

We will give Police greater powers to search the homes and cars of violent gang members and are proposing a new unit within the Police to harass and target gangs. And while we want to get tough

on gangs, we also want to provide off-ramps for members who want to leave the gang culture behind and find a better life for their families.

Social Investment

That is why our Gang Action Plan will go hand in hand with our Social Investment approach.

Social Investment aims to prevent crime before it happens, by investing in those more likely to be involved in criminal activity, and giving those people the support they need to change.

The Labour-led Government has gone soft on crime.

It has no plan on how to tackle the growing gang problem or restore faith in the criminal justice system.

Instead, it is focused on reducing the prison population without coming up with a plan to reduce crime first.

National believes victims should be at the heart of the justice system.

Our approach to the justice system is evidence-based, forward-thinking and, above all, victim focused. We intend to make New Zealand a safer place for all Kiwis.

Mark Mitchell is elected Member of Parliament from Rodney and National Party's Spokesperson for Justice, Pike River Re-entry, Defence and Disarmament.

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Digital convergence threatens quality journalism

Melissa Lee

“Radio and television are most important and most effective means of mass communication. Television is probably the most effective means of mass communication. It has a great power for good or for evil; it has a great power for enlightenment of people. In a bad sense, it has great power when used for propaganda purposes. It is particularly effective and dangerous as a political and social weapon especially when a monopoly is running it. It is more dangerous still when that monopoly is under political control. Absolute control of this medium of communication can be used to produce almost any attitude of mind.”

The above statement was made by former Broadcasting Minister Arthur Kinsella as Parliament debated to establish the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation, the predecessor of TVNZ, RNZ, NZ On Air and, most non-print media in New Zealand.

Plurality of voices

Today, Kiwi consumers have a plurality of voices for entertainment, news, opinions and stories from the local free community newspaper to subscription on-line digital media streams like Netflix and Neon.

The way New Zealanders are consuming content is changing and that is a good thing for consumers but a challenge for those working in the sector to stay agile to the continually evolving media landscape.

In New Zealand, a number of media companies are projecting downward trends in profits and audiences.

The cost of high quality local content is near prohibitive without support from the Crown-funded NZ On Air agency, even though more than ever before New Zealand is consuming media content from across our country and sharing it with the wider world, there is a real struggle for local content creation in our country.

Loss of local journalism

While some may herald this as merely changing audience preferences for what can be perceived as higher quality overseas programming there is also a growing concern in the loss of local journalism and, with this, a loss of our local news, local reporting and with all of it that, the potential to hurt our democracy.

Earlier this year I cautiously welcomed an initiative by RNZ, NZ On Air and the Newspaper Publishers Association to pilot a local democracy reporting initiative to ensure the proceedings of our regional councils, community boards and elected trusts get covered but this in itself does not answer the wider questions facing media in New Zealand.

In New Zealand today we are at a crossroads. Decisions need to be made about how we decide to publicly fund those stories that are not commercially viable.

Evolving media landscape

Traditional broadcasters are

merging, selling up or facing cost pressures because they are unable to adapt to the evolving media landscape.

Some of these problems are a natural progression of the market that companies must face as part of doing business.

In the past several years, media companies have asked the government for help and been turned away while others have gained help only to still fall at the knees, others have tried to themselves only to be hindered by rulings again mergers on the grounds of anti-competition.

This situation is untenable and serious questions must be addressed to resolve the way media and journalism can operate in New Zealand.

Troubles at TV3

For a long time in our country, the state had a monopoly on the what, who and how of radio and television broadcasting and then 30 years ago, TV3 entered the scene.

Shortly thereafter, SKY Television was launched as a private broadcasting service.

TV3, after several owners, bailouts, near bankruptcies and collapses is once again up for sale and its future is in doubt.

Some say that the current nature of TVNZ as a commercial entity needs to change while others say it should be sold off by the Crown to focus on other initiatives.

With all this, we have had the Government spending more than two years, several Ministers and several working groups attempting to find a solution.

I won't speculate what National's position will be on those issues until I know what the Government is going to decide but what I do know is two years is too long for this question to have been left unsettled by the Government.

Global Partnership

This is because today the plurality of global broadcasters, media content creators and digital innovators is without question flourishing.

As a former journalist, I am proud of the way New Zealand is stepping up internationally as a global partner and consumer.

With these new markets come new ways we can share our content not just locally but internationally.

In Auckland, Amazon has commissioned studios in Kumeu to prepare the latest Lord of the Rings instalment which will air on Amazon Video.

In Wellington, studios and production houses alike from Miramar to Avalon are bursting with the latest Hollywood blockbusters and this all means our economy grows and New Zealand benefits.

If you ask the average New Zealander how they get their content in the each of the preceding several generations, they would have typically said, Newspaper, Radio and then Television respectively.

Today, all those lines of content still ring true with a multitude of



TV3 Presenters Mark Richardson, Amanda Gillies and Duncan Garner with Prime Minister Jacinda Arden (facing them) during the AM Show after the TV3 sale announcement (Picture RNZ picture of Newshub screenshot)

additional digital media options to access local and global news, entertainment and ideas.

Remarkable future

As the 2010s end, we face a remarkable future for all broadcasters and content creators who are willing to adapt to an ever progressing advancement in the way people seek knowledge and learn new ideas or stories.

Sixty years ago, Sir Jack Marshall commented upon the establishment of television broadcasting in New Zealand that “Television is a much more intimate and compelling medium than any we have at present,” I do wonder what he would say today about the impact of Twitter, Tik Tok and other social media services on politics and opinion in general.

The main issue at the heart of the convergence of traditional, digital and innovative media and broadcasting for many concerned is the supposed threat to high quality journalism and truth of information.

Interpreting fact from fiction

It is well known that digital algorithms are increasingly shaping what is on our screens and with that, what we may choose to think, and how we interpret fact from fiction.

There are no simple fixes nor are there easy answers to resolve the wide array of growing philosophical, moral and ethical questions facing the future of media but as a de-

mocracy we are fortunate that the plurality of voices in New Zealand will remain strong being vigilant in the fight against misinformation, the abuse of editorial trust and assert ourselves as a people who believe in truth above all else.

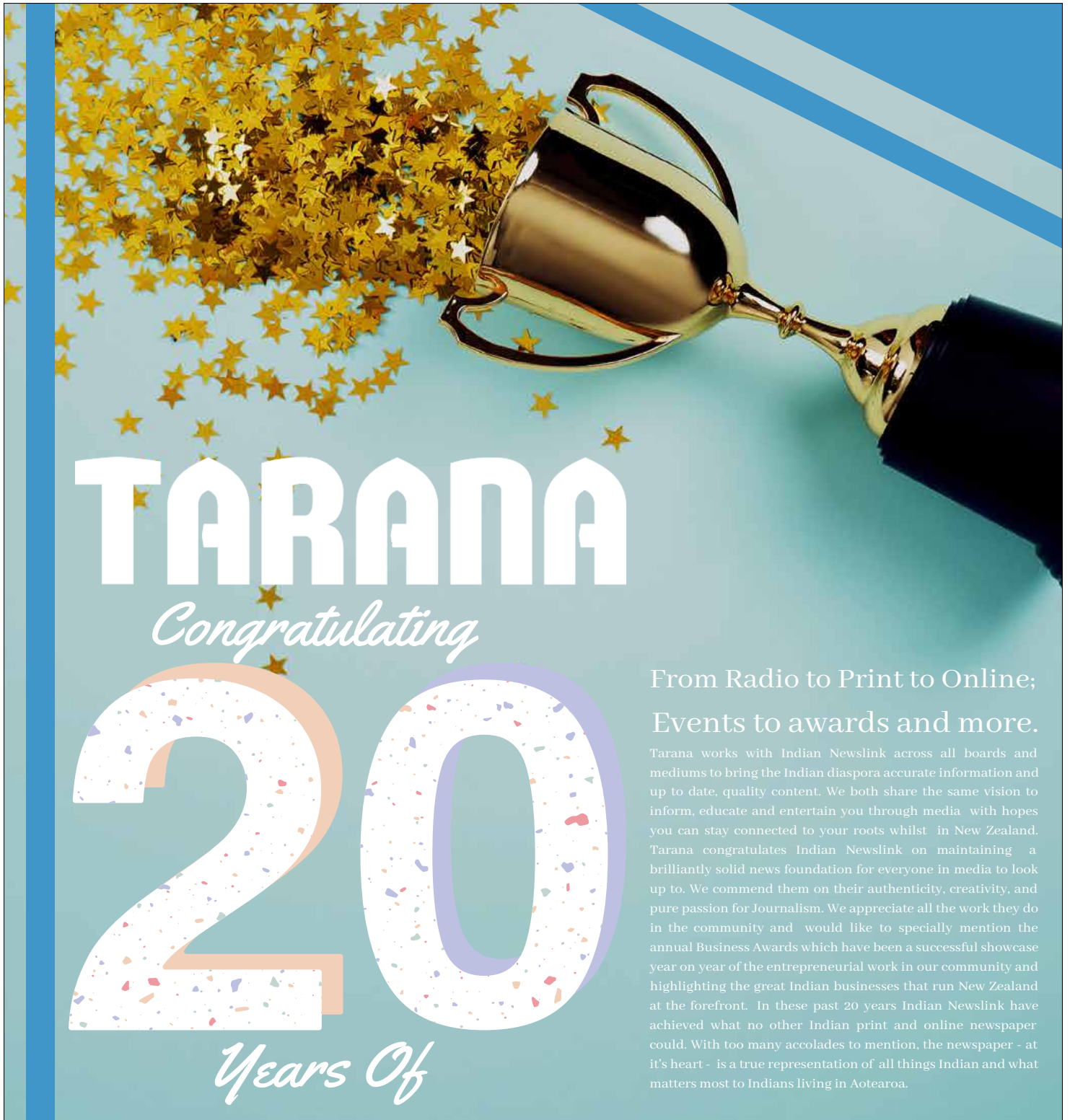
As Kinsella said in 1961, absolute control of this medium of communication can be used to produce almost

any attitude of mind and it is vital the Government does not overstep, while making sure the people can see misinformation for what it is.

After all, one of New Zealand's most beloved radio stations, Radio Hauraki, was established to counter the Government's interference in journalism and such values today should continue to be commended as we seek a better freer media landscape for all to thrive within it.

Melissa Lee is Member of Parliament on National List based in Mount Albert, Auckland and the Party's Spokesperson for Broadcasting, Communications & Digital Media and Ethnic Communities.





TARANA

Congratulating

20

Years Of

From Radio to Print to Online;
Events to awards and more.

Tarana works with Indian Newslink across all boards and mediums to bring the Indian diaspora accurate information and up to date, quality content. We both share the same vision to inform, educate and entertain you through media with hopes you can stay connected to your roots whilst in New Zealand. Tarana congratulates Indian Newslink on maintaining a brilliantly solid news foundation for everyone in media to look up to. We commend them on their authenticity, creativity, and pure passion for Journalism. We appreciate all the work they do in the community and would like to specially mention the annual Business Awards which have been a successful showcase year on year of the entrepreneurial work in our community and highlighting the great Indian businesses that run New Zealand at the forefront. In these past 20 years Indian Newslink have achieved what no other Indian print and online newspaper could. With too many accolades to mention, the newspaper - at its heart - is a true representation of all things Indian and what matters most to Indians living in Aotearoa.

Indian newslink

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UNDERSTANDING
WELL-INFORMED
UNITED
PASSIONATE
CULTURED **NZ**

Sporadic incidents insidiously disturb cultural plurality

Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi

The foundations of Aotearoa, New Zealand were laid by the first people who landed on the shores of the land of the long white cloud approximately 700 years ago.

Since its discovery, New Zealand has been home to people from different parts of the world.

At pres-

ent over a 100 ethnicities call New Zealand their home and the people of this country have welcomed us with open arms.

Celebrating varied festivals

We celebrate festivals and events from across the globe be it Japan Day, Korea Day, the Chinese New Year, Brazilian festival, a number of festivals from the South Pacific, and of course many of the Indian festivals.

The Festival of Colours Holi and the Festival of lights Diwali are an intrinsic part of the Kiwi cultural calendar.

I moved to New Zealand in 2000, and like most new migrants took a bit of time to find my feet in my adopted land of residence.

Welcoming Kiwis

Hand on heart each and every person whom I met or sought help from came across as friendly, welcoming and eager to assist in whatever manner they can.

Migrants too do their best to participate in their new homeland by learning different ways of life. Many of my

friends who arrived in New Zealand from different parts of the world often share with me their sense of enrichment in how different cultures have made New Zealand unique.

As an Indian I am proud of my heritage and culture and how we have shared it with the wider community in New Zealand as well as the world.

Our food is well appreciated by most. As calls for the world to adapt to a vegetarian and vegan way of life grow, India food which is predominately vegetarian is often considered a healthy option by many.

Positive contributions

Similarly there are a number of different ways that other ethnicities have contributed positively to New Zealand.

Migrants strive to be a part of mainstream New Zealand society.

We seek to contribute with our unique skill sets to Kiwi economy, sport and business.

I believe this is a two way process, where we discard any inhibitions when dealing with new scenarios and people, get out of our comfort zones and be ready to embrace change in our adopted countries.

The country then also should be welcoming of this change and provide avenues where all its

citizens get a fair go –the New Zealand we all know, does that to the optimum.

As a Member of Parliament I have had the honour to be invited to and attended a number of community and business events that truly showcase assimilation of migrants in New Zealand.

Celebrations success

The recently held Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards where people of Indian origin based in New Zealand were recognised for their contributions was a testament to New Zealand's multicultural acceptance.

Any business can only grow when its customers enjoy its products and services as well as interaction with staff. The fact that many of the businesses awarded at the Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards have been trading for a number of years speaks of their embrace by New Zealanders, where word of mouth can make or mar an enterprise.

Organisations such as Indian Newslink that lead by communications extraordinaire Venkat Raman play a key part in sharing stories of our success and also provide a platform where we can learn best practices as well as know of any shortcomings that need to be worked upon.

As we have seen in many situations there are of course a few bad apples everywhere. They have to be reprimanded, but again those stray incidents cannot be used to tar the image of the whole community.

Discrimination in Manurewa As I sat down to write this column I heard of the discriminatory attitude of Manurewa Cosmopolitan Club who turned away two paying customer because they were wearing turbans. This is not the first time that the Manurewa Cosmopolitan Club has displayed such attitude towards Sikhs.

It is well known that a turban forms an intrinsic part of the dress code of a baptised Sikh. Manurewa is home to diverse communities from all over the world including Sikhs.

Such attitude on display by a club that calls itself cosmopolitan towards law abiding citizens is shameful. It does not represent the New Zealand way of life which is welcoming and warm.

Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi is Member of Parliament based in Manukau East (Papatoetoe) and National Party Spokesperson for Internal Affairs and Associate Spokesperson for Justice.



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We congratulate
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Neglect puts Innovation and Scientific Research in jeopardy

Dr Parmjeet Parmar

National has a proven track record of supporting New Zealand's best researchers and industries in delivering research and innovation that leads to transformative benefits to future-proof our economy.

Coming from a scientific background, it is an absolute privilege and honour for me to be the Spokesperson for Research, Science and Innovation and Associate Spokesperson for Economic Development.

Unique scientific environment

New Zealand's scientific environment is unique as it is a fast-growing knowledge-intense environment. New Zealand is also unique in terms of its geographical location which makes it even more important for us to embrace opportunities and spur innovation to remain an attractive country to the world to make commercial gains to support not just more jobs but also higher paying jobs and overall prosperity of our nation.

As most of our businesses are small businesses, relatively only a few have been heavy investors in research and development. Access to a strong and vibrant domestic science and technology sector is one way to help New Zealand firms to grow into larger, more sophisticated businesses.

National knows that while investment in research and development is vital, it is sadly also seen to be a high-risk area of investment.

Incentives essential

We believe government has a very important role in incentivising businesses to invest more in research and development.

We have some New Zealand businesses that would routinely invest in research and development to hold onto their market share but, what will take us to the next

level is increased investment and commitment towards research and development to support the development of new products and ideas to compete in this ever-changing world.

We strongly believe that, along with the incentives to invest more, the government's job is also to provide certainty to businesses and investors.

Unfortunately, the current Labour government has failed to do so.

Government neglects sector

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has estimated that business expenditure on research and development should increase by 10% per year and government expenditure by \$150 million per year to meet the target of increasing spending on research and development to 2% of GDP by 2027.

The current government has failed to provide for this in their very second budget – Budget 2019, which will result in more pressure on future budgets.

On top of this, business confidence has sharply declined under this government, which in turn has adverse effects on business investment in research and development.

If the government does not keep up with its own commitment as they have not in their very second budget, businesses will feel even less confident investing in research and development.

Uncertainty destroys initiatives

Uncertainty also comes from chopping and changing of policies to suit political agendas for example, instead of building on the success of Growth Grants

which were started-up by the previous National government to support businesses invest in research and development, the current government has decided to discontinue them.

Our scientific community and innovative business sector deserves better.

National will create an environment where business confidence is increasing and more New Zealand businesses are comfortable investing more in research and development that will allow them to thrive.

Any research and development leads to real gains only through successful commercialisation of that work.

New Zealand's small businesses struggle to commercialise what research they do undertake and we are focused on improving policy settings in this area too while incentivising and providing certainty to the sector.

While we are focused on supporting businesses invest more in research and development, it is also important to keep producing world class scientists from our universities.

Better tertiary education

National will build on our tertiary education system in this area to support the demand of scientists to support businesses needing the skilled workforce to support their investments in research and development.

National will do this by investing in Science to drive quality

research at our universities. We will do this by attracting the best academics from around the world to ensure high quality research and ensure students learn from the best.

National believes that Science is needed not only to support our economy but also to support our environment.

We believe that research and development and adoption of new technologies - including in the field of biotechnology - is going to be key to helping agriculture reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

Biotechnology Act review

The current government has dismissed their official's advice, to act to review New Zealand's restrictive law that governs biotechnology.

On the other hand, we have already announced that we will review the act governing biotechnology if we are in the position to form the next government in 2020.

Just setting targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or imposing costs on farmers and businesses will not practically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The sector needs tools and biotechnology can be one of those tools.

National is the Party of new ideas, approaches and will find ways of supporting our economy while taking care of our environment. We believe in lifting productivity by intensifying

knowledge and by investing in excellence, making investments that will have a real positive impact on our country.

Tribute to Ravin Lal

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to **Indian Newslink** Founder Ravin Lal.

I am sad to learn about his passing away on November 28, 2019.

He will always be remembered on every occasion organised by Indian Newslink – The Lecture Series, Sports, Community, Arts & Culture Awards, Festivals of South India, and the biggest of them all, the **Indian Newslink** Indian Business Awards.

Ravin will also be remembered by all of us, and as the newspaper celebrates its 20th Anniversary, we recall the early months of its inception.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and the entire Indian Newslink team.

I have always valued how through hard work, inclusion of different views and voices, and strong links in the community, Indian Newslink has gone from strength to strength.

Dr Parmjeet Parmar is Member of Parliament on National List based in Mount Roskill (Auckland) and the Party's Spokesperson for Research, Science & Innovation and Associate Spokesperson for Economic Development and Chairperson of Education and Workforce Select Committee

Budget initiatives bring additional \$132 million

Through Budget 2019, the Government will invest an additional \$132 million of funding over four years for Research, Science and Innovation.

Combined with significant investment in the R&D tax incentive through Budget 2018, this is expected to grow total Government investment by 22% from \$1.672 billion in 2018-2019 to \$2.047 billion in 2020/21.

Budget 2019 makes it clear that the Government considers investment in Research, Science and Innovation a key part of achieving its priorities to transform the economy and build a productive nation.

These investments are intended to foster innovation that creates social and economic opportunities and improves the wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

R&D Tax initiative

Raising economy-wide spending on R&D to 2% of GDP remains a key goal for the Government. Budget 2019 continues to build on the momentum gained by the introduction of the R&D Tax Incentive in April 2019 by investing in expanding and improving existing innovation initiatives.

Budget 2019 also indicates that the Government plans to use the Science system as a lever for achieving the environmental, social and economic outcomes that sit beneath its broader goal to



(MBIE website image)

transform the economy.

The \$132 million of new operating expenditure allocated to vote Science and Innovation over the next four years includes the following:

\$25 million for the redevelopment of the Callaghan Innovation Quarter

\$25.5 million for a package of initiatives intended to promote the commercialisation of innovation, including increased support for the Commercialisation Partner Network Fund and the PreSeed Accelerator Fund and scaling up the Technology Incubator programme

\$18 million into an Industry Futures (Bioresource Processing Alliance and Product Accelerator) initiative. This funding will allow the continuation of these two programmes. The Product Accelerator helps develop technologies which create new products, new market opportunities and grow New Zealand's exports. The Bioresource Processing Alliance (BPA) co-funds and co-develops innovative products or processes to turn low-value biological waste streams into new high-value

products **\$10 million** into the Innovative Partnerships Programme, which is run by MBIE, and designed to attract globally leading firms and

innovators to New Zealand. This programme develops New Zealand's competitive advantage as a location for R&D investment

\$9.57 million to fund the continued operation of the New Zealand Food Innovation Network, while a new, more sustainable funding model is developed

\$20 million into advanced energy technologies research. The investment will be delivered through the 'Advanced Energy Technology Platform' - a new platform under the Strategic Science Investment Fund

\$20.75 million for the development of tools to help manage kauri dieback.

\$25 million will be invested in the further development of tools and technologies to transition New Zealand's agricultural sector to a sustainable, low-carbon future. This investment is comprised of \$3.2 million of new operating expenditure and \$21.7 million of reprioritised funding.

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment



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Do ethnic MPs genuinely represent their communities?

Jami-Lee Ross

New Zealand's MMP electoral system has resulted in greater representation with more women members of Parliament, more youthful MPs, and more MPs from ethnic minorities.

Both Labour and National boast an array of ethnic MPs from communities that, rightly, deserve representation in our Parliament.

I have been proud to serve alongside our Indian, Chinese, and Pacific MPs.

Are ethnic MPs effective?

Our Parliament also sees more New Zealanders of Maori descent serving, including MPs who grew up with a strong Maori worldview, as well as those like me who grew up as urban Maori less steeped in Maoritanga.

It is a popular and mainstream narrative to celebrate diversity, which I do.

What is less popular is to ask: Have ethnic communities gained genuine representation from ethnic MPs?

Or are ethnic communities seeing figureheads that are subservient to their political Party, at the expense of the community they claim to represent?

Our political parties in New Zealand are very powerful. They are sometimes described as cults of leadership.

The two main parties centre all their attention on the Party leaders, and they have a ferocious appetite for fundraising.

Harsh reality

It is a hard truth, but also reality, that too often MPs from ethnic minorities are treated with lip service on genuine issues, and instead directed toward fundraising activities to justify their seat in the Parliament.

I know this because I was a Party Whip and National Party Board Member.

National's ethnic MPs were under enormous pressure from the Party hierarchy to ensure funds were flowing through.

Forming connections that

win votes and raise money was more important than providing a genuine voice.

I almost cringe now when I think of the cynical approach the Parties take to ethnic representation.

When real issues arise in society that relate to the ethnic groups these ethnic MPs represent, they are usually not listened to by their colleagues or Party Leader.

Parent Visa example

A recent example of this is the changes to the financial requirements of Immigration New Zealand's Parent Resident Visa.

The annual income a migrant to New Zealand would need to earn to bring one of their parents to this country has increased from \$65,000 to \$106,080, which is twice the median salary.

Should they wish to bring both parents here they would need to earn \$159,120, which is three times the median salary.

I oppose these changes because they are unfairly restrictive and set too high a financial bar for new Kiwis to clear.

This change will likely have been enacted against protests from the current Government's ethnic MPs.

Token representation

National's ethnic MPs were just as toothless when National closed down the Parent Category in an election year knee-jerk reaction about three years ago.

That is just one example of token representation of ethnic minorities in New Zealand politics.

It is a step in the right direction for our Parliament to look more representative of society but it would be beneficial to our democracy, if, as a country, we learned to appreciate and value the way in which New Zealand is enriched by migration to these shores.

The vast majority of people who move here from overseas do so to seek a better life for themselves and their family.

They work hard, start businesses and possess a strong entrepreneurial spirit, and value high quality education in a way that raises the standard of our schools and universities.

They deserve genuine representation, and our democracy needs greater free thought and free speech to be demonstrated in Parliament.

Orchestrated show in Parliament

Far too often Parliament is a finely-orchestrated show where unity in public takes greater precedent than real voices being heard.

For the Parliament to be truly representative, and for political parties to take their ethnic MPs seriously, we need to make sure money in politics is not a contributing factor in whether or not those MPs' voices are listened to by their colleagues.

On a personal note, I continue to express regret and to apologise for the contents of a conversation between National Party leader Simon Bridges and I where an

impression was given that we placed greater value on an MP's ability to raise money for the political Party than on their value as a voice for their community.

Change essential

That is the sort of major party approach to politics that I regret having taken in the past and it is not something I am proud of.

When you are so immersed in the culture of a political party, it is hard to see that you have been forced to put your own community second.

Such a way of thinking and working is surely not in the best interest of our democracy. We all must change.

Finally, congratulations to Indian Newslink and its Editor and General Manager Venkat Raman on the Newspaper's 20th Anniversary.

To have produced a publication to such a high standard for two decades in a competitive media environment is a tremendous achievement.

Indian Newslink goes above

and beyond to keep its readers informed and is an integral part of New Zealand's ethnic news media.

And I hope all of *Indian Newslink* staff and readers have a safe and relaxing summer holiday and a happy New Year. **Jami-Lee Ross is an elected Member of Parliament from Botany in East Auckland. He represented National Party until September 2018 but now sits in Parliament as an Independent lawmaker.**

The true concept of Ethnic communities representation



India's Prime Minister spoke about democratic representation at the First Conference of Parliamentarians of People of Indian Origin on January 9, 2018 in Delhi (PIB Picture)

The true concept of Ethnic communities representation

The concept of "representation" is quite broad and is used in many areas of public life. One of the most often cited definition of "representation" belongs to Ankersmit, according to whom "representation is a making present (again) of what is absent.

Or, more formally, A is a representation of B when it can take B's place; hence, when it can as B's substitute or as B's replacement in its absence".

In general, representation should be understood as actions of a representative in the name and on behalf of those whom he (she) represents, while political representation refers here to the representation in legislatures.

There are different types of representation, thoroughly discussed in Pitkin's book *The Concept of Representation* (1972). For describing rights of ethnic groups for representation, many authors use descriptive and substantive types.

Advantages for ethnic groups

Descriptive representation means that Parliament of a given country mirrors demographic structure of a state. In other words, political representation of ethnic groups in legislatures should be in direct proportion to the percentage of these groups in the overall composition of the country. On the one hand, descriptive

representation has advantages for ethnic groups, as they may experience greater confidence in delegates who resemble them in different issues (E.g., ethnicity or gender); representatives of ethnic groups can serve as a model of their rights, protection for other ethnic minorities; and it leads to more justice and legitimacy of the political system.

On the other hand, the question of whether the Parliament should exactly mirror the society remains controversial, being opposed by some authors (Melissa Williams, Iris Young, Jane Mansbridge, Will Kymlicka), as "this would lead to an unworkable proliferation of group representation and undermine the process of representative government."

Substantive representation

Substantive representation means that representative acts on the behalf of and in the interest of the represented.

Substantive representation is obtained if the interests and needs that representatives fulfil reflect those that exist in a society. However, minorities can be underrepresented at the substantive level, if the dominant political culture interferes with the access of their interests and demands to the political agenda.

In general, there are both positive and negative aspects of these types of representation and highlight the best type, appropriate for each state is

nearly impossible. As it was already noted every case has its own peculiarities that need to be taken into consideration. However, basic principles of political representation of ethnic groups serve as a base from which we can make a start.

The meaning of ethnic group

It should be noted from the beginning, what we mean by ethnic group.

First of all, opposed to Kymlicka, the article does not distinguish national minorities from ethnic groups or immigrants, considering their right for political representation as equal.

Secondly, ethnic groups are not differentiated by national, regional or global context.

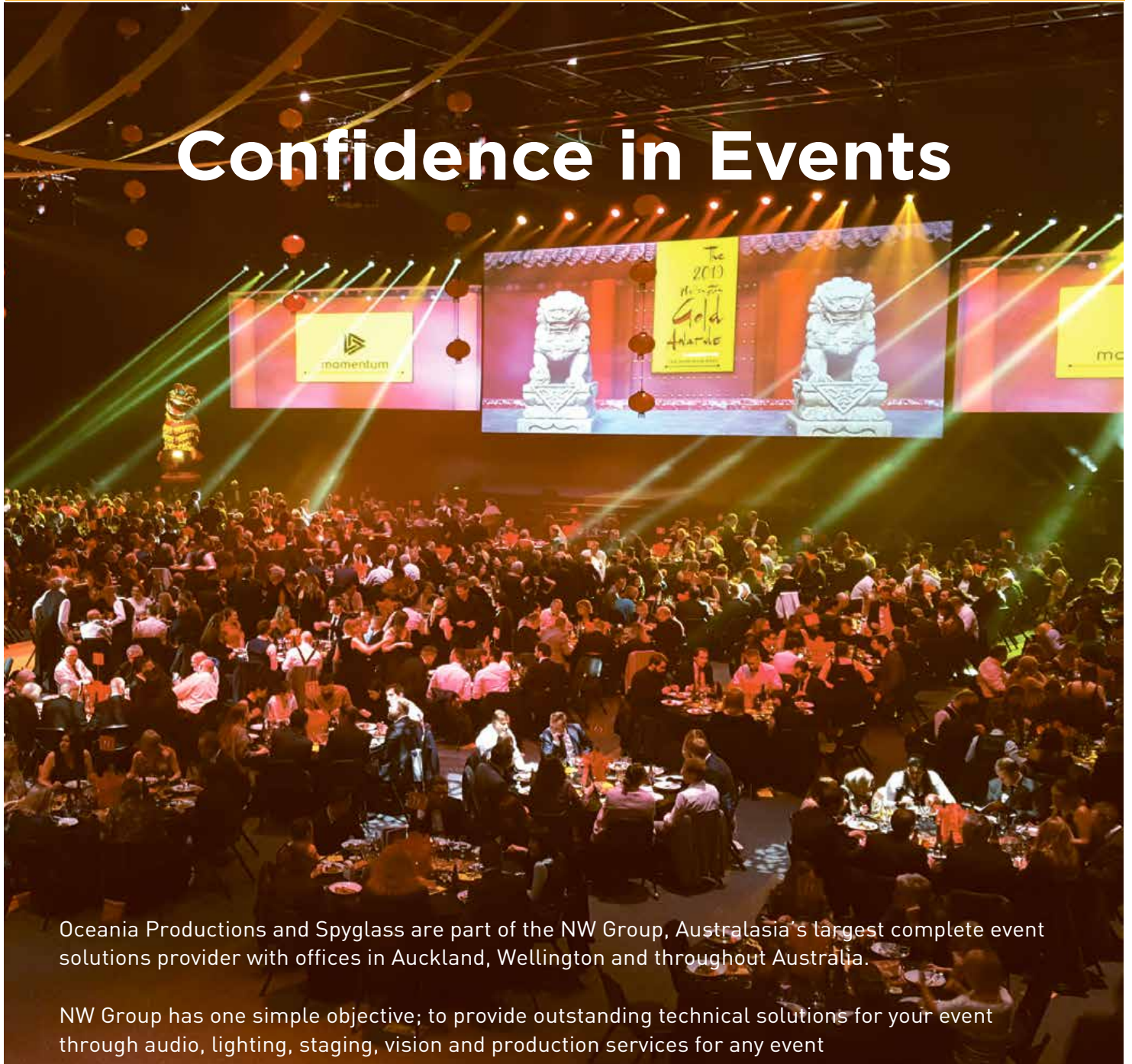
In particular, for instance, recognising that Russians in Russia are in some ways different from Russians in Kazakhstan, they are both understood as members of one ethnic group.

Finally, ethnic group is understood here as a group sharing common culture, national origin, language.

The above is an extract of a Paper titled, 'Contemporary Principles of Political Representation of Ethnic Groups' by M B Zhanarstanova and E L Nechayeva at the Third Global Conference on Business, Economics, Management and Tourism, held from November 26 to November 28 in Rome, Italy.



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Major policy changes to lift education standards

Simeon Brown

A good education can transform lives. That is why Education, alongside health and infrastructure, is one of National's core investment priorities.

As the Member of Parliament for Pakuranga (in East Auckland), I am fortunate to represent an area with some of the best schools in the country, and I feel privileged to serve as National's Associate Education Spokesperson.

Great leveller

Education is a great leveller in society.

National wants every child to have the opportunity to succeed no matter who they are or where they have come from.

With the right education, we can overcome the challenges some children face purely because of the circumstances they were born into.

The Government has introduced numerous reviews and working groups.

In contrast, National's Education Discussion Document outlines many proposals we want your feedback, and reconfirms our commitments.

Promoting ECE

In Early Childhood Education (ECE) we continue to focus on those critical first 1000 days for a child, on social investment and

on the quality of education and care our children receive in those foundation years.

We are proposing spot checks on ECE services to ensure they are meeting the required standards. If they are breaking the rules, we're proposing that these services be put on notice and parents informed. If problems aren't fixed quickly, services will risk losing their license to operate.

Most ECE services do a great job and parents are confident when they leave their child.

However, there is evidence that some are not meeting the quality standards parents expect.

Reducing bureaucracy

National will also support teachers so they can spend more time actually teaching.

Too often our teachers are burdened with too much bureaucracy.

Teachers should be focussing on face-to-face time with our children.

Last year, Simon Bridges announced that a National Government would reduce class sizes in primary. We are committed to this policy and have now released draft student-teacher ratios for feedback.

More time with a teacher means more opportunities for children to ask questions and get answers, and for teachers to focus on areas where a child may be struggling.

We believe that smaller class sizes will help reduce the workload teachers have.

Smaller class sizes means more teachers.

Incentives to teachers

National is proposing a number of ways, including financial incentives, to attract more people to the profession, or to get people to return to teaching.

We understand the need to have strong recruitment and retention policies to ensure we can deliver the teachers we need.

We are also considering changes to initial teacher training, which include strengthening practicum requirements, accredited schools involved in teacher training and more support for teachers who mentor beginning teachers.

A quality education comes from our teachers, but it also comes from strengthening the Curriculum. We want local curriculum to thrive and teachers to have world class curriculum resources.

Children must leave school with firm foundations in core areas of reading, writing and maths.

Digital fluency

We want our children to be digitally savvy and to be digitally fluent.

But we do worry about how much time our young children spend on screens.

We want to ensure that chil-

dren are not spending too much time on devices and are doing quality learning off-devices.

It is also important parents know how their children are progressing.

National will ensure we continue to improve school reporting systems, including better access to online reporting. As parents you deserve to know what your child is doing and what areas they need to improve on to succeed.

Tertiary education changes

National is also proposing some changes at the tertiary level. First year Fees Free has been an expensive failure. Not only has it not increased participation, but also there are fewer learners now than before. It's been a waste of hard earned taxpayer money, so we want your feedback on some possible alternatives.

We also oppose the Government's Reform of Vocational Education.

A National Government will return polytechnic assets and decision making back to regional polytechnics. We know the regions and local industry are best placed to teach their students.

Sixth Discussion Document

This is our sixth discussion document and it shows National has the ideas and momentum, while Labour is failing to deliver on its promises for New Zealanders.

Our Education Discussion

Document is a part of the biggest policy development process undertaken by an Opposition ever.

We are doing the work now so, we are ready to hit the ground running in 2020.

Enter into the contest of ideas with your feedback at www.national.org.nz/education.

Simeon Brown is Member of Parliament elected from Pakuranga Constituency in East Auckland. He is National Party's Associate Spokesperson for Education, Tertiary Education and Skills & Employment.



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New Zealand Prime Minister Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern with Rachna Dave

Rachna Dave with her 'Business Excellence in Marketing Award' with (from left) Radio Tarana Managing Director Robert Khan, Ethnic Communities Minister Jenny Salesa, Fiji's Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum at the 12th Annual Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards held at SkyCity Convention Centre on November 25, 2019



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Gender equality appeases but violence against women revolting

Priyanka Radhakrishnan

I have been a Member of the New Zealand Parliament for just over two years now and one of the things that I love about this role is meeting ordinary New Zealanders who do extraordinary things.

I have met many women from our ethnic minority communities who fall into that category.

These women are leaders in a variety of fields from business to research, academia, sports, the community and voluntary sector, the public service and the arts to name just a few. They are an inspiration to us all.

Quasiquintennial of women's suffrage

Last year, we celebrated New Zealand's long and proud history of women excelling in leadership roles by looking back on 125 years of suffrage with a specific suffrage debate in Parliament.

I spoke in Parliament about women like Elizabeth Yates, who was the first woman in the British Empire to be elected Mayor. She was elected Mayor of Onehunga on November 29, 1893, the day after New Zealand women led the world by voting in a general election for the first time.

In fact, she was the first woman to record her vote in the Onehunga electorate (Onehunga is now in Maungakiekie, which is the electorate in which I am based) at that general election.

Indian women of excellence

I also acknowledged another mayor, Dame Sukhi Turner, who was Mayor of Dunedin (from 1995 to 2004) and for a very long time considered one of the most prominent New Zealand politicians of Indian origin.

I acknowledged women from diverse ethnic minority communities across Aotearoa who

have fought over many decades to organise their own women's auxiliary wings and their own organisations – women like Shantiben Parbhu and Ruxmani Kasanji who fought to be able to express their ethnic and religious identities as New Zealanders.

Their histories are part of our nation's history.

Today, we have Vanisa Dhuru who is the first 'ethnic' woman to lead the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) as its National President.

The Council's first President was none other than Kate Sheppard, who led the campaign for suffrage! I daresay that Vanisa and I wouldn't be where we are today if it weren't for the leadership of the women who went before us.

We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.

Challenges ahead

We've come a long way, but there's still more work to be done.

There are many who struggle to find employment and to excel in their fields.

Many more struggle to get past senior management roles and move into top leadership positions.

There are a number of women in leadership roles in the community and voluntary sector but their contributions are not always recognised.

Gender-based violence affects us all, but there are still issues like forced marriage and dowry abuse that persist and disproportionately affect women from ethnic minority communities.

We are under-represented in virtually every level of leadership, including in our own communities and an ethnic gender pay gap persists.

Violence against women

For the first time ever, we have a dedicated position within the government whose sole focus is developing and implementing

a cross-government approach to addressing domestic and sexual violence.

Gender-based violence is a significant barrier to women's participation. We have also made forced marriage and dowry abuse illegal.

There's more work to be done to ensure that the legislation is effective and our women and girls are safe.

When this government took office, we committed to having more women in leadership roles.

Increasing leadership roles

I am proud that we have increased women on boards to a record level 47.4% for 2018, which takes us closer to our target of 50% of women on state sector boards by 2021.

As Minister for Women Julie-Anne Genter said, more di-

verse leadership in organisations results in better decision making, better organisational resilience and better performance. It also opens up more opportunities for women to succeed and contributes to a more inclusive and fairer society.

The same argument holds true for more 'ethnic' women on boards and more broadly, people from ethnic minority communities in leadership positions.

In order to gain a better understanding of the level of ethnic women's representation on state sector boards, the Ministry for Women and the Office of Ethnic Communities are undertaking a joint Gender and Ethnicity stocktake in 2020 to understand the diversity on state sector boards – and to move towards supporting more women from

our communities onto these boards.

Along with many others, I have spent years fighting for 'ethnic' women's voices to be heard at various levels of leadership so that barriers facing us are addressed.

I am proud to be supporting a government that finally takes us seriously and is taking steps to support our women to excel in their fields and at decision-making levels.

Me aro koe ki te haā o Hine-ahu-one - pay heed to the dignity of women.

Priyanka Radhakrishnan is Member of Parliament on Labour List based in Maungakiekie, Auckland.

Gender equality vital for progress

Venkat Raman

Indian Newslink has a section called, 'Couples in Partnership,' primarily to highlight the increasing number of women from the Indian community engaged as partners in business with their husbands, participating in the decision-making process.

This section also emphasises the positive aspects of relationship between men and women as partners at home and in business, and underscore the rising importance of our women in the business community.

Survey praises women

A Credit Suisse Group Survey has found that companies that have women on their management boards perform better with higher levels of productivity and profitability, an international report has revealed.

The Report said that gender diversity improves business health, creates better working environment and delivers higher average returns.

Despite rising concerns about the safety of women in some parts of India, the country accounts for a large number of women in top executive positions. Women are also active in politics, business, community work and other sections of the society.

We have often heard that Indian women in New Zealand are yet to realise their potential and be involved in national boards, and bring the benefit of their expertise and thinking power for the good of the country.

On a broader note, it may surprise some to realise that women are still in minority in the corporate world.

Forfeiting responsibility

In her book, 'Lean In,' Facebook Chief Operative Officer Sheryl Sandberg argued that women derail their own careers and lose out in the workplace because they do not negotiate for themselves

and are punished if they do.

According to her, women forfeit the change to take additional responsibilities at work, thinking that they may one day want to have a family.

"As a result, they find themselves with less meaningful jobs and often do not return to full-time work after maternity leave. Don't leave before you leave," she said.

Ms Sandberg annoyed many feminists, but she remains undaunted.

She is today worth more than US\$ 1.8 billion and her critics say that they may not like to work for a company with an intractable sense of its own transgressive nature.

But many analysts say that the critics miss the point.

Ms Sandberg believes that women are not solely responsible for their lack of leadership and that corporate structures and cultures also work against them.

"American companies, for example, are not obliged to offer paid maternity leave, not to mention paternity leave. Childcare costs have risen twice

as fast in the past decade as the median incomes of families with children, which means returning to work often makes little financial sense," they said.

Women in New Zealand

Corporate America notwithstanding, we believe that women of Indian origin in New Zealand have made their statement: "We have the ability to participate in the running of commercial enterprises, managing such delicate matters as sound financial discipline, human resources and customer service."

The presence of women on the management boards of companies and as entrepreneurs encouraged us to include the 'Best Businesswoman of the Year' category in the annual *Indian Newslink* Indian Business Awards. According to our independent panel of judges, this category is among the most popular of the Awards, attracting people from various industries and highlighting the significant role played by our women in the decision-making process and management of companies.



Ashima Singh (Partner, Legal Associates) and Rachna Dave (Director, 0800Rachna) are both winners of our 'Best Businesswoman of the Year' Award, respectively in 2016 and 2018.

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on its 20th Anniversary

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New Zealand faces real threat to 'real' democracy

Christopher Luxon

Having lived and worked overseas for 16 years observing the good and bad of various political systems, I believe that New Zealand should feel incredibly proud of our democracy that has been built up and shaped over many generations.

The results speak for themselves with New Zealand being consistently rated as one of the best countries for civil liberties and human rights, freedom of expression and religion, tolerance for immigrants, the rule of law, ease to do business, transparency and low corruption, and top places to live.

New Zealand's international reputation is strong and it is clear that we are not just a good country, but a country that is good for the world.

Guardianship of the People

We are blessed to be New Zealanders and I believe at the heart of our democracy is the core value and responsibility of kaitiaki – the guardianship of people (their economic & social wellbeing) and place (the care of our environment).

This is something we all believe in and must continue to work together on as a broad coalition of citizens, communities, businesses and government.

It is ultimately how we will con-

tinue perfecting our democracy and the creation of a better economy, society and environment.

New Zealand has demonstrated kaitiaki throughout our history as we have attempted to solve our economic, social and environmental challenges.

Good examples have been being the first country to give women the vote, the creation of a welfare safety net, wishing to be nuclear free, being committed to progressively advancing reconciliation with Maori, the loss of biodiversity, and finding new trading partners.

Courage to face challenges

While never perfect, importantly we have had the courage to identify, name and wrestle with our challenges and opportunities, and in doing so find solutions that take New Zealand forward and make life better for the generations that follow.

We are, however, entering a period of fundamental change. The impact is uncertain, but we know that the way we live and work in the world of tomorrow will be very different to what it is today.

So, as citizens, we must work even harder in the future to protect and strengthen our democratic ideals in a changing environment.

In my view, there are two threats to our democracy in New Zealand.

Constructive dissatisfaction

The first threat that could diminish our democracy is complacency as citizens simply take it for granted. Democracy requires constructive dissatisfaction, the notion that we have never arrived at perfection and all of us have more work to do.

It demands from citizens that if something needs to be fixed or improved we should step up, engage and get involved.

Thus, we cannot blame the leaders we elect without examining our own role in electing them. There are rights and responsibilities to citizenship.

Regardless of our politics, our diversity or our individual interests, democracy in New Zealand requires all of us to understand that we are in it together and we win as a team.

Healthy debate essential

We must always have a healthy debate and a battle of ideas about how best to achieve our common goal of kaitiaki, but we can't be complacent about the goal itself – the guardianship of people and place - to create more opportunity for people and make their lives better.

The second threat to New Zealand's democracy would be the stultifying partisanship and polarisation we see in other democracies around the world with the resulting consequences of distrust and a weakening

of democratic traditions and institutions.

It is too easy for all of us to retreat into our own networks and echo chambers with people sharing the same political outlook and beliefs that never challenge our assumptions.

Each of us can counter this by consciously choosing to try and understand the other perspective or viewpoint without taking or giving personal offense.

Maintaining civility

In doing so, New Zealand can maintain the civility we uniquely have in our politics.

Ultimately, I believe that we will get the country and democracy we all deserve.

As citizens, I think it falls to each of us to continually try to improve this great nation of ours, and I am especially encouraged by the next generation coming through who are more inclusive, highly intelligent and very creative.

So, I think committing our collective efforts behind continually renewing and building an even more perfect democracy in New Zealand is mission critical for our future.

It will enable us to work together on the unprecedented challenges and opportunities

we face and in doing so we will do well happening to our future rather than having it happen to us.

Christopher Luxon has held top positions in multinationals, the last of which was a Chief Executive at Air New Zealand. His entry into politics was rewarded with a win in the contest for the National Party seat in Botany, East Auckland.



Congratulations to Indian Newslink on their 20th Anniversary



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Global cooperation helps to tackle growing challenges

Mike Bush

Halting crime across the borders

Over the past 10 years, New Zealand Police's cooperation with overseas partners has expanded, and we remain committed to working closely with our friends and neighbours across a number of areas.

A focus for New Zealand Police is working with strategic partners at home and overseas to tackle the challenges affecting people's lives here and across the region.

Partnerships are vital to Police's work and the benefits are many.

The Christchurch massacre

There is no greater illustration than the response to the terror attack of March 15, 2019, in both the help received from overseas law enforcement partners and the strong support for Police among ethnic communities in New Zealand.

Partnerships underpin Police's purpose, which is that all New Zealanders are safe and feel safe. Reducing crime and the harm it causes, and holding offenders to account, are essential to achieve that goal.

Crime crosses borders and so must the Police response.

Transnational crime takes many forms – such as the methamphetamine trade, people smuggling, online child exploitation and money laundering.

The Pacific, with so many small nations in so much ocean, has long been a target for criminals – firstly seeking access to the more affluent coun-



Armed Police patrolling the streets of Christchurch (AFP Photo published by RNZ).



tries of the region, such as New Zealand and Australia, but more recently also targeting vulnerable people in Island states.

Security challenges worldwide

We share security challenges with many other countries – particularly in the Pacific region – and we acknowledge a collective responsibility to build policing capacity and capability across the region to keep our people and borders safe.

We have a network of liaison officers based in key strategic postings places across the world – Washington DC, London, Bangkok, Beijing and Suva, to name a few.

In addition, our people are engaged in many projects in the Pacific, helping build capacity

and capability with a particular focus on community policing – that is an area where we have an excellent international reputation.

Changing trends

Police relies on strong relationships at home and overseas to stay ahead of changing trends in offending.

Around the Pacific, we work to combat transnational organised crime, terrorism and money laundering – and many other challenges.

Police has recently led or assisted capability development training overseas, including courses in Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia.

At home, the New Zealand Government's allocation of extra funding to Police means more staff will be allocated to investigate, disrupt and dismantle serious organised and transnational crime.

Seizing drugs and bad money

There have been many recent success in which Police's work with partners at home and overseas has led to the seizure of hundreds of kilos of methamphetamine and other drugs; millions of dollars in cash; and the restraint of assets subject to forfeiture proceedings as suspected proceeds of crime.

These all represent a huge amount of social harm prevented, as drugs seized fail to reach their intended targets and people involved in their importation or manufacture are held accountable for their offending.

Despite the big picture, broad-brush nature of transnational offending, the harm

is felt by individuals and their communities at the ground zero of organised crime.

People support helps

Those communities are increasingly joining forces with Police to support people affected by crime.

In Northland, for example, Te Ara Oranga is a methamphetamine harm reduction programme involving Police and other agencies; in the Bay of Plenty, Oho Ake is a partnership with Tūhoe iwi that seeks to steer young offenders away from crime.

Tūhoe also provided valuable support in a 2018 operation targeting Mongrel Mob methamphetamine dealing in the Bay of Plenty town of Kawerau – a model of cooperation reducing the impact of a large-scale police operation in a vulnerable community.

Achieving goals

There are many other examples throughout New Zealand of communities stepping up in partnership with Police to repair the damage caused by crime.

Our mission is for New Zealand to be the safest country and our operating model is Prevention First – we take every opportunity to prevent harm occurring.

This applies beyond our borders as well as at home: we are determined to be good neighbours and share our experience and expertise with the other nations of the Pacific, and beyond, for the benefit of all our communities.

Mike Bush is Police Commissioner of New Zealand

AI needs sagacious use and moderation

Rahul Chopra

Imoved to New Zealand in 2004 to attend University and vividly recall that none of my classmates used to have smart phones then.

Many of us used to have digital mobile phones such as the Nokia 3310, which we used to stay connected with friends and family.

This was also the time when social media was starting to evolve.

My first social media account was on Orkut.

As a youngster, using social media was a learning experience to start connecting with people whom you have known, however have lost touch with due to distance.

Over time, technology evolved to expand the scope and extent of social media. Innovation and digital technology have made it eas-

ier for all of us to not only communicate but also be informed through audio and visual.

Fifteen years ago, I had to pay almost a \$1 a minute for a phone call but today, social media enables us to make video and audio calls free of charge.

Mental Health issues

Each of us faces challenges every day that affect our mental health.

Governments across the world have recognised this and invested on research, study, consultancy and treatment. As well as

younger members of the society, mental health issues affect migrant workers and international students who are usually away from their families and friends.

I believe that one of the easiest ways to stay mentally healthy is to stay connected to people you trust. Smart phones and

digital technology has made it possible to talk,

share images and exchange information instantly throughout the world.

Malicious intent

A majority of us currently use social media for engagement peacefully and usefully.

However, there are and have been some people who use it with malicious intent.

This was evident after the Christchurch massacre on March 15, 2019 and during a recent judicial trial at which malevolent users of social media disclosed information on the convict, despite a court ban.

Technology has evolved at an unimaginable pace. By 2025, the world will process more than 175 zettabytes (ZB) of data (one ZB is one trillion gigabytes) and 2030, there will be 50 billion connected devices.

Internet has become an intrinsic part of our lives and we as users need to strike a balance between our rights and responsibilities.

Strengthening legislation

I am sure that Government and industry will do their best to strengthen legislation and improve technical tools to prevent such behaviour.

Industry understands the need to balance its growth with guardianship, along with the need to create and maintain



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

trust amongst its users and adhere to their corporate social responsibilities.

However, neither Governments nor industry can prevent malicious usage, unless we as people and end users feel equally responsible.

Technology has simplified our lives by providing us tools such as maps that create consumer surplus in terms of time and resources that can be utilised elsewhere, or have helped narrow down the geographical area of a viral disease so that health authorities can work on its isolation and elimination.

AI and climate change

We are now reading about implementation of artificial intelligence technology towards tackling issues of climate change.

There is a huge opportunity before all of us to apply technology for better economic, social and environmental outcomes; provided we avail this opportunity responsibly.

Media organisations such as Indian Newslink and its leadership are role models to learn on how to maintain a balance between responsibility and freedom of choice, particularly for many of us in the millennial generation.

Rahul Chopra is an experienced communications and stakeholder Engagement Strategist currently employed by Parliament Services to work at the Manukau East (Auckland) office of National List MP Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi.

Greetings to Indian Newslink



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Glass ceiling impedes career advancement of women

Vanisa Dhuru

Are we doing enough to empower our women to excel in their chosen profession?

There is still room for improvement to empower women to excel in their chosen professions.

Research demonstrates that unconscious gender bias works against women as they advance in careers, particularly in fields that have typically been occupied by men.

While women, in general, have expanded their career aspirations into previously male dominated fields (such as accounting, medicine, law, etc), that has not necessarily meant acceptance and equality.

It is interesting that while employment has been shown to have a positive effect



for women and their families, however women continue to encounter a number of difficulties and misconceptions that affect their performance or ability to excel in the workplace.

Barriers and challenges

Leadership style, gender stereotyping, stress caused by role conflicts or multiple roles, work/family disagreements are all challenges that have been identified in research as barriers for women excelling in the workplace.

I believe that it is only in the last few years that employers have really begun to make moves to remove unconscious bias in decision-making processes that inhibits women's progression to excel, or move 'up the ladder,' for example, reviewing

hiring practices, measuring gender balance, including family-friendly policies, and setting targets for change.

Upskilling senior leaders to understand their bias, and actually acknowledging that there are challenges in workplaces that make it hard for women to excel seems to be a common problem.

This can be due to those in leadership positions, the decision makers of companies, coming with



Palmerston North Mayor Grant Smith, Vanisa Dhuru and Manawatu Mayor Helen

their own cultural or personal bias with which they have been raised.

Gender bias

Where does gender bias come from?

Why do people think this way? Gender bias and the way you think is shaped from an early age, and from your cultural context - your background, the influencers you grew up with and learnt from - our parents, wider family or whānau members, your schooling and cultural background.

Your thinking about gender and the difference starts from a young age.

Toys like science kits, Legos, building blocks which are mainly targeted towards young boys; versus soft toys, kitchen sets and barbie dolls which have been given to and played with by young girls. Toys and some games push-

es stereotypes that women should be caregivers, while men should be in higher-paid professions like science or engineering.

What you see and listen to also shapes your thoughts of what you 'think is right,' or what 'is normal.'

Removing outdated norms

When we understand this, and realise that maybe not everything we thought 'was normal' for boys and girls, or for men and women, is actually fair and equal, we can begin to see what our bias is, and then make the decision to alter this thinking, and apply this at work.

We need all workplaces, and leadership in workplaces, to scratch below the surface, see where they still have problems, and start conversations about what they can do every day to change these outdated social

norms that lead to inequality.

If we want to see meaningful change, both men and women are responsible.

It is not enough to enlighten and empower women and expect others to follow.

By valuing and respecting everyone - free of gender stereotypes and constraints, we may be able to overcome the bias of gender inequality, and begin to bring fairness to our workplaces.

When we start to recognise the subtle ways we still stereotype ourselves and others, we can start to break down barriers and truly excel.

Vanisa Dhuru is National President for the National Council of Women New Zealand (NCWNZ). She is the first woman of Indian origin to be elected to this office. Founded by Kate Sheppard, NCWNZ is an umbrella organisation leading the Gender Equal NZ campaign. She was acknowledged as a New Leader of Te Aho Tamaka Programme at an event held in Palmerston North on December 11, 2019.

Te Aho Tamaka is a New Zealand-First initiative that celebrates accomplished leaders who are recognised for making a difference in New Zealand and globally, are proud of their connection to Manawatu and are creating a legacy through their work in business, sport the community and more.

Greetings to Indian Newslink



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Couple honoured for pursuit of ethics and excellence

Venkat Raman

Two leaders have written in this Anniversary Special about empowerment of women or the lack of it in New Zealand and have advocated more opportunities in government and public institutions.

However, women of Indian origin have achieved remarkable success in the corporate world and as owners and operators of small, medium and large enterprises. They have successfully established and run enterprises that are today leaders in their chosen field of activity, and become a source of inspiration for others.

Among them is Manasa Sirigiri of Auckland.

Link2 Services, which she established 19 years ago, is regarded as a model in logistics and supply chain management, warehousing and a series of aligned activities.

The company has grown to become Link2 Group, comprising Link2 Services, Link2 Solutions and Stirling Recruitment with her husband Indra Sirigiri as the Chairman and Managing Director.

Both of them received the 'Indian Newslink 20th Anniversary Special Award for Business Excellence in Ethics and Compliance'



Manasa and Indra Sirigiri receiving the 'Indian Newslink 20th Anniversary Special Award for Business Ethics and Compliance' from Fiji's Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, watched by New Zealand's Leader of the Opposition Simon Bridges.



Indra Sirigiri with the Supreme Business of the Year Award 2016 with (from left) Manasa Sirigiri, then Prime Minister of New Zealand Sir John Key, BNZ Chairman Doug McKay, BNZ then Managing Director Anthony Healy and Rahul and Jaya Sirigiri

on November 25, 2019 at SkyCity Convention Centre, Auckland.

The Awards were presented by Attorney General of Fiji Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and New Zealand's Leader of the Opposition Simon Bridges in the presence of almost 1000 people including

Ministers for Finance Grant Robertson, Immigration and Workplace Relations & Safety Minister Iain Lees-Galloway and Ethnic Communities Minister Jenny Salesa, more than 15 members of Parliament, government officials and industry and business leaders

from throughout the country.

Pursuit of Excellence

A citation described Manasa Sirigiri as a 'visionary,' and her success has been driven not by academic qualifications but by pursuit of excellence.

Her husband Indra was described as an inspiring corporate leader who has built a group of companies known for business ethics and dependability.

As the Founder of Link2 Services, Manasa invested hard work while Indra brought his experience in business both as an employer and an employee to determine the sort of company they wanted Link2 to be - one that works hard for its customers and that treats employees with respect.

Link2 Services today employs more than 400 staff about 60% of who are of Indian ethnicity working with 50 different customers across Auckland. New employees undergo an induction programme with a significant focus on health and safety systems as well as the required skills for customer deployment.

Professional approach

It was while working as a logistics manager more than 18 years ago that Mr Sirigiri saw a different way of managing contract labour in this sector. Instead of hiring inexperienced casual staff on an hourly rate, he

offered clients a fixed price and then supply them with trained Link2 Services staff with an onsite supervisor.

This has been developed as an innovative and result-driven model and Link 2 Services is the only company that provides personnel on unit price basis as well as hourly basis, working onsite of clients and offsite at its own facility. These wide-ranging options have proved to be of benefit to its clients, offering them quality and cost-effective human resources solutions.

Awards and Citations

Over the past 19 years, the Link2 Group has been acknowledged for good governance and management principles in New Zealand.

The Company has won several Awards in the past years, the most significant of which was the Supreme Business Award of the Year in 2016 presented by then Prime Minister Sir John Key. Other Awards won that year include 'Best Employer of Choice,' 'Business Excellence in Customer Service (2015 & 2016),' 'Westpac Auckland Business Awards (South) in 2017.' Their Son Rahul Sirigiri won the Best Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the Indian Newslink Annual Awards twice- in 2013 and 2016.

Greetings to Indian Newslink



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Exalted customers reward financial advisor with loyalty

Venkat Raman

“Global Finance demonstrates a commitment to quality planning processes and follows through with effective execution of those plans. The Company has a high regard for the importance of its Board and its governance to oversee operations and future growth plans.”

Those were the comments of the Panel of Independent Judges of the Twelfth Annual Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards 2019, in selecting the Company for the Supreme Business of the Year Award at our Awards Ceremony held on November 25, 2019.

Global Finance set a record by scooping five awards- two in the Company Category (Business Excellence in Customer Service and Best Large Business of the Year) and two in the Individual Category (Best Financial Advisor Mortgage and Best Financial Advisor Insurance of the Year) won by Ajay Kumar and Aseem Agarwal.

The Judges described Global Finance as ‘An organisation led by a management team, with a high commitment to the customer, underpinning success.’

“The Company represents financial institutions and is linked to the products and services that they provide. This has been a catalyst for developing strong re-



Ajay Kumar and Aseem Agarwal with the Business Excellence in Customer Service Award, watched by (from left) Mercury Printz Directors Sakthi and Ilango Krishnamoorthy, Fiji Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and National MP Paul Goldsmith at our Business Awards on November 25, 2019



Aseem Agarwal gives his Acceptance Speech after receiving the Supreme Business of the Year Award, watched by Ajay Kumar and Master of Ceremonies Jackie Clarke at our Business Awards on November 25, 2019 (Pictures by Narendra Bedekar)

lationships with the providers that support them,” they said. **Two decades of Excellence**

There is a certain inexplicable affinity between Global Finance and Indian Newslink – both were launched in 1999- the first in March and the other in November.

Global Finance Managing Director Ajay Kumar, who was operating from the garage of his

house, arranged the finance for the property of the Late Ravin Lal, Founder-Managing Director of this newspaper which also began in the garage.

That was 20 years ago; and over these two decades, both companies have grown but that is where the comparison ends.

Global Finance has arranged more than \$9 billion in mortgage and insurance cover dur-

ing these 20 years and has about 2000 active customers who constantly seek expert advice on obtaining mortgage loans either for their first home or for investment and for their varying insurance needs.

The Company today has three offices, at Kirkbride Drive in Mangere, Henderson (West Auckland) and Manukau (South Auckland).

Unique Loan Liquidation Formula

Global Finance works closely with its customers and helps them to pay off their mortgage loans as soon as possible- in some cases as early as five years.

“Our unique formula of making our customers mortgage-free sooner than what they think would be possible, has seen many of them look for investment properties. In addition, we have seen the next generation growing and seeking our services. Growth and expansion are therefore constant,” Mr Kumar said.

Innovative technology

Mr Kumar understands the significance of digital technology and hence has set up a custom-built ‘technical fortress’ that ensures storage and retrieval of extensive data about every customer. The system also provides up-to-date information on each loan application, the review process, how each loan is perform-

ing and such other reports that would enable Global Finance Advisors to provide proper advice to his clients.

Mr Kumar said that Global Finance has created its own, state-of-the-art, cloud-based information system that would take the company and its intellectual property to the highest level ever.

“The software, written especially for Global Finance, provides even such micro information as to when a file was accessed, by whom and how long it was kept open by anyone in the company who has access to such data. The idea is to enable our staff to obtain necessary information quickly and thoroughly and update them as and when required. I would have the ability to monitor the system from anywhere in the world. With billions of dollars flowing through documents, it is imperative that the system conforms to the highest standards of security and remains pilferage-free. In today’s world of hacking and leaking, it is better to be careful than sorry,” Mr Kumar said.

Global Finance business continues to grow at 30% annually to manage which, the Company constantly needs people, acquired through a rigorous process of selection and generous mode of retention.

Innings with India on a good wicket begins here

Venkat Raman

Potential investors keen on utilising the existing and emerging opportunities in India are often baffled by the complexity of systems and procedures and varying business practices between regions.

This is one of the reasons for poor flow of investments from New Zealand.

Successive Labour and National governments and diplomats of both countries have spoken about lifting trade volumes and facilitating trade, business councils and trade organisations have largely proved to be ineffective except to organise conferences and everyone talks about concluding the imponderable and unachievable Free Trade Agreement.

Effective organisation

There is a need for an organisation on the ground that can connect businesses and more important, guide them through the process of establishing their presence in what is arguably the most exciting and the fastest growing economy in the world.

There exist companies and people with proven expertise; their works are not well known. Among them is CricHQ and its Mumbai based South Asia Chief Executive Sreedhar Venkatram, keen to promote business and people.

“While market knowledge is

important to do business in any country, knowing the right people with the right approach is even more vital for businesses to engage with India. There are commercial opportunities available to New Zealand investors in India and in other emerging economies in South Asia,” he said.

“But be prepared for a cultural shock and have enormous patience,” he warned.

About CricHQ

Sreedhar said that CricHQ aims to serve potential investors to do business in a region that accounts for more than two billion people, of who about 1.3 billion are in India.

“The CricHQ platform has a presence in over 50 countries and a user base in excess of 1.6 million. People in India see Cricket as a religion and there is a great visibility for CricHQ in South Asia, people correlate to Brendon McCullum, Stephen Fleming, Grant Elliott and other Cricketers. We aim to increase our customer base and offer one of the finest innovative technology for young talents, trainers, academies, sports associations, and others,” he said.

Sreedhar said that building relationship is the key to doing business with Indians in India and that the market is not only very large but also varied.

“The country accounts for more

than 700 million who are ‘underserved,’ and hence there is plenty to explore. Starting a conversation that includes Cricket and Bollywood will always enlist enthusiastic response but there are sensitivities that should be understood; all of which make it important to work with a ground person within India,” he said.

Role for Innovation

India is focused to become a US\$5 trillion economy by 2024, if average annual growth rate is held at 8% or above, he said.

“There is a role for innovative New Zealand businesses in this evolving economy. India has moved from away from food, clothing and shelter to health, wellness. It is a modern country, with a strong appetite for state-of-the-art infrastructure, technology and e-commerce. Investors can seek at least 55 destinations in this country and then expand,” Sreedhar said.

He said that the increasing number of people with disposable income, propensity to spend and the good-old Indian penchant for consumption are all factors that work in favour of international and national investors.

“The number of smartphones alone is expected to reach 829 million, still covering only 60% of the population, by 2022. The country will have an internet customer base of 475 million and

the e-commerce market will increase to US\$200 billion by 2026. As the third largest consumer economy in the world, consumption in terms of value is expected to triple to \$US4 trillion by 2025. The potential is huge,” he said.

About Sreedhar Venkatram

A thoroughbred Mumbaikar with a sound knowledge of the commercial capital of India, Sreedhar brings to his current assignment enviable experience and expertise of promoting businesses across the country.

During his 11 year-tenure at the Mumbai based New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (he was acting Trade Commissioner for nine months in 2008-2009 as New Zealand transitioned to a new National-led government), he has supported many multi-million dollar enterprises to set up their operations in India.

Among them are Glidepath, Rakon, STAAH, Pingar, New Zealand International Pilot Academy, Merlot Aero, Serko, Powershield, Tait, Velocity Made Good, International Aviation Academy of New Zealand, Redesign and Aeroqual.

He was also Beachheads Network Manager (NZTE India Beachheads), connecting businesses in either country.

His previous employment included that of Regulatory Advisor for FedEx and Export Promotion Councils sponsored by the Indian government.



Sreedhar Venkatram

The master of Odissi brings home the power of Kundalini

Venkat Raman

You would expect an expert with doctorates in Mathematics and Oceanography to pursue either of those professions (or arguably both) but Dr Sam (Ghulla) Goraya works for the telecommunication industry in Melbourne, Australia and is increasingly known around the world as one of the most innovative Odissi dancers of the century.

In a world that is getting increasingly materialistic, Dr Goraya is not only soft-spoken but also self-effacing, devoting his entire energy to bring about the positive elements of the body, mind and soul, and achieving the impossible—a combination of the three.

Event in Auckland March 22

As we wrote this, Dr Goraya was in India, preparing for one of his biggest shows, which like all his other events, would be well-researched, choreographed and presented.

New Zealanders would have a rare opportunity of witnessing his presentation of 'Kundalini' on Saturday, March 22, 2020 from 4 pm at Raye Freedman Arts Centre, Epsom Girls Grammar School, Sliver Road, New Market, Auckland.

Produced under the artistic direction of Guru Bichitrananda Swain, Dr Goraya will be joined by Santosh Ram and Samir Panigrahi, two other acclaimed Odissi dancers.

About Kundalini

Ancient Hindu scripts describe



Dr Sam (Ghulla) Goraya, an Odissi exponent

Kundalini as a form of divine energy, believed to be located at the base of the spine in the human body (known as 'Muladhara.')

It is an important concept in 'Shaiva Tantra,' where Kundalini is believed to be a force or power associated with the divine feminine.

This energy, when cultivated and awakened through tantric practice, is believed to lead to spiritual liberation.

Kundalini is associated with Adi Parashakthi, the Supreme Being in Shaktism, and Goddess Bhairavi or Parvathi.

It was adopted into Hatha Yoga in the 11th Century and has since



Samir Panigrahi, Dr Sam (Ghulla) Goraya and Santhosh Ram performing the Kundalini (Pictures Supplied)

then been adopted into other forms of Hinduism as well as modern spirituality.

Mystery of the Chakras

The human body comprises seven Chakras that are the circular vortexes of energy placed in seven different points on the spinal column. All the seven Chakras are connected to various organs and glands within the body and are responsible for disturbing the life energy, which is known as 'Prana.'

Dr Goraya said that the vital life force (Prana) is the means by which the subtle and the gross bodies in human organism are connected. It activates all the

systems in the body, including the nervous system to help them work together in harmony.

Energy Channels

"Prana is distributed throughout the body by Nadis (channels of energy). The whole process of spiritual growth is made possible by Prana and Nadis. According to Tantras, there are 14 principal Nadis. Of these, Ida, Pingala and Sushumna are considered to be the most important," he said.

According to Dr Goraya, the main purpose of Chakra meditation is to make the Chakra inactive by arousing the upward flow of Kundalini energy.

"The influence of the five

elements on the first five Chakras is depicted in the illustration of each Chakra by the particular shape (Yantra) of that element," he said.

"Traditionally, each Chakra is seen in the form of a Lotus – a circle around the Yantra, surrounded by a particular number of petals. The petals are the seats of mental modifications (Vrittis) and connected desires. Mental modifications are a mode of our being and are maintained by sense functioning. All Vrittis do not work all the time but some Vritti is always occupying the mind. The lotus petals are normally pointing downward, causing energy to flow down, but when the Kundalini Shakti rises, the petals go upward like a blossoming lotus. This upward movement of the petals blocks the downward flow of energy and acts like a lock."

About Dr Sam Goraya

A Melbourne based Odissi dancer who has many years of performance and production experience, Dr Sam Goraya produces powerful performances that invoke the latent energy that resides within the human system.

His works are confined to themes that are spiritually uplifting and possibly use consciousness concepts which are highly complex in nature and, at times, difficult to comprehend. He always attempts to present these concepts with care and clarity, using Odissi as the medium of expression.

Further reports on the forthcoming event in Auckland and profiles of the artistes will appear in the ensuing editions of *Indian Newslink*

The Football phenomenon heads for greater goals

Venkat Raman

From the time he kicked the first ball (he was three years old then), Arzan Todywalla never liked to set goals in Football.

For him, every strike to hit the goalpost and every team that he represents should win.

Never known to raise a tantrum or his voice, the 18-year-old has earned more accolades, cups and medals for the teams that he has represented at schools and clubs than anyone else in his group or class.

We have often said that Arzan is a rising Star but he can now be called a Phenomenon.

Because, victory is almost assured to any team that features him.

And 2019 was yet a record year of achievements, not just for him but for everyone associated with him—his colleagues, coaches, clubs and the school, not to forget his family.

The Saint Kentigern College First XI Team, in which he was the most important player, won the Auckland Premiership Title for 2019.

He scored 15 goals (staggering!) at the School League and received the Golden Boot from the Auckland Secondary Football Association for the feat.

Arzan was the Captain of the Eastern Suburbs Youth League 2019, and playing against Team

Wellington in a nail-biting last game of the season on December 7, 2019, he scored a hatrick, which was not of course the first in his impressive career.

The 18-year-old, having completed his graduation, awaits the next Chapter in his academic and Football career, and, like hundreds of others, anxiously await his decision.

It is a matter of gratification and pride that Arzan has impressed every coach and selector at every club in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom where he was invited to play over the past few years.

He was in the first batch of three-day trials held at the Sunbury Football Club in Melbourne from January 11 to 13, 2019.

Amazing Arzan

More than 150 hopefuls and top officials including UK Pro-Coaches Director Harry Price, UK Football Schools Director Chris Woodburn, Sports Psychologist Jimmy Davis and former English player and currently UK Pro-Club Scout Micky Adams watched Arzan execute some of the finest moves in the game.

Arzan was grouped in the Over 17 Players and was pitted against 26-year old 'veterans.' But he has proved his mettle in the Men's team at Fencibles Club AFC in Auckland.

Chris Woodburn, who was a Referee at the Trials, told



Arzan's parents Viraf and Pearl Todywalla, "Arzan is good; very good. There were a handful of players who got the attention of the coaches and Scout Micky Adams and he was one of them. You should surely consider the option of his admission to one of the top UK Schools, play for the School and train in the best and most professional environment to become a professional footballer."

Impressive Pace

Addressing Arzan as 'Number 21,' the number assigned to him, Micky Adams said, "I am very impressed with your pace; your pace is your main asset. Although you need to learn and improve on how and where to use your pace in a way that would benefit you the most, I can tell you that any team in the UK would love to have a player with that pace and skill. Your parents should speak

to Chris (Woodburn). Well done."

UFA Licensed Coach and Lecturer Ashleigh Hopkins said that Arzan has "what it takes to be a good Soccer player.

"Arzan, you have a long way to go. If it was upon me, I would take you right now in my team in the UK. You have exceptional pace; you listen, train and then perform. I am happy."

Committed Parents

While Arzan's steady rise as a spirited Soccer player is a direct result of his diligence, devotion, daily practice and most important of all his humility and eagerness to learn, the contributions and sacrifices of his parents Viraf and Pearl Todywalla are significant. They have been the true architects of the young man's rise. As well as investing time, money and efforts to ensure that their son is well-nourished and healthy, they spend all their spare time and weekends to reach him to playfields and events that further his interest in the game. They also constantly look for opportunities for Arzan to receive further training.

It was this watch out of Mr Todywalla on Facebook that encouraged them to take their son to Melbourne for the UK Football Trials Australia event.

Getting there was not cheap but it was not the first time for them to pool their savings and ensure that Arzan the best training possible. He has already been to the United Kingdom twice to participate in the Birmingham City FC Trails.

Aromatic recipes bring alive fine Gujarati cuisine

Mother and daughter launch Indian Gujarati cookbook

Contributed (Edited)

Preserving the authentic Indian Gujarati cuisine for her three daughters has been one of life's goals for the Wellington based Shobha Kalyan.

It has also been her dream of many years to write a cookbook replete with recipes that would be cherished and practiced by generations to come. Shobha's grandparents were one of the first Gujaratis to arrive in New Zealand almost 100 years ago.

She was surrounded by traditional Gujarati cuisine as she grew up.

Shobha taught what she knew to her children, and now that they are the third generation New Zealand-born, she wanted to write all her recipes in a cookbook to preserve the authenticity for use by anyone interested.

This was great motivation for her to self-publish the cookbook, called 'Pass It On' with her youngest daughter, Keryn Kalyan.

After nearly two years in the making, the mother-daughter combination released their cookbook on November 24, 2019.

Culinary art with Culture

This vibrant new cookbook comprises 103 deliciously aromatic recipes written by Shobha, each complemented with a beautiful



Mother and Daughter venture: Shobha and Keryn Kalyan



A time to celebrate: The Kalyan Family in Wellington



Accountant, Kitchen Help and Dishwasher: Jagdish Kalyan



The Front Cover of the cookbook

full page image captured by Keryn.

Created and designed to allow readers feel that they were immersed in the Gujarati culture and cuisine, 'Pass It On' glitters with aesthetic design and authentic recipes.

The gold edging on each page merges to create a unique Gujarati experience.

The cookbook cover also communicates their story showing Shobha's hands passing spices down to Keryn's hands.

Conscious decision

Shobha and Keryn consciously made the decision to self-publish to keep creative control, and be able to spend as much time as they needed pouring their love into their special project to deliver their cookbook as best as they could.

Self-publishing also meant starting a small business, which for Keryn was not only challenging but also a telling experience.

They discovered that self-pub-

lishing was more than creating a cookbook, putting in place ways to sell and market the publication. Their efforts included hiring freelancers to fill skill gaps, project management, packaging and distribution.

Daunting exercise

For Shobha, the most daunting exercise was measuring ingredients and writing them down.

"I never used recipes to learn. I would ask my mother, 'How much do I put in this?' and she would say, 'A little bit.' Well, how much is a little bit?"

She was taught to use her senses to cook, which meant learning the right amount of ingredients; this was how she taught her daughters too. Working on each recipe was the first time that she used measuring spoons in Gujarati cooking!

The fact that everything is now written and preserved in one cookbook would ensure that Shobha's family recipes will never be lost.

The Freelancers

Jessica Read was the designer who helped to create an exquisite and distinct look and feel that perfectly portrays Gujarat. Andrea Coppock was the copy editor and Kate Wanwimolruk was the proofreader, both experienced in the cookbook publishing industry, having worked with New Zealand's top chefs.

Shobha's husband was the accountant and he was very supportive throughout the journey - he was even hired as the dishwasher!

Down to the barcode on the back, everything was trickier than expected and they learned on the go. Shobha and Keryn persevered

This book contains more than 300 pages of 100 Recipes from Aromatic Spices to Lamb Kebabs. The culinary art of Gujarat demonstrates the healthy cuisine that the Indian Sub-Continent offers and as long-time settlers, Gujaratis have brought the specialities of their State to most countries of the world. Gujarat is primarily a vegetarian state, influenced by Jainism. Many communities however include seafood, chicken, and goat in their diet.

through their journey, had a successful launch party, and now they are so excited to pass it on and share the secrets of their family cuisine with you.

This beautiful cookbook makes the perfect Christmas gift, and retails for \$59.99.

To buy or find Pass It On, or to read more about the journey, visit www.passitonecookbook.co.nz

A percentage of the proceeds of every book sold online will be donated to 'Dementia Wellington,' a cause close to their hearts after Shobha's mother-in-law died in April.

You can also follow their journey on Facebook and Instagram @ [passitonecookbook](https://www.instagram.com/passitonecookbook)

Saree spells spectacle of colour, culture and charisma

'Auckland New Zealand Saree Speak' group registers popularity

Venkat Raman

Sixty women of Indian origin got together last fortnight, each of them sparkling in her chosen version of the Saree, an attire that is fast becoming the desire among other communities around the world.

They were a part of the 'Auckland New Zealand Saree Speak,' a Facebook-based group that now boasts of 350 members and if other diners and passers-by at Saffron Restaurant (located at 57 Cavendish Drive, where the Meeting was held) in Manukau were struck by the variety of shades, patterns and the way in which the sarees were worn, it was entirely comprehensible.

Draping the world

For, over the years, the Saree has transcended beyond its South Indian precinct and spread across India, the Sub-Continent and the world.

At our own Business Awards held in November every year, we have guests who make their annual purchase just to appear in a Saree, adding dignity to the event of the year.

The 'Auckland New Zealand Saree Speak Meeting,' held on November 30, 2019, saw our women comparing notes on what was being adorned, its origin, selection and of course its price.

Krithika Rajendran, one of the organisers, wrote to say that the 'Auckland New Zealand Saree Speak' was the fourth in a series, which is registering increased popularity.

Overwhelming enthusiasm

"The enthusiasm of our women was overwhelming and there was no dearth for ideas. Guests received a warm welcome with a door gift of custom-made Indian jewellery and guided to their tables, each named after a Saree. The theme of the Meeting was 'Sustainable Sareeing.' I am not sure if there is such an expression but they became the buzz words throughout the meeting and even thereafter," she said.

Contrary to popular belief, even the most spirited conversationalist can become somewhat reserved on some occasions but not at the 'Auckland New Zealand Saree Speak.'

Alluring alliterations

"Each of us had to introduce ourselves with an alliteration of the first letter of our names. For instance, it was 'Kind, Kinetic Krithika' and 'Ruling, Razzmatazz Rani' and we had to describe the saree that we were wearing and the reason for choosing it for the Meeting. Some of us recited haikus on wearing the Saree Sustainably and self-composed poems in various languages. Shanti Niwas Charitable Trust General



Organisers of the Auckland New Zealand Saree Speak 4 (from left) Urvashi Shinde, Krithika Rajendran, Bavani Ct Suresh and Gargi Trivedi.



Vanitha Sarkkunan, Melani Jayakumar, Urvashi R Shinde, Sucheta Banerjee, Arvinder Vasudeva, Bavani Ct Suresh, Rajani Dhatathiri, Krithika Rajendran, Vasu Moses, Vidula Kulkarni, Rajni Chetal, Debbie Debanjali, Rani Nalam, Jyothi Vindamuri.



Krithika Rajendran, Rani Nalam, Deepti Zantye, Pusarla Sridevi Krishna, Hetal Jani, Sunitha Makkad

Manager Nilima Venkat, who was the Chief Guest, delivered an inspiring speech," Ms Rajendran said.

Apart from fun and laughter, the women also enjoyed a quiz competition and lucky dip prize, followed by photo and video sessions. There were no bounds for selfies.

Women seated at Table 2 (Arushi, Arvinder Vasudeva, Sumedha Misra, Pusarla Sridevi Krishna and Vasu Moses) won the Quiz Competition, while Arushi was the winner of the Lucky Dip prize. She received a Kancheepuram Silk Saree as a gift from Ms Suresh.

About Saree Speak

'Saree Speak' was launched by Vini Tandon Keni of Goa in Western India with a simple but empowering vision.

Ms Keni said that she started the Group mainly to inspire herself to wear sarees regularly, thereby setting an example for others, transcending barriers of religion, politics, race, caste, creed.

The 'Saree Speak' members are fondly referred to as 'Saree Sakhis.'

'Auckland New Zealand Saree Speak Meet,' was initiated by Bavani Ct Suresh, who, after scrolling down the 'Saree Speak Page' (on Facebook) and noting the many meets occurring worldwide, decided to post a question to women in Auckland for a 'Saree Speak Meet' during the Christmas/New Year break, about a year ago.

The rest, as it turned out, was easy.

Global Finance takes out the Supreme Business of the year award 2019 at the IBA and four other awards.

Keeping customers at the front of everything they do has helped Global Finance pick up another five prestigious awards at a grand function held at Sky City on the 25th November. **Finance Minister Grant Robertson, in the presence of Immigration Minister Iain Lees-Galloway, Ethnic Communities Minister Jenny Salesa, leader of opposition Simon Bridges, Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji and other dignitaries awarded Global Finance IBA Supreme Business Award and four other awards - Best Financial Advisor - Mortgage, Best Financial Advisor - Insurance, Business Excellence in Customer Service and Best Large Business of the year 2019.**



Hon. Simon Bridges (leader of opposition), Vijay Singh (MD of Oaks Property Management), Ajay Kumar (Founder of Global Finance), Aseem Agarwal (Director of Global Finance), Hon. Grant Robertson (Finance Minister), Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (Attorney-General and Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji)

This is not the first time that GFS has been awarded the Supreme Business Award. In the year 2010 also, under former Prime Minister John Key and former Governor General Hon Sir Anand Satyanand awarded GFS the Supreme Business Award.



Sureesh Mehta (Former High Commissioner of India), Anand Satyanand (Former Governor - General of NZ), John Key (Former Prime Minister), Ajay Kumar (Founder of Global Finance), Phil Goff (Mayor)

Global Finance is a leading Mortgage and Insurance Adviser based in Auckland having three branches - Airport Oaks, Henderson and Manukau. Global Finance has been trusted by more than 6000 families and helped them save millions in interest on their home, business and commercial loans over 20 years.

GFS philosophy is - A customer is the most important visitor on our premises. He is not depending on us. We depend on him. He is not an interruption of our work. He is the purpose of it. Without the customer we cannot exist.

Global Finance Interest Saver plan was developed inhouse in 2000. It was created to help customers tailor their mortgage structure to their own personal financial needs. It helps clients repay their mortgage faster without increasing fixed loan instalments. Through its success Global Finance aims to help people reach their financial goals quickly.



Michael Wood (MP), Vijay Singh (MD of Oaks Property Management), Ajay Kumar (Founder of Global Finance), Hon. Paul Goldsmith (MP)

Over the last ten years Global Finance has won many awards from prestigious institutions including ANZ, ASB, AIA, EY, Westpac, Deloitte, PAA, and TMM.

Earlier in the year Global Finance was a finalist in EY Entrepreneur of the Year Awards in September. They were also finalist in Excellence Strategy and Planning and Excellence in Marketing in the Westpac Awards held in November 2019



Jenny Salesa (Minister, Ethnic Communities, Nick Stanhope (CEO, AIA), Aseem Agarwal (Director of Global Finance), Muktesh Pardeshi (The High Commissioner of India)



Ajay Kumar (Founder of Global Finance), Aseem Agarwal (Director of Global Finance), Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum (Attorney-General and Deputy Prime Minister of Fiji), Hon. Paul Goldsmith (MP)



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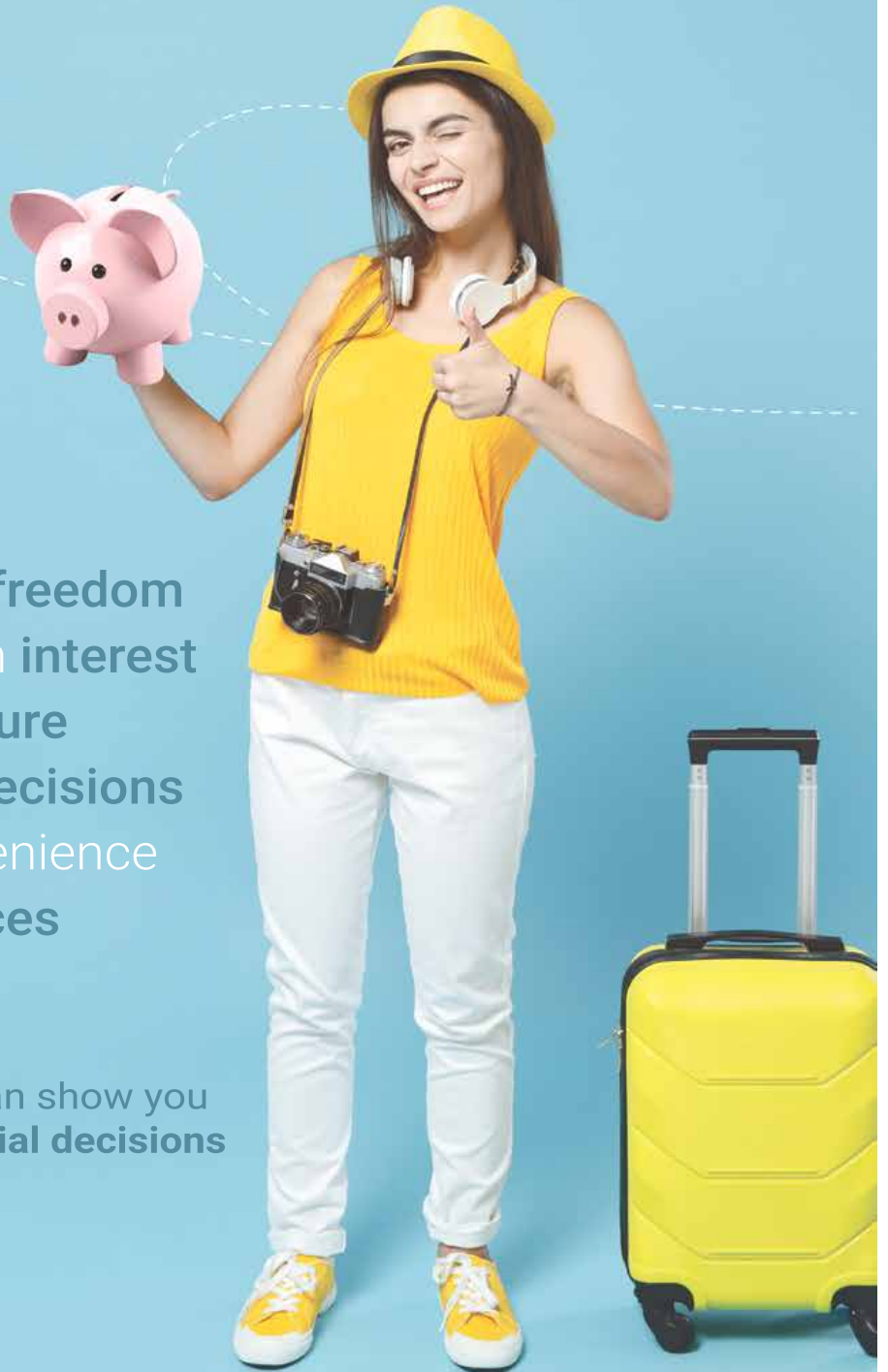
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