



Foreword from the High Commissioner



As the New Zealand High Commissioner to India, I have at all times endeavoured to show what tangible value New Zealand can bring to a large developing country like India. It was in Shimla, in January this year, that I found a perfect example. And it has apples at the core of it. I was there to oversee the formalisation of an agreement that has paved the way for a team of New Zealand experts to begin work on a World Bank-funded project to help raise the productivity of Himachal Pradesh's farmers. It gave me the opportunity to see how world-class New Zealand horticulture expertise can help Indians better their livelihoods. It will take a while for the project to bear fruit but I look forward to hearing the farmers' reactions to the innovative New Zealand techniques.

I have travelled widely this quarter and was in Assam in February, where I visited the enchanting Manas National Park and dove into the rich legacy of our bilateral relationship with India. I was there to inaugurate a restored Hamilton Jet boat that Sir Edmund Hillary had used for an expedition up the Ganga river. I also had the pleasure of attending the 60th anniversary celebrations of Sri Lanka's independence on 4 February, a visit that gave me the opportunity to travel outside Colombo to learn more about the country's growing agriculture sector and to visit some dairy development programmes that enjoy New Zealand support.

February was a special month at the High Commission because we co-hosted the first edition of Namaste Pacific along with our counterparts from Australia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. It was a highly successful event that showcased the best of Pacific and brought this diverse and dynamic region closer to key stakeholders in India. The evening's highlights included food that was specially flown in and exhibits from the region. Cultural performances by a troupe from Papua New Guinea, and Whakarewarewa The Living Maori Village, a Maori performing arts group from Rotorua, enthralled everyone. The popularity of this event has convinced us to work on a second and even better edition! (Continued on Page 2)



A dancer from the Māori troupe, Whakarewarewa, who performed at the inaugural edition of Namaste Pacific

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Upcoming Events

- Third Track II Dialogue between Asia New Zealand Foundation and the Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi from 23-26 April
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- ANZAC Day Services in New Delhi, Colombo, Kathmandu and Dhaka on April 25
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- Tourism New Zealand hosts media event to promote Māori culture on April 25 in Mumbai
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- New Zealand Trade and Enterprise to host 'Immersion India Programme' for NZ firms from 14-18 May
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- New Zealand Honorary Consuls from our accredited countries to meet in Mumbai from 5-6 June

NZ expertise to boost Himachal horticulture industry



The Government of Himachal Pradesh in India formalised an agreement in January with a team of New Zealand experts who have commenced work on a World Bank-funded project to help raise the productivity of the state's horticulture industry and better the livelihoods of its farmers. The three-year project will use New Zealand expertise to develop orchard management, irrigation and water harvesting techniques that will improve production and quality of fruit crops grown in this Indian state. It will also lower pesticide use through improved pest and disease management, thereby contributing to more sustainable environmental outcomes. Welcoming the partnership at a joint press interaction, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Hon Jai Ram Thakur described the project as an important step forward to develop the state's horticulture industry and boost its productivity not only for the domestic market but also for exports. The project is expected to increase productivity by a third of current levels and will directly benefit around 150,000 farmers, of which around 50,000 are women. Around 90 per cent of the Himachal Pradesh's population lives in rural areas and is dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods.

NZ business delegation visits Sri Lanka

A New Zealand business delegation, comprising representatives from 13 NZ companies, visited Colombo from 2-4 April to further grow business and trade links with Sri Lanka, and explore new areas for investment. This trade mission provided an opportunity for New Zealand companies to establish and consolidate partnerships with



current and potential Sri Lankan business partners. The New Zealand companies on this mission represented its diverse economy, including sectors such as medical technology, software and hardware technology, design and construction, marine, and aviation training. "With one of the highest per capita incomes in South Asia and a growing urban population, Sri Lanka's demand for quality manufactured goods and access to healthcare and technology services is rising. New Zealand companies are well positioned to meet this demand due to our strong trade links throughout South Asia and our focus on delivering premium but cost-effective solutions," said Ralph Hays, New Zealand Trade Commissioner to Sri Lanka and southern India, and leader of the delegation. Two-way trade between New Zealand and Sri Lanka has grown by 31 percent over the past three years, and is now worth NZ\$ 367 million (41.3 billion Lankan Rupees).

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(Continued from Page 1) The following month, and on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March, we spent an inspiring morning with adorable children from a pre-primary and primary school in New Delhi run by Adi Gram Samiti, a New Delhi-based charity that works to empower girls and women



through education and vocational training. We had the joy of handing over stationery and snacks to each child that were bought using money raised from our staff who had paid to be part of a Zumba session. The children, mostly aged between three and six, put up an endearing performance of some of the poems and skits they had learnt at school. Our gesture was a nice reaffirmation of the difference we can make as individuals to our society, which is what we hope to do more of through this coming year.

Joanna Kempkers

New Zealand High Commissioner to India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and Ambassador to Nepal

Follow Joanna Kempkers on Twitter on @JKempkersNZ

Restored Hillary boat unveiled



A jet boat that was used by Sir Edmund Hillary in a 1977 expedition and later used for wildlife conservation at Assam's Manas National Park was unveiled by High Commissioner Ms Joanna Kempfers at the Park on 26 February after being restored with a grant from HamiltonJet, the New Zealand-based manufacturer of the jet boat. Hillary and 15 others had used three of these boats on the 'Ocean to the Sky' expedition to travel against the flow of the Ganga. Following the successful expedition, Air India, one of the three boats, was donated to Manas National Park where it was used to protect critical and viable habitats for its rare and endangered species, including tiger, greater one-horned rhino, swamp deer, pygmy hog and Bengal florican. The boat served the forest guards well as it could run at great speed in shallow waters. Describing the boat as a testimony of the long-standing historic ties between our two countries, Ms Kempfers said restoring it was an opportunity for New Zealand to celebrate our contemporary bilateral ties and to support Manas in its continuing mission to preserve an invaluable part of India's wildlife. The boat has been placed as an exhibit at the entrance of the Park with a plaque that rightfully records its place in history.



The Chief of New Zealand Defence Force's visit featured a ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block in New Delhi, which was accorded to him by his Indian counterpart and the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, Admiral Sunil Lanba.

Chief of NZDF visits India

The Chief of New Zealand Defence Force, Lt Gen Timothy Keating, undertook a six-day visit to India in February to further develop New Zealand's strategic and defence engagement with India. The visit included high-level calls in New Delhi, Pune and Mumbai and a short stop-over in Agra. He started by laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at India Gate. Among the many names inscribed on India Gate is that of Captain George Gordon Everett, a New Zealander who served in the British Indian Army and fought with the 67th Punjabis. Everett was killed on May 1, 1917 in an attack by Mahsu tribesmen near Fort Nili Kach in the North-West Frontier Province (today in Pakistan). Lt Gen Keating later called on the Chiefs of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. He also addressed the prestigious National Defence College in New Delhi, where he spoke on the contribution New Zealand makes to strengthen the international rules-based order. In Mumbai, he visited the Western Naval Command and interacted with senior officials at the National Defence Academy in Pune.

Former NZ Honorary Consul to Nepal passes away



We were deeply saddened with the death of Elizabeth Ann Hawley, a much respected chronicler of Himalayan expeditions and New Zealand's former Honorary Consul to Nepal. She passed away on 26 January in Kathmandu, which was her home for more than five decades. Ms Hawley was 94. A funeral ceremony, incorporating Buddhist and Sherpa traditions, was organised in the city and attended by many of her friends and admirers. Our

Honorary Consul Ms Lisa Choegyol represented us at the ceremony. Acknowledging her outstanding contribution that helped develop New Zealand's relationship with Nepal, the New Zealand Ambassador, Ms Joanna Kempfers, said New Zealand greatly appreciated the help Ms Hawley extended to New Zealanders in difficulty in Nepal, often under tragic and difficult circumstances. She was appointed as New Zealand's Honorary Consul in 1990 and served in this position for two decades.

New Zealand supports relief operations for Rohingyas

As part of its continuing support for the humanitarian response for Rohingya refugees, the New Zealand Government has committed NZ\$ 1 million to help the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) address sexual and reproductive health and protection needs of Rohingya women and girls in Bangladeshi refugee camps. The programme will also assist survivors of gender-based violence. This donation is part of the NZ\$ 4 million that the New Government has donated to help displaced Rohingya communities so far. Besides the UNFPA, this donation has supported critical assistance provided by the Red Cross Movement and the World Food Programme to Rohingya refugees.



Canterbury and BSE begin collaboration



The University of Canterbury in Christchurch – one of New Zealand's eight world-class universities – will now have an opportunity to take in students for postgraduate studies from the Bombay Stock Exchange Institute Limited. The two institutes signed an agreement on 5 March in Mumbai that enables BSE Institute Limited students to be admitted into

the University of Canterbury's Masters' programmes including in Business Information Systems, Business Management, and Applied Finance and Economics. The two institutions have also committed to collaborate on a number of research projects focused on big data analytics and data science. The Agreement was signed by Vice Chancellor of the University of Canterbury, Dr Rod Carr, and BSE Institute Limited's Mr Ashok Patel. The University of Canterbury is ranked as one of the top three percent of universities globally.

Meet our new Defence Adviser



We are pleased to welcome Air Commodore Ian J Mower, our new Defence Adviser to India, who will oversee New Zealand's defence engagement with India. Air Commodore Mower will be based at the New Zealand High Commission in Canberra, where he also serves as the Defence Adviser to Australia and Head of the New Zealand Defence Staff in Australia. He will travel to this region regularly and was in India in February to undertake a range of calls on Indian defence and security sector representatives. Air Commodore Ian Mower joined

the Royal New Zealand Air Force in January 1983 and in 2005 he was appointed as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his role overseeing the acquisition and induction of Seasprite maritime helicopters into the New Zealand Defence Force. He holds a Master's Degree in Engineering Management from University of Auckland and also as well as a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defence University in the US.

Kiwiberries land in India!

The latest craze in berrydom hit India for the first time in March when New Zealand-based company Freshmax launched its Munch'n brand of kiwiberries. They are small, round, green berries with edible skins and are rich in antioxidants, fibre, vitamin C, and vitamin E. The pint-size fruit has been adored for its cuteness and its burst of taste – a mix of sweetness and acidity. Grown in New Zealand, Munch'n kiwiberries were naturally developed to meet the convenience and nutrition needs of consumers. Watch out for them!



About Us



The High Commission advances New Zealand's interests in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka and promotes greater ties between our countries. Our representation in India includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, Education New Zealand, Immigration New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand. You can email us on nzhcindia@mfat.net.

NZ named least corrupt



New Zealand is proud to have been named the least corrupt country in the world for the third year in a row. New Zealand scored 89 out of 100 in non-government organisation Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, which was released on 22 February. This year, New Zealand beat Denmark to the top spot. The two nations were tied first last year.