

Foreword from the High Commissioner



Let me begin by wishing you and your family a very happy New Year. I hope you have had the opportunity to take some time off from work to spend with your loved ones and that you have returned re-energised for 2018.

Last year on 23 September New Zealand held its general election. On 12 October coalition negotiations were completed and on 26 October Jacinda Arden was sworn in as the 40th Prime Minister and leader of the sixth Labour Government of New Zealand. This is the first time under New Zealand's mixed member proportional voting system that a bloc of parties have edged past the most popular party by percentage vote to form the Government. Whatever your political leanings might be, it was a fascinating process to watch unfold, and made me proud of the strength of New Zealand's democracy.

In addition to the excitement of the election, the last quarter of 2017 was marked by many welcome developments in New Zealand's relationship with our countries of accreditation. Our Foreign Secretary, Dr Brook Barrington, was in New Delhi in the first week of December to lead the New Zealand delegation at the *India - New Zealand Foreign Ministry Consultations*. Held on 5 December, the Consultations provided an opportunity for the two sides to undertake a comprehensive review of the India-New Zealand relationship. It was pleasing to note the depth of our shared values and strong convergence of views on issues of strategic importance.

In November, the New Zealand Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Jacinda Arden, had the opportunity to meet her Indian counterpart, Shri Narendra Modi, for the first time. She did so while attending the East Asia Summit in Manila. Their bilateral meeting allowed the two leaders to connect and discuss ways to further strengthen New Zealand and India's wide-ranging and long-standing relationship.

Last month, we had the privilege to welcome and host the Honourable P Harrison, the Sri Lankan Minister of Rural Economy and Social Empowerment, in New Zealand. (Continued on page two...)



New Zealand PM Jacinda Arden (far right) with awardees at the 10th Annual Indian Newslink Indian Business Awards in Auckland

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Upcoming Events

- Tourism New Zealand to participate at South Asia Travel and Tourism Exchange in New Delhi from 31 January-2 February
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- Māori performing arts groups from Whakarewarewa - The Living Māori Village - to perform at Delhi Technological University on 16 February
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- New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Lieutenant General Timothy Keating visits India from 19-23 February
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- Royal New Zealand Navy Fleet Commander James Gilmour to attend 'Milan 2018', a biennial gathering of navies, in Port Blair from 6-13 March

Indian Navy's Tarini visits New Zealand



New Zealand was pleased to welcome the pioneering all-women crew of the Indian Navy vessel, INSV Tarini, in Lyttelton near Christchurch on 29 November. It was their second port call in a historic around-the-world attempt. The six-member crew set out on the 40,000km journey on their 17-metre sailing boat from Goa on 10 September and stopped in Fremantle in Australia before reaching New Zealand. The journey, Navika Sagar Parikrama, marks the first time in India's naval history that an all-women crew has attempted to circumnavigate the globe. Welcoming INVS Tarini on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Navy, Captain Corina Bruce admired the significant undertaking of the crew. "These women are not only outstanding representatives of their country and their service but are also a high-performing team of ocean sailors," Captain Bruce said. The crew spent two weeks in New Zealand during which they attended a reception hosted by the Mayor of Christchurch, Hon Lianne Dalziel. The crew departed Lyttelton on 12 December, destined for the Falkland Islands, which is their next stop. The crew will make their fourth and final stop in Cape Town in South Africa before returning to Goa in March of this year. We wish the sailors all the very best in this historic endeavour!

Innovative ideas impress at Indo-Kiwi challenge

A mobile healthcare app that helps to ensure complete vaccination of new-born babies beat five tough competitors to win the New Zealand - India Sustainability Challenge on 7 December. Organised by Education New Zealand, in association with The Energy and Resources Institute and three New Zealand universities, the competition challenged entrants to create innovative solutions for some of our common global problems. The teams focused on other ideas such as green computing, creating window blinds using broken-but-functional solar panels, a video game app to promote sustainability awareness, using cow dung-based logs as an alternative to firewood and electricity generation from garbage. The Challenge also fostered teamwork between India and New Zealand, with participants from each country coming together under the guidance of an Indian expert. Of the 90 teams which entered the competition, the finale showcased the work of six top teams displaying their sustainable solutions for everyday problems. The winning team - VaxiBead from Manipal Institute of Technology and University of Canterbury - won an all-expense paid internship for three weeks at the three New Zealand partner universities - University of Canterbury (Christchurch), University of Otago (Dunedin) and University of Waikato (Hamilton).



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Held last month, the Foreign Ministry Consultations are a recurring feature of the India-New Zealand relationship.

(Continued from page one...) Minister Harrison viewed first-hand New Zealand's world-leading primary industry sector and explored ways through which Sri Lanka and New Zealand can collaborate for the well-being and prosperity of our two nations.

The New Zealand-India Sustainability Challenge on 7 December provided another example of the fantastic results that can come out of team work and collaboration.

I look forward to connecting with you in this New Year to further strengthen New Zealand's relationship with this dynamic region, and hope you have a very productive 2018!

Joanna Kempkers

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

Follow Joanna Kempkers on Twitter on @JKempkersNZ

NZ pilot training school proposed in Sri Lanka



The former Mayor of Christchurch, Sir Bob Parker, visited Sri Lanka in October 2017 alongside senior representatives from the Christchurch-based International Aviation Academy of New Zealand and New Zealand Trade & Enterprise. The Academy is exploring the possibility of establishing a dedicated pilot training school in Hambantota, building on its already strong foundation as a world-class educator of Sri Lankan and other students in New Zealand. Sir Bob met with the Sri Lankan Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, the Honourable Nimal Siripala De Silva, and officials from the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka, and Airport & Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited, the firm that manages operations at the airport in Hambantota. The delegation was assisted by Senaka Silva, New Zealand's Honorary Consul in Sri Lanka.



An evening of bright ideas, business and Blackcaps

On 30 October we had the pleasure of hosting the New Zealand Blackcaps for a reception that profiled top New Zealand innovation, particularly in the field of sports technology. The event was attended by more than 200 guests, featuring a range of our high-level contacts from government, the private sector, business, the diplomatic community and media. Besides premium New Zealand food (like lamb, kiwifruit, apples, avocados) and wine, a highlight of the evening was an informal interaction with some of the cricketers led by former New Zealand cricketer and commentator Simon Doull. The discussion centred not just on cricket and their 2017 tour of India but also included a surprise quiz to test the cricketers' knowledge of India. They did impressively well, we are happy to report! They also gave India a tough time on the field, losing the closely-fought ODI and T20 series 2-1.

NZ firms explore 'Make in India' opportunities



A delegation of six New Zealand specialised manufacturing companies was hosted in Mumbai from 6-9 November by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) for an interactive session focused on helping them understand and take advantage of the Indian Government's flagship manufacturing initiative, the 'Make in India' programme. The programme explored ways to ensure commercial success in India, minimise business risk and contribute to both the Indian and New Zealand economies. New Zealand has a specialised manufacturing sector that produces modern, innovative, high-precision products and services that integrate software, electronics, robotics, sensors as well as advanced materials. Its companies are drawn to India because of the availability and affordability of skilled labour, high-quality and large scale production and a huge domestic market. This outreach follows the highly successful 'Make in India' study tour organised by NZTE in October last year.

New Zealand Speaker and MPs visit Bangladesh

The Speaker of New Zealand Parliament, The Rt Hon David Carter, visited Dhaka to attend the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference that was held from 1-8 November. He was joined by Members of Parliament Poto Williams and Priyanca Radhakrishnan. The annual event brought together more than 500 Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and decisionmakers from across the Commonwealth. This year's conference was dedicated to exploring new ways to "continue to enhance the high standards of performance of Parliamentarians". Mr Carter has now been succeeded by The Rt Hon Trevor Mallard.



The New Zealand delegation is pictured here with New Zealand's Honorary Consul in Dhaka, Neaz Ahmed (far right), and Abdullah Al Mamun of the New Zealand Consulate in Dhaka (far left).

Kiwi humour a hit with kids (and adults!)

Poo has never been central to our public diplomacy but it was during New Delhi's 10th edition of the Bookaroo Children's Literature Festival. 'Baa Baa Smart Sheep' and 'Quirky Turkey' and their zany toilet humour, developed by award-winning New Zealand writer-illustrator couple Mark and Rowan Sommerset, had the audience in fits of laughter! The Sommersets' books, 'Baa Baa Smart Sheep' and 'I Love Lemonade', are popular across the world and have been published in 16 countries and in 13 languages. The author-illustrator couple also shared some of their other stories, such as 'Two Little Bugs' and 'The Boy And The Cherry Tree', that inspire children to dream big and realise their goals. Together with foot-tapping music by Mark, their interaction was a runaway hit with participants at Bookaroo. Their visit to New Delhi was supported by New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Public Diplomacy Fund. Mark and Rowan Sommerset also visited six schools in and around Delhi to take their repertoire of stories, both funny and thoughtful, to a wider audience.



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, Ministry for Primary Industries and Tourism New Zealand. You can email us on nzhcindia@mfat.net.

Gisborne Māori troupe enthral Delhi audiences



The High Commission had the pleasure of hosting Waka Toa, a Māori performing arts troupe from Gisborne, for a day of outreach sessions on 16 November at Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram and Pearl Academy in Noida. The group performed a wide repertoire of Māori songs and actions. They also led interactive sessions where students were taught how to use the poi (hand-held tethered balls used by Māori women while dancing) and do the pukana (fierce facial expressions associated with the haka). The troupe was joined by High Commissioner Joanna Kempkers, who spoke to the students about the many benefits of studying in New Zealand. Waka Toa members also took time out to visit the High Commission and sing along with our in-house choir!

Ambassador presents credentials



New Zealand Ambassador to Nepal Joanna Kempkers had the honour of presenting her credentials in October to the President of Nepal, the Rt Hon Bidhya Devi Bhandari, in Kathmandu. They discussed ways to further develop our growing ties, including the role that Sir Edmund Hillary's enduring legacy plays to bring Nepal and New Zealand closer together. Ambassador Kempkers also called on Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Sher Bahadur Deuba, and other important stakeholders in our bilateral relationship such as representatives from the Himalayan Trust and past recipients of the Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial Scholarship who have studied in New Zealand.

NZ retains top rank in Ease of Doing Business Index



New Zealand is proud to have retained the top spot in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index. The report, which examines regulations that enhance or constrain business activity, assesses 190 countries and ranks them according to the impacts of their regulatory environment on business. Released on 31 October, the rankings placed New Zealand first in criteria like 'Starting a Business', 'Getting Credit' and 'Registering a Property'.