



## Foreword from the High Commissioner



The festive season has begun! At the High Commission, we have had plenty to celebrate this past quarter. We started off with our cultural extravaganza Namaste Pacific, where we saw the India debut of Aaradhna—one of New Zealand’s most acclaimed young recording artists. This

was followed by Education New Zealand’s successful academic conclave, promising delegation visits in the fields of aviation and tourism, Fonterra Future Dairy’s first steps in India’s foodservices space, and the very first Foreign Ministry Consultations with Nepal. Through it all, we were able to engage meaningfully with governments, stakeholders, partners and friends, deepening and strengthening our relationships.

Our celebration of International Day of the Girl Child this month amplified New Zealand’s recently unveiled Human Rights Action Plan that makes the rights of women and girls a priority. Carrying forward the theme of gender justice, we hosted a screening at Siri Fort of the 2019



Indian National Award-winning film *Son Rise* together with the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and the diplomatic missions of Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, EU, France, Norway, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago and US, supported by UN Women, WHO, ILO and Institut Français en Inde. National Commission for Women Chairperson Rekha Sharma was the Chief Guest on the occasion. We also participated in the Plan India Girls Takeover campaign and opened our doors to young Kumkum as High Commissioner for the day. It was inspiring to hear Kumkum talk about the work she has been doing for the safety of children and empowerment of women back home in Uttarakhand.

Another cause for cheer for us is the renewal of the High Commission family in New Delhi, with Second Secretary Daniel Thompson and Policy Adviser Olivia Benton-Guy joining us from Wellington. As we keep working to promote stronger, deeper and warmer relations between New Zealand and India, I wish you happiness and joy, and more reasons to cheer than you can count. Happy Diwali!



### Joanna Kempkers

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

Follow Joanna Kempkers on Twitter on @JKempkersNZ

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## Upcoming Events

- New Zealand Chief of Navy to visit Colombo for Galle Dialogue on 21-22 October --
- Kapa Haka troupe from New Zealand to visit New Delhi on 23-24 October. --
- Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, Rural Communities, and Trade & Export Growth Damien O’Connor to visit New Delhi in November --
- Minister of Justice Andrew Little to visit Colombo for Commonwealth Law Ministers’ Conference in November --
- NZ’s award-winning children’s author and illustrator Ruth Paul to visit New Delhi for Bookaroo in November-December

## Girl Changemaker takes over to mark Girl Child Day 2019



Girl Changemaker Kumkum got a taste of a day in the life of a High Commissioner on International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October. The 16-year-old from Uttarakhand took over as New Zealand High Commissioner as part of our participation in Plan India's Girls Takeover campaign. Back home, Kumkum is 'Home Minister' of a Youth Parliament, Bal Vidhan Sabha, and has been working on child rights and women's empowerment.

The day began with a handover by High Commissioner Joanna Kempkers to Kumkum, who met all staff members and received a briefing for the day.

Kumkum's programme included a visit to Katha India Lab School, a learning centre for children from less privileged backgrounds. She also visited the Katha School of Entrepreneurship, supported by the New Zealand Head of Mission fund. At the end of the visit, she had a power-packed message for the students: "Girls are powerful! Just believe in yourselves."

Later, at a working lunch with the High Commission staff, Kumkum made a presentation about the initiatives she has undertaken in her home town.

## NZ unveils four-pronged Human Rights Action Plan

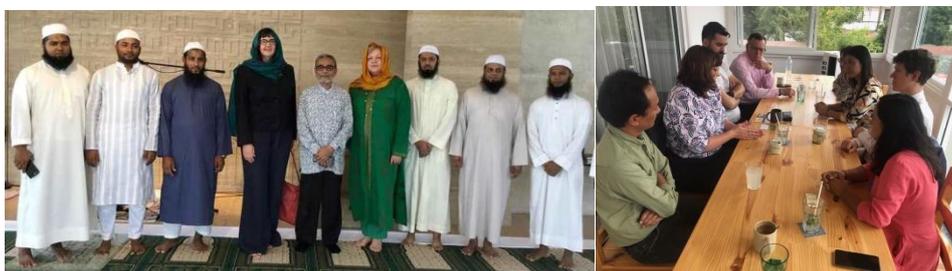
New Zealand has a strong history of protecting and promoting human rights at home and internationally. Our new International Human Rights Action Plan identifies where we will show global leadership and make a positive difference on human rights issues. The four priority areas in the Action Plan are: the rights of persons with disabilities, rights of women and girls, LGBTQI+ rights and abolishing the death penalty.



Watch the video and read more at <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/peace-rights-and-security/human-rights/>

The Action Plan was developed following nationwide consultation, including eight public *hui* (meetings) and discussions with over 200 high school students to determine the human rights issues that matter most to New Zealanders. We also consulted over twelve government agencies to ensure the plan aligned with domestic priorities. New Zealand wants a world where everyone has equal opportunities. We stand for empowerment and equality for all, regardless of gender. It is our belief that everyone should be free to live their life with freedom and pride.

## Saying goodbye to friends in Bangladesh and Nepal



High Commissioner Joanna Kempkers paid farewell visits to Bangladesh and Nepal, wrapping up three years of helping to strengthen New Zealand's relationship with both countries. With Bangladesh, two-way trade stood at NZ\$558 million in the year to June 2019, an increase of more than 50 per cent since 2015. The High Commissioner met with Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen and Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, and bade farewell to her diplomatic colleagues in Dhaka. Taking forward New Zealand's message of inclusion, diversity and tolerance, Ms Kempkers, along with Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Julia Niblett, paid a visit to Gulshan Society Jame Mosque (*image top left*).

During her visit to Nepal, High Commissioner Kempkers took part in the inaugural Bilateral Foreign Ministry Consultations between the Governments of New Zealand and Nepal. Andrew Needs, Divisional Manager, South East Asia, and Daniel Thompson, Second Secretary, were also part of the visit. The delegation called on Minister of Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies Matrika Prasad Yadav and Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Yogesh Bhattarai. An interaction with young leaders (*image top right*) was next, where the delegation got to hear the views of Nepalese youth. They also paid a visit to Himalayan Trust Nepal, a charity founded by Sir Edmund Hillary.

## Aviation and tourism delegation in India



With Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola

We welcomed a high-level delegation from the New Zealand aviation and tourism sectors in September, including representatives from Auckland Airport, Tourism New Zealand, Ngāi Tahu and Whale Watch Kaikōura. They had constructive engagements with the Indian government and private sector to promote better connectivity between New Zealand and India, including by working towards a direct flight.



With NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant

## Anchoring Fonterra's new foodservice offerings

New Zealand's dairy company Fonterra, through its Indian joint venture Fonterra Future Dairy, is working with the dairy market in India to produce a nutritious and flavourful array of products. Its newest steps are in the direction of India's foodservices market. Anchor Food Professionals is Fonterra's foodservice brand, with over a century of innovation behind it. Through its high-quality, functional ingredients, it aims to support Indian restaurants, bakeries, pizzerias and cafes. The brand has unwrapped four new products—Extra Stretch Mozzarella Cheese, Extra Whip Whipping Cream, Traditional Style Cream Cheese and Laminated Butter Sheets—and marked the occasion with a launch function at the High Commission on 20 September.



## Scholarships and seminars strengthen education ties

A new round of New Zealand Excellence Awards scholarships will further boost New Zealand and India's growing education relationship. Education New Zealand (ENZ) announced 32 new scholarships worth INR 8.2 million on 24 September 2019.



"New Zealand is experiencing significant growth and interest in high level courses from Indian students. This is something that we hope to see continue. Already over 100 Indian students have benefited from these scholarships," said ENZ Chief Executive Grant McPherson. In August 2019, first-time student visas from India to New Zealand universities showed a 63 per cent increase.



ENZ has recently led a range of academic mobility initiatives in India, including the second season of the New Zealand-India Academic Conclave and the fourth season of the Guest Lecture Series featuring 44 lectures across India. These encourage

stronger links between researchers and academics from high-quality institutions in New Zealand and India. The Academic Conclave was attended by academics, researchers and industry experts from New Zealand and India and featured workshops on topics of mutual interest for both countries such as research collaboration and future-proof education. The Guest Lecture Series showcased New Zealand's research strengths across a range of disciplines, particularly STEM, sustainability and nutrition. ENZ also hosted a media round table at the High Commission, focusing on opportunities for Indian students in New Zealand.

## When the Pacific said 'Namaste' to India in style!



The Pacific had a new address on the evening of 30 August—the New Zealand High Commission lawns! Namaste Pacific, jointly hosted by the High Commissions of New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, turned the spotlight on the music, dance, food, drinks, sports, culture and colours of the Pacific. And going by the smiles on the faces of our guests, the spirit of the Pacific seemed to agree very well with Delhi!

Our Chief Guest for the evening was Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Vijay Thakur Singh, while International Solar Alliance Director General Upendra Tripathy was the Guest of Honour. We had over 400 guests in attendance, comprising government officials, business leaders, and personalities from the fields of culture and sports.

## 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).

## Acclaimed R&B artist Aaradhna debuts in India

New Zealand's multi-award-winning R&B and soul artist Aaradhna was in New Delhi for her first ever India concerts. It was a homecoming of sorts for the part-Indian part-Samoan singer, as she had been no more than a little girl the last time she was in India. "Being back in India has ignited an even bigger flame in my soul. I am inspired once again," she said. Aaradhna performed at Namaste Pacific at the High Commission, and at the India International Centre and The Piano Man Gurugram. In between her shows, the band made time to meet some young musicians in the city at the Delhi School of Music.



Aaradhna, who has four individual albums to her credit, is currently working on her next one. "To return to my homeland after a few decades and get the opportunity to continue to spread my music in India was truly a humbling experience. Thank you to New Zealand High Commissioner Joanna Kempfers for making this opportunity possible and believing in my talents. We plan to return to India in the near future with new music on the way and hope for a release in India too," she added.

## Did you know? Last year, 104 Kiwi artists played 1440 shows in 45 countries

As many as 160 languages are spoken in New Zealand. If you think that's diverse, cue the music . . . Hip hop, reggae, thrash metal, EDM, rap, folk, pop or good old rock 'n' roll. New Zealand has it all going on. From Lorde to Crowded House, New Zealand is full of talented musicians that pop up all over the world. In the past year, 104 Kiwi artists played 1,440 shows across 45 countries, and that figure looks set to rise this year—*New Zealand Story*