



## Foreword from the High Commissioner



Happy New Year! I hope that you were all able to take some time to spend with family and friends over the festive season. Reflecting on the year that's been, I have had the opportunity to travel the region, promote relations and listen to ideas from leaders from various

sectors about our shared future. The importance of people-to-people links, whether through sport, business, education, tourism or culture has been a recurrent theme. The interaction with a visiting group of young leaders sponsored by the Asia New Zealand Foundation (see *inside*) was a particular highlight. But the knowledge that the Asia New Zealand Foundation is actively working to promote such people-to-people links only slightly softens the blow of losing my dynamic deputy Suzannah Jessep to a role that she will take up with the Foundation in Wellington at the beginning of March. The Foundation's goal is to help New Zealanders build their knowledge, skills and confidence to thrive in Asia, and Suzannah is looking forward to making sure South Asia is a rich part of that story. While Suzannah says she is "very sad at the thought of leaving India, and all the marvellous friends and colleagues I have met along the way", we are sure her collection of 70+ saris will pull her back to India's warm embrace before too long!



As one chapter ends, others begin. On 15 December, I had the opportunity to visit the site of India's Kumbh Mela, which is expected to host millions of Hindu pilgrims during January-March, including some from New Zealand. We continue with plans to establish a new High Commission in Colombo, and we look forward to using that mission to deepen New Zealand's connections with Sri Lanka. We are also looking forward to a raft of other official visits in the coming months, and will report these in our next newsletter. Kia ora, 2019, I like how you're shaping up!



### Joanna Kempkers

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

Follow Joanna Kempkers on Twitter on @JKempkersNZ

## In This Edition

- ANZF young leaders on 'hui' visit get a taste of India
- 
- India's young minds share insights with NZ officials
- 
- Kiwi stories fascinate little readers
- 
- Talking fisheries and dairy in Chennai
- 
- AUT's Nepali student one of 2018's Young Innovators
- 
- Bangladesh visit for stronger Kiwi business ties
- 
- Movember winners choose Earth Saviours Foundation
- 
- Dame Annette King at Brussels meet
- 
- NZHC aids mental health project
- 
- NZTE celebrates growing people-to-people links
- 
- NZ Tertiary College holds graduation ceremony
- 
- An afternoon of fond farewells
- 
- NZ No. 1 in Ease of Doing Business again!

## Upcoming Events

- NZ India Foreign Ministry Consultations on 4 February
- 
- Air Commodore Ian Mower, Defence Adviser, and Kevin Arlidge, Director, National Maritime Coordination Centre, New Zealand, to visit New Delhi in February
- 
- NZ artist Aaron Glasson to take part in St+art India's street art festival in February

## Talking fisheries and dairy in Chennai



On a visit to Chennai, High Commissioner Joanna Kempkers met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami (*photo from New Indian Express*) as well as M.K. Stalin, the chief of the Opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, and held wide-ranging discussions, including on dairy and fisheries.

HE Kempkers also visited the Shuttles and Needles studio which showcases textile products made by young people with special needs, on New Zealand-made looms from Ashford Wheels & Looms. The NGO collective Weawin markets these colourful products and returns the profit to the weavers. She took some time out to visit the graves of each of the five New Zealanders buried in the Madras War Cemetery. The four airmen and one Naval volunteer had served during the Second World War.



## ANZF young leaders on 'hui' visit get a taste of India

Inventor, innovator, educator, lawyer, journalist, researcher, activist, chartered accountant, Māori governance representative, policy adviser, engineer! Sixteen young members of the Asia New Zealand Foundation's (ANZF) Leadership Network visited Mysuru and Bengaluru for their South India hui (Māori for meeting) in October to learn more about India and explore areas for potential collaboration. The group met with a range of local thought-leaders, business people and academics. Asked what they thought would be a game changer in the bilateral relationship, they highlighted people-to-people links through education, especially scholarships and exchange programmes. Check out the High Commission's Facebook page for profiles of the young leaders.



## India's young minds share insights with NZ officials



Sarah Walsh and Brent Rapson from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade visited India from 10-18 December. In New Delhi, they met young Indian leaders and heard their thoughts on India's growth story and new ways to connect with New Zealand. This group also identified education as a sector where New Zealand and India could work more closely. Our thanks to Bharat Joshi, CEO of JCurve, who helped to convene the group.

## Kiwi stories fascinate little readers

New Zealand's award-winning children's author and illustrator Gavin Bishop was a guest at India's popular children's literature festival, Bookaroo, in December. Gavin shared his stories about Māori myths and legends, and about growing up in New Zealand. Gavin also visited GD Goenka Public School and KR Mangalam World School, in association with Scholastic India, as well as the not-for-profit Katha Lab School (*in photo*). He also interacted with students at the School of Design, Pearl Academy, to talk about the art of illustration, and met with international publishing consultant and blogger Jaya Bhattacharji Rose to delve into the connection between Kiwi and Indian literature.

## Dame Annette King at Brussels meet



Dame Annette King, New Zealand's longest-serving female MP, attended the 12th Asia Europe Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 18-19 October. Dame King, who was there as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister, is seen here with Indian Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

## NZHC aids mental health project

Mental health was the focus of an initiative supported by the New Zealand Head of Mission Fund in the fiscal year 2017-18. The project, conducted by Emmanuel Hospital Association in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, helped in capacity-building by increasing access to mental health services. Community health caregivers were trained through a new manual titled 'Nae Umeed' (New Hope). The intervention, delivered by community-based peers among marginalised young women, has reduced levels of anxiety and depression, while also changing attitudes to gender equality and social inclusion. Kabaddi-India also stepped in to support the project, with activities centring on the popular contact sport of kabaddi.

## AUT's Nepali student one of 2018's Young Innovators



Congratulations to Ankita Poudyal (photo: Falling Walls Foundation), who has recently been named one of 2018's Young Innovators of the Year by Germany's Falling Walls Foundation. Poudyal hails from Nepal and is currently studying at Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand.

Poudyal's winning idea of combining advanced filtering technologies to improve the flow and quality of purified air and water earned her third place in the grand finale, where researchers were given three minutes to pitch their breakthrough ideas. Ankita's innovation would ensure that filters are more cost-effective and energy efficient, and would not be prone to frequent clogging which is a problem with filters currently available in the market.

## Bangladesh visit for stronger Kiwi business ties

Officials from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade recently visited Bangladesh to strengthen Kiwi business ties and scope upcoming opportunities in its steadily growing market. As of December 2017, New Zealand's total trade with Bangladesh is worth NZ\$ 417 million.



## Movember winners choose Earth Saviours Foundation



The annual event of Movember—when men grow moustaches all through the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues—resulted in some very fine and extravagant moustaches being sported at the New Zealand mission.

Winners of the Movember challenge chose the Earth Saviours Foundation as the worthy recipients of funds raised by staff. The NGO has been working for a decade with over 500 homeless people, including 300 mentally challenged people, at a shelter home near the city of Gurugram, Haryana. Kudos to Founder President Ravi Kalra and his team for the amazing work done by the foundation.

## NZTE celebrates growing people-to-people links



There is a great Māori proverb that reflects the New Zealand style of doing business. The proverb goes: *He aha te mea nui o te ao* [What is the most important thing in the world?] *He tangata, he tangata, he tangata* [It is the people, it is the people, it is the people].

This maxim was reflected on the evening of 5 December, when New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) brought together our network of advisers, experts, businesses, officials and friends on the lawns of the High Commissioner's Official Residence to celebrate the growth of India-New Zealand ties over the years, and our growing people-to-people links. The gathering included NZTE's Regional Senior Management team and Beachhead Advisers.

## NZ Tertiary College holds graduation ceremony

New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) India held its annual graduation ceremony with the largest ever contingent of early childhood education graduates in Mumbai on 21 October. Fifty graduates were awarded with qualifications ranging from certificate to postgraduate levels. NZTC Chief Executive Selena Fox (*in photo*) travelled from New Zealand to attend it. Forum Mehta and Ashwini Vadiraj Murad from India and Nadeesha Yurangi Liyana Arachchige from Sri Lanka received the Most Outstanding Student awards for their respective early childhood education qualifications, while Rachael Hate from India won the Treasured Values award.



## An afternoon of fond farewells



Trade Commissioner Jane Cunliffe hosted a farewell lunch for staff members Arun Vohra, Pushpa Waghmare and M.S. Shekhar at her residence, acknowledging their 20-25 years' service each. We thank them for their incredible service and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

## About Us



**NEW ZEALAND**  
HIGH COMMISSION

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](mailto:nzhcindia@mfat.net).

## NZ No.1 in Ease of Doing Business again!

For the third year running, New Zealand has retained the top spot in the Ease of Doing Business index released by the World Bank. The recognition is a "real example of the strength of our underlying economic and business fundamentals", Finance Minister Grant Robertson said.



**1<sup>ST</sup>**



**OF 190 ECONOMIES FOR EASE OF DOING BUSINESS**

Based on time and cost to meet government requirements in areas such as starting and operating a business, trading across borders and paying taxes.

Source: IFC World Bank, Doing Business Report, 2019.