

COMMUNITY

Congratulations going into 3rd year South Asian Outlook e-Monthly

By Jaswinder Marjara

On Canada Day this year, South Asian Outlook, which has kept up its place as North America's First Independent e-Monthly, entered 3rd year of its regular 'publication'.

'readers' have proved us right by complimenting us for meeting their expectations on these points and more so about ALL BACK ISSUES, since we launched South Asian Outlook, in July 2001, are available online.

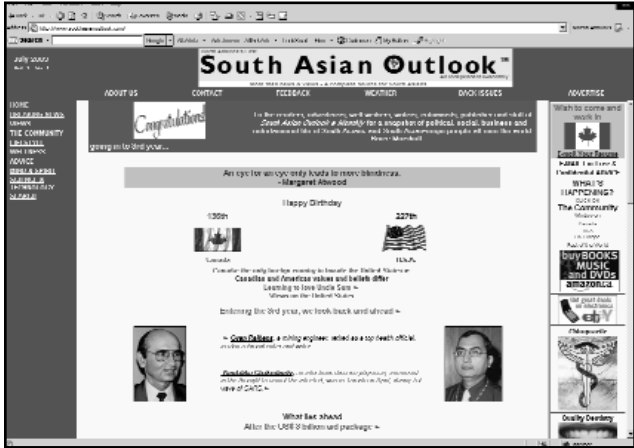
As for who is behind the e-Monthly, Suresh Jaura says that it is produced by Globalom

are without bias and it does provide a forum for differing views. The achievements of South Asians, in fields of arts and culture, social, political and business fields are highlighted. Non-South Asians who have contributed to the dissemination of information through print and broadcast media are also included."

Having reviewed the current issue and back issues, It does provide MORE THAN NEWS & VIEWS. With direct links to newspapers from all over the world, links to various topics in different South Asian countries, it provides a reference source for South Asians.

The Community of South Asians is covered with Windows - on Canada, USA, UK / Europe, Rest of the world - giving Event Calendar and report on Events under Event Reports.

With no log-in or password required, you can access it anywhere on the internet. The monthly newsletter, highlighting the issue, is sent out to those requesting for it with no obligation. The publishers have still a long way to go to make it a complete source. They are open to your ideas, suggestions, views and opinions for publication and / or information to improve upon the content and coverage in South Asian Outlook e-Monthly. You can contact at: publisher@SouthAsianOutlook.com



changes not only in design but also in content.

It has included not only articles and regular columns from South Asians and South Asian-origin people abroad, but also from mainstream columnists and authors, including Janice Gross Stein, Margaret Atwood, Richard Gwyn, Ed Morgan,

To a question, "Why an e-Monthly?", Suresh Jaura, Publisher and Managing Editor says that "being on the internet, three main issues for any publication - distribution, accessibility and keeping track of back issues - are taken care of. Our

Media, which is bringing this out as a non-profit venture. "There is a dedicated group of South Asians living in the area and South Asian-origin people living in Canada, USA, UK, Germany and other parts of the world, donating time, effort and money to continue this non-profit venture," he adds.

"We provide a forum for dialogue amongst South Asians, about issues that affect them, concerns they have about their root countries and the countries they have settled in, and about South Asians in other parts of the world. The views covered

YGnet Ver 2.0

Toronto: It's YGnet, Version 2.0! The new and improved website was launched last weekend at a party to celebrate the first anniversary of the Young Gujarati Network website, a.k.a YGnet.org. The website has been completely reconstructed from the ground up with a new layout, colour scheme, navigation, interactive features and content. The site also upgraded its web servers to a new faster computer server. The website has quickly become a common meeting place for all Gujaratis. It has a forum for discussing events and issues relevant to the community. The website includes a 'Hall

of Fame' page where prominent Gujaratis are featured, an ongoing soap-opera story line called "The Young and the Guju," articles on issues that affect Gujarati youth and young adults and Gujarati lessons. Other features include a business directory, an instant-messenger and real-time chat.

The Young Gujarati Network, a non-profit organization which aims at uniting all Gujarati young adults regardless of caste, will celebrate the launch of its 2.0 site at a social mixer held at the downtown Toronto Monsoon's restaurant (100 Simcoe Street). The event takes place on Friday, July 11th from

6:00pm till late night. Admission is free before 8pm. Complimentary hot gourmet snacks will be served during 6-7pm Happy Hour.

YGnet was created by local entrepreneur Danny Mistry to unite Gujaratis of all backgrounds between the ages of 18 to 28. Presently, the Gujarati community is scattered and segregated because of different castes that hold their own functions. YGnet is working towards its goal of unity - it already hosts about 3.5 million viewers a month and the numbers are growing.

YGnet plans events such as raas-garbas, networking socials, club nights, picnics, and road-trips to attract young people and educate them about Gujarati culture and language.

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Another Refugee Claimant Granted Refugee Status

A few weeks ago, I represented a client at his refugee hearing which was held to determine whether refugee status would be granted. My client whom I'll refer to as Mr Singh, not only had a compelling case in favor of his refugee status, the testimony and evidence he submitted were a true testament of the ongoing societal upheaval and violence in certain parts of India some time ago. Here is a bit of background information.

Mr Singh came to Canada in 2001 after receiving several threats and an attempts on his life from which he narrowly escaped. As a cameraman for one of India's leading media company, one of Singh's projects involved covering a story on current living conditions in his home area as part of the election campaign for the ruling Government.

After wrapping up their assignment, Mr Singh and his crewmembers were ambushed by several masked men armed with loaded guns. They were ordered to vacate their vehicle, but when one of the crewmembers, refused he was shot to death on site.

Mr Singh and his remaining co-workers were then dragged from their van and savagely beaten, gagged and left to bleed to death, after they begged for their lives to be spared, which was met with more beating by supporters of the opposition party, who apparently felt they had a moral responsibility to eliminate non-supporters of their party. All the camera equipment and

information papers were completely destroyed, but luckily,



**Dr. Robert Hamilton Jr
President FIL**

Mr Singh and his co-workers were rescued by two farmers with whose help they were able to get to the hospital.

Though the incident was publicized nationally, and reports were made to the police, the police authority failed to conduct a thorough and proper investigations needed to apprehend the perpetrators of this vicious crime. Upon his release from the hospital, after recuperating from his injuries, Mr Singh started receiving threatening phone calls from the men who had almost killed him earlier.

In fear for his life, Mr Singh fled to Canada, only to find out a few weeks later, that his family was targeted. His mother's residence was invaded twice in search of him. On the first occasion the same group of men who attacked him, viciously raped his mother. She later learned that she contracted HIV from

the rape. About two months later her home was again invaded, but this time she tried to defend herself. Sadly, the blows dealt to her head resulted in several skull fractures, and she later died in hospital.

At his hearing, Mr Singh credibly testified about the physical and emotional trauma he suffered as a result of the attacks. He candidly detailed the sequence of events to the panel and explained how his life was dramatically altered as a result. I submitted on his behalf, numerous medical reports obtained from his physicians in India, police reports, death certificate of his mother, coroner's report who conducted the autopsy after his mother's death, family statements from the co-worker who was shot during the ambush, along with reference letters from his corporate employer. I pointed out further that the authorities failed to protect his family and himself from further danger, resulting in the death of his mother with whom he shared a close relationship. In his decision, the Immigration (Judge) member agreed that in all likelihood, Mr Singh would be in grave danger should he have to return to India and that the evidence and credibility of the claimant was neither questionable nor inadequate.

He therefore, ruled that Mr Singh met the definition of a Refugee as defined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, and should be considered for his landed Immigrant status in Canada.

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