



Foreword from the High Commissioner



A very happy new year to all our readers! I hope you have had a memorable start to 2017.

The last quarter of 2016 has been a very significant one for New Zealand in South Asia. Full and constructive political talks, and promotion of business and cultural links were advanced during a successful state visit to India by then Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Key, from October 25-27. Reflecting our expanding bilateral ties the Prime Minister was accompanied by a delegation comprising Parliamentarians, businesspeople from a broad range of sectors, including food, manufacturing, design, technology and tourism, educational leaders, and cultural organisations. This was Mr Key's second visit to India as Prime Minister, following the one he and Mrs Bronagh Key made in June 2011. The visit resulted in a number of high-level deliverables, including a new Agreement to reduce double taxation, government-to-government cooperation arrangements on food safety, youth affairs and sports, and several MoUs between Indian and New Zealand business groups and educational institutions. You can read more about the outcomes of the visit in this issue of the newsletter.

New Zealand was also honoured to host the first ever visit by a Sri Lankan Prime Minister in October 2016. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe,

accompanied by three Ministers, met with his New Zealand counterpart Mr Key and senior members of his ministerial cabinet, as well as business and Sri Lankan-origin community leaders. During the visit, both Prime Ministers announced their intention to open a resident diplomatic mission in each other's capitals within the next couple of years to help further develop diplomatic ties.

I had the privilege of visiting both Nepal and Bangladesh on farewell calls in advance of my term as High Commissioner ending in early 2017. Bangladesh is a fast growing trading partner for New Zealand and I was joined in Dhaka by Fonterra representatives for constructive discussions... *(Continued on Page 2)*



Prime Minister Rt Hon John Key with the High Commissioner and other guests at a reception hosted at the High Commission

In This Edition

Prime Minister John Key's state visit to New Delhi and Kochi

--

Acclaimed NZ play *Krishnan's Dairy* debuts in India

--

Award-winning Kiwi writer and illustrator Donovan Bixley participates at Bookaroo Children's Literature Festival

--

New Zealand's Honorary Consul in Nepal Lisa Choegywal awarded Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit

--

Strategic Education Partnership Agreement signed between Universities New Zealand and the Maharashtra State Government

--

Tourism New Zealand Brand Ambassador Sidharth Malhotra returns to New Zealand for another adventure-packed holiday

--

New Zealand ranks first in the 2016 Legatum Institute's Global Prosperity Index

Upcoming Events

A New Zealand trade delegation to visit Sri Lanka from March 6-8

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20 Kiwi fashion students, recipients of the Prime Minister Scholarship for Asia, on a working visit to India from January 9 to February 9

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Winners of Education New Zealand's animation contest to travel to New Zealand from March 12 to April 1

(Continued from Page 1)

...on opportunities in dairy trade and development. My visit to Nepal allowed a further update on the country's post-earthquake recovery, a highlight of which was seeing locals and tourists alike returning to visit the reopened Boudhanath Stupa, recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, and rebuilt in the last year by the Buddhist community of Kathmandu. While primarily catering for the religious needs of the community, the symbolism of the reopening of this beautiful site is also important for Kathmandu as a tourist destination. So too was the completion of a successful climbing season in the Himalayas, which 2016 has been for the New Zealand firms that operate there.

This is my last foreword for this newsletter, having now returned to New Zealand after an enjoyable three years in New Delhi. I wish to thank all those who have supported New Zealand in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka during that time. I would like to mention in particular the tireless work that New Zealand's Honorary Consuls around the region do on our behalf, especially when New Zealanders find themselves in difficulty, and the dedicated staff of the New Zealand High Commission, who work hard to progress New Zealand's relations in this fascinating and diverse region.

The next New Zealand High Commissioner to India, accredited to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, will be Joanna Kempkers, who arrives later this month. I wish her all the very best for her tenure and look forward to following her on Twitter [@JKempkersNZ](https://twitter.com/JKempkersNZ), as well as keeping up with the activities of the High Commission on [@NZinIndia](https://twitter.com/NZinIndia) and Facebook [@newzealandhighcommissionindia](https://www.facebook.com/newzealandhighcommissionindia). I hope you all do the same.

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

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[@GMortonNZ](https://twitter.com/GMortonNZ)

Indian Ink conclude successful three-city tour of acclaimed NZ play *Krishnan's Dairy*



Six performances spread over three cities in little more than 10 days – it was no less grand a homecoming for *Krishnan's Dairy*, an iconic New Zealand play. It tells a touching love story about an Indian couple settling

into life in New Zealand as owners of a corner dairy store. [Indian Ink's](#) tour was all the more special because of the standing ovations they received in each city and the encouraging feedback its lead actor Jacob Rajan received from audiences who waited at the end of each show to meet him. His technique of using masks to play different characters was a novel attraction for many, especially theatre students who wished he was around longer to teach them his art. The troupe performed in Kolkata, Bengaluru and New Delhi from November 8-20. Besides receiving critical acclaim in the media, the play also featured in a list of "9 Must-Watch Plays of All Time for Theatre Lovers in India" that included veritable legends of Indian theatre. The tour was funded with support from the New Zealand Government through Manatū Taonga – Ministry for Culture and Heritage's Cultural Diplomacy International Programme and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We wish to thank our Indian partners – Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ranga Shankara and the Delhi International Arts Festival – for their support. We now look forward to bringing another world-class theatre production from New Zealand to India soon!

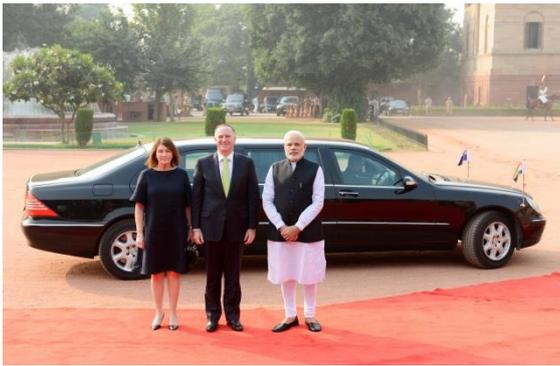
Donovan Bixley enthralled kids at Bookaroo

Award-winning Kiwi illustrator and writer, [Donovan Bixley](#), took children on a fun-filled ride at the Bookaroo Children's Literature Festival in New Delhi on November 26 and 27. Kids thoroughly enjoyed drawing dinosaurs, both adorable and fearsome, and "doodling" with him on the festival doodle wall to



reveal their creative talents. Bixley spoke at a separate session on how he gets pictures and words to come together to create literary magic and dedicated his last session at Bookaroo on the continuing importance of Shakespeare. Bixley has produced an illustrated biography on the bard, 'Much Ado About Shakespeare', for which he won the Russell Clark Illustration Award for best illustration at the 2016 NZ Book Awards for Children and Young Adults. His 2015 book, 'Monkey Boy', which he wrote and illustrated, was named by the International Youth Library as one of the top 200 children's books in the world. His visit was supported by Creative New Zealand through the Publishers Association of New Zealand and we are very pleased to report that his books sold out at the festival bookstore!

PM John Key's visit puts India-NZ ties on a fast track



Underpinned by shared democratic values and Commonwealth heritage, as well as vibrant people-to-people relations and sporting links, relations between India and New Zealand have developed significantly in recent years. The October 2016 state visit by New Zealand Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Key, and his 70-strong delegation reinforced our growing partnership by further strengthening the political, economic, defence and security ties that India and New Zealand enjoy.

Following a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Prime Minister Key met with his Indian counterpart, Shri Narendra Modi, Cabinet Ministers and senior officials. The two leaders agreed, among other things, on a [series of measures](#) to enhance our relationship. These include establishing a Bilateral Ministerial Dialogue, promotion of cooperation and dialogue between the two countries on cyber issues, holding annual Foreign Ministry Consultations and exploring prospects for information sharing to support our mutual maritime security interests.

The visit resulted in a number of high-level outcomes including an arrangement between the Ministry for Primary Industries of New Zealand and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India on food safety cooperation and an MoU between Sport New Zealand and the Indian Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to develop cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports. The two governments also announced amendments to the bilateral Double Taxation Agreement to bring its tax cooperation provisions into line with international best practices.

While there has been a 42 percent growth in two-way trade between India and New Zealand in goods and services over the last five years, the desire to further develop bilateral economic ties also featured on the agenda. The two Prime Ministers committed to continue working towards a high-quality and balanced bilateral Free Trade Agreement. India and New Zealand also agreed to contribute to a comprehensive outcome through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations, of which both countries are parties.

The three-day visit witnessed several business agreements, testifying to the growing willingness of Indian and New Zealand companies to work together. These include a MoU between New Zealand forestry company Zindia Ltd and Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd; an exchange of contracts for pilot training between Hamilton-based CTC Aviation Group and IndiGo; an MoU between Media Design School with Pearl Academy; and a deal between Lemon Tree Hotels and STAAH, a Kiwi software firm that specialises in hotel bookings.



PM John Key's delegation included Brendon McCullum, the former captain of the New Zealand cricket team. He is pictured above at an engagement with Delhi Rebels, a local rugby club that is led by Gautam Dagar, the captain of the Indian rugby team. He donated rugby playing gear to the club on behalf of the High Commission and even shared some tips on rugby with the children.

The Prime Minister and Mrs Key also had the opportunity to experience Indian culture on an early morning visit to the historic Jama Masjid and the Sis Ganj Gurudwara in Old Delhi. He wrapped up his visit to India in Kochi, where he visited the Cochin International Airport and inspected the baggage handling system set up by New Zealand firm Glidepath at the newly-built international terminal.

NZ Honorary Consul in Nepal honoured



New Zealand Honorary Consul in Nepal, Ms Lisa Choegyal (*centre in photo*), has been [chosen](#) as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her “services to New Zealand-Nepal relations”. Lisa was selected for the consular assistance she has provided to New Zealanders in Nepal, especially after the three major disasters that affected Nepal in 2014 and 2015: the Everest icefall avalanche, the Annapurna trail storm and the Nepal earthquakes. The award also recognises the work that Lisa has done to promote sustainable tourism in Nepal and her contribution to the welfare of communities in the Himalayan country through her advocacy, raising scholarship funds for education opportunities, and leadership in the conservation of heritage monuments and ecotourism sites. Congratulations and thanks to Lisa and her team in Kathmandu for all the amazing work they have done!

Education Partnership Agreement signed



A Strategic Education Partnership Agreement was [signed](#) between Universities New Zealand and the Maharashtra State Government, to coincide with Prime Minister John Key’s visit to India in October. The Strategic Partnership Agreement sets out a framework to strengthen education cooperation and engagement at the university level with Maharashtra by nurturing teaching, research and management linkages between academic institutions in the state and New Zealand. Grant McPherson, Chief Executive of Education New Zealand, who attended the signing

said, “This is one of several sector-led initiatives that will enable New Zealand to continue attracting high-quality students from India, and support research and innovation in both countries. I applaud Universities New Zealand and the Maharashtra State Government for their efforts.” Universities New Zealand is an umbrella body comprising all New Zealand universities and is responsible for the quality of their academic programmes.

Sid returns to Aotearoa

Bollywood heartthrob Sidharth Malhotra [returned to New Zealand](#) in November as TourismNZ’s Brand Ambassador. This time he rode motorbikes with cricket legends Brendon McCullum and Stephen Fleming, flew on a helicopter with former All Black Captain Richie McCaw, visited tourism hotspot Rotorua – which is also a centre for Māori culture – as well as the vibrant city of Christchurch. New Zealand, in a recent survey, emerged as a top destination for Indian travellers looking for their ideal holiday getaway.



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.

NZ tops Global Prosperity Index



New Zealand has been ranked first in the 2016 [Legatum Institute](#)’s Global Prosperity Index, up from fourth position last year. The index ranks 149 countries according to their performance across eight equally weighted categories. This year we ranked first for economic quality, first for social capital, second for business environment, second for governance and third for personal freedom. “The index cites New Zealand’s ability to turn its wealth into prosperity, ranking us top in how much prosperity a country delivers given its wealth,” Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Hon Steven Joyce says.