



## Foreword from the High Commissioner



Thank you for your positive feedback on the inaugural issue of our newsletter. Your comments will certainly help us improve its quality. This second issue brings to you a range of news that highlights growing engagement with our partners in South Asia. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe, made a historic visit to New Zealand in the first week of October, along with a very senior political and business delegation. Relations between the two countries have shown robust growth and will receive another welcome boost with the establishment of diplomatic posts in each other countries, something that the Prime Ministers announced would be accomplished in the next few years. When it comes to India, our Prime Minister, Mr John Key, will arrive here next week with a high-level business and education delegation to further reinforce our strong bilateral ties. New Zealand also had the privilege of welcoming the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Smt Sumitra Mahajan, on an official visit as the leader of an Indian Parliamentary delegation last month. Her visit followed that of the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, in May and reflects the high-level support India-New Zealand ties enjoy from top political leadership in both the countries.

Cultural and sports links are also growing. In October and November, we have the New Zealand cricket team in India. With a tough test series behind them, we are now looking forward to the ODIs. In November, we will bring to Kolkata, Bengaluru and New Delhi a production of *Krishnan's Dairy*, an award-winning play by Indian Ink, a leading Kiwi theatre company. It is led by an Indian-origin actor Jacob Rajan and its success is a testimony to the flourishing Indian-origin community in New Zealand. Please remember we remain open to special interest pieces or guest articles written by those advancing New Zealand's relations in the countries of South Asia. Happy reading!

### Grahame Morton

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

Follow Grahame Morton on Twitter on @GMortonNZ



*High Commissioner Grahame Morton and Carol Morton with leading Indian businesswomen from FICCI prior to their departure for New Zealand*

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## Upcoming Events

- Prime Minister John Key will lead a high-level business and education delegation to India next week, visiting Mumbai, New Delhi and Kochi, from October 24-27
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- Award-winning Kiwi theatre company, Indian Ink, will perform in Kolkata (November 11 and 12), Bengaluru (November 15 and 16) and New Delhi (November 18 and 19)
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- Leading NZ children's writer and illustrator Donovan Bixley will participate at the Bookaroo Children's Festival in New Delhi on November 26 and 27
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- NZ Special Envoy for Disaster Risk Management to attend Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi from November 2-5

## India-NZ trade relationship records healthy progress



New Zealand's trade and economic relationship with India has shown significant growth in recent years, according to latest data released for the year ending June 2016 by Statistics New Zealand. Here are some statistics that detail this success story:

- Two-way trade in goods and services between India and New Zealand stands at more than NZ\$ **2.5** billion. This represents a jump of **42** percent from 2011 when it was NZ\$ 1.8 billion.
- India has risen to become a top 10 New Zealand export destination for our goods and services. It currently stands at number **7**.
- India is New Zealand's **15<sup>th</sup>** largest goods export market and our fifth largest service market.
- India is the **11<sup>th</sup>** largest source of imports into New Zealand, exporting goods and services worth NZ\$ 821 million. This is **68** percent up from the NZ\$ 490 million of 2011.
- If separated into two categories, goods imports from India grew NZ\$ 234 million in five years (up **66** percent) and services grew NZ\$ 94.9 million (up **70** percent).

## Sri Lankan PM makes historic first visit to NZ

Taking relations between Sri Lanka and New Zealand to new heights, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe concluded a successful three-day visit to New Zealand in the first week of October. This was the first visit by a Sri Lankan Prime Minister to New Zealand.



Besides being the first foreign leader to meet the newly appointed Governor-General of New Zealand, Dame Patsy Reddy, Mr Wickremesinghe held a bilateral meeting with New Zealand Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Key, and discussed a wide range of issues including two-way trade and investment, dairy cooperation and Sri Lankan peace and security. New Zealand announced the establishment of a FarmIQ technology pilot project in Sri Lanka to support overall dairy sector development and Mr Wickremesinghe later visited a Fonterra factory in Te Rapa which produces dairy products for export to Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Wickremesinghe addressed representatives of the Sri Lanka New Zealand Business Council, using the occasion to underline his country's growing business opportunities, and interacted with members of the local Sri Lankan community. Before leaving New Zealand, the Sri Lankan Premier gave the keynote address at an event hosted by Asia New Zealand Foundation and spoke on 'Sri Lanka and its place in the World', during which he explained his government's approach to post-civil war reconciliation and development. This landmark visit builds on Prime Minister Key's successful visit to Sri Lanka in February earlier this year. We thank the Sri Lankan Prime Minister and his delegation, which included his wife Professor Maithree Wickremesinghe and four Ministers, for visiting us and look forward to the next opportunity to host a Sri Lankan leader.

## Indian Lok Sabha Speaker visits New Zealand

Following the historic first Presidential visit by Shri Pranab Mukherjee in May this year, the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha, Smt Sumitra Mahajan, visited New Zealand in September as a guest of the New Zealand Parliament. She was hosted by New Zealand's Speaker, Rt Hon David Carter, in Wellington. Mr Carter described



her visit as "an excellent opportunity to further New Zealand's engagement with India, and in particular to discuss and exchange views on issues for parliamentarians." Besides holding official talks with the New Zealand Speaker, Ms Mahajan also called on the Acting Prime Minister, the Hon Bill English, and attended a reception hosted by the Indian High Commissioner to New Zealand, Mr Sanjiv Kohli. The Speaker also travelled to Auckland, where she and her delegation interacted with local members of the Indian community and praised the positive contribution they had made to New Zealand's society and economy. Ms Mahajan was accompanied by fifteen delegates, including eight proud Members of Parliament from the world's largest democracy.

## High Commission supports establishment of story rooms for Delhi children



The High Commission is proud to have supported the establishment of 30 story rooms at different government schools in New Delhi under Katha's 'I Love Reading' programme. One of the country's leading publishers of children's books, Katha, a New Delhi-based organisation, also works to promote literacy among the lesser privileged. These rooms provide children with a vibrant, colourful and fun place to learn how to read. The 'I Love Reading' programme is an innovative programme run in 100 of Delhi's municipal government schools and in surrounding slum communities.

The programme aims to make reading fun and interactive, increasing literacy and encouraging children to think creatively and critically. It has been able to reach out to nearly 100,000 children across slums, streets and government schools since its inception in 2010. Katha's Reading Mentors use beautifully illustrated storybooks to help children learn to read and to discuss challenging issues in India such as sanitation, environmental conservation, empowerment of girls and reducing poverty.

## Leading Māori writer Witi Ihimaera visits India and Bhutan



*Witi Ihimaera had the privilege of meeting the Queen Mother of Bhutan, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, and gifting her some copies of much loved New Zealand children's books for her recently born grandson*

We were very honoured to host award-winning Māori writer Witi Ihimaera in New Delhi and Thimphu in August for a series of public engagements. In New Delhi, he participated in an interactive discussion hosted by the High Commission with acclaimed author and professor Saikat Majumdar of Ashoka University. He also interacted with literature and film students at Jawaharlal Nehru University. In Thimphu, the writer attended the popular Mountain Echoes literature festival where he spoke at a session that discussed the importance of using literature to help preserve traditions and folklore. "The past is before us to guide us, not behind," Mr Ihimaera said. He also interacted with students of English literature and creative writing at Royal Thimphu College (RTC), Bhutan's first and only private college, and shared tips on writing. He even performed a haka and got all the students to join him in a memorable performance! His visit was supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade.

## Officials from Sri Lankan Ministry of Rural Economic Affairs tour New Zealand



Dr Rankiri Pathiratna and Dr Chaminda Gamage, two senior officials from the Sri Lankan Ministry of Rural Economic Affairs, visited New Zealand in July to explore ways to enhance collaboration between our two countries in agriculture, dairy and veterinary sectors. They met senior officials from the Ministry for Primary Industries and Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade to reinforce our partnership. They later visited Landcorp Farming Limited, a state-owned enterprise of the New Zealand government in Taupo, the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre in Palmerston North and also spent time at Massey University, where they learnt more about its Veterinary Training Programme and twinning project with the University of Peradeniya.

## Kiwi theatre company to tour India

We are very pleased to announce that Indian Ink, an award-winning Kiwi theatre company, will be touring Kolkata, Bengaluru and New Delhi in November. They will stage *Krishnan's Dairy*, a bittersweet story based on an Indian shopkeeper who endeavours to establish a new life in New Zealand and prove his love for his homesick wife. Their tour is being supported by the New Zealand Cultural Diplomacy International Programme, and we are working closely with our Indian partners. Indian Ink will perform at Indian Council for Cultural Relation's Satyajit Ray Auditorium in Kolkata (November 11 and 12), Ranga Shankara in Bengaluru (November 15 and 16) and at Civil Services Officers' Institute in New Delhi as part of the Delhi International Arts Festival (November 18 and 19). See you there!



*Krishnan's Dairy is a critically acclaimed production that smashed box office records and catapulted Indian Ink onto the international stage. The group is led by Indian-origin NZ actor Jacob Rajan*

## Meet our new regional NZTE head



We welcome Tony Martin, who has joined us as the Regional Director for New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) for India, Middle East and Africa region. He will be based in Dubai. With a career in commercial sales, marketing and operations management roles, Tony joined NZTE in October 2013 as Consul

General and Trade Commissioner for Vietnam based in Ho Chi Minh City. Prior to joining NZTE, Tony developed businesses for Fonterra, Solid Energy and DB Breweries in New Zealand, Australia, the UK, India, China, South Africa and across East Asia. Tony holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Administration (Honours) in Marketing and Commercial Law, and a Bachelor of Arts.

## Stephen Fleming turns quizmaster for ENZ



Which city is the southernmost and westernmost city in New Zealand? 'Raw' is an autobiography of which former New Zealand cricket captain? Which city is known as the art deco capital of New Zealand? These were some of the questions former New Zealand cricket captain and Education New Zealand Brand Ambassador Stephen Fleming asked contestants in the final of the Kiwi India

Mastermind quiz contest that was held at IIT Madras in Chennai on September 9. Sriram Burgula and Pratheek I from Christ University, Bangalore won the finals. The runners-up were Lokesh Kaza from Nalsar University of Law and Syed Murtuza Hashmi from Osmania Medical College (both in Hyderabad), followed by Pranav R and Britto Anthony L from PSG College of Arts and Science in Coimbatore. Participants in the final included those who had qualified from regional rounds held earlier in Coimbatore, Bengaluru and Chennai. The contest, organised by Education New Zealand, was open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students in south India.

## #ShareYourNZTrip

This serene picture of Milford Sound has been shared with us by Mohammed Nasser, a former employee of the Reserve Bank of India. He travelled to New Zealand last year with his family and fondly recalls his time at Milford Sound as "something akin to a dream". If you would like to share a photo from your New Zealand trip with us and our readers, email it on [nzhcindia@mfat.net](mailto:nzhcindia@mfat.net).



## 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, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, Education New Zealand, Immigration New Zealand and Tourism New Zealand. You can email us on [nzhcindia@mfat.net](mailto:nzhcindia@mfat.net).

## Reception for BLACKCAPS in Kolkata



Members of the visiting New Zealand cricket team attended a business networking function held on September 28 at Taj Bengal in Kolkata. Hosted by High Commissioner Grahame Morton and Trade Commissioner Jane Cunliffe, the event was attended by business and media contacts, including Kiwi businesses CricHQ, Quality NZ, TigerTurf and DFE Pharma. The Blackcaps arrived in India earlier in the month for a tour spread over seven weeks to play three Tests and five One Dayers against India.