



Foreword from the High Commissioner



It's monsoon season here in India, but news reports of parched swathes of India—including Chennai, which has run out of water—have meant that climate change, the environment and conservation are very much on our minds. The topics have particular significance for us this

month as 20 July marks the birth centenary of one of New Zealand's strongest voices in the field of conservation—Sir Edmund Hillary. While the conquest of Mount Everest remains the most celebrated of his achievements, his tireless efforts to improve the lives of the Sherpa community of Nepal through the Himalayan Trust are still bearing fruit. We are proud to continue his legacy by supporting and empowering vulnerable communities not only in Nepal but also in India through our Head of Mission fund. (See Page 3) We also supported a green initiative this year, by helping Delhi high school student Udit Singhal purchase a New Zealand-invented machine that converts glass bottles into sand safely and swiftly. We organised a demo of the conversion process at the High Commission on World Environment Day on 5 June. The machine produces sand that can be used in construction and brickmaking, and solves the huge environmental menace of glass bottles winding up in landfills.



This year also marks the completion of the World War I centenary commemoration. We honoured our soldiers past and present as we observed Anzac Day at the Delhi War Cemetery together with the Australian High Commission on 25 April. In the wake of the terrorist attack in Christchurch and the Easter Sunday bombings in Colombo, Sri Lanka, we reiterated the importance of standing together to eliminate the forces of extremism that threaten our peace and security.



I conclude by introducing you to our new Deputy High Commissioner Erin Duncan, who comes to us from the Asia Regional Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. (See Page 4) Please join me in extending her a warm welcome!

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Upcoming Events

- Launch of NZICPA / IndiGo Cadet Pilot Training Program and Seminar in July --
- 'Namaste Pacific' reception at New Zealand High Commission co-hosted by the High Commissions of Australia, Papua New Guinea and Fiji in August --
- Concerts by Aaradhna, award-winning Indian-Samoan musician from New Zealand, in August

As PM's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellow, Deepa Malik visits NZ



Paralympian Deepa Malik completed a successful tour of New Zealand in her role as the Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellow 2019. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern met Deepa and her daughter Devika at the Beehive in Wellington. It was a meeting of two hugely inspirational personalities, embodying women's empowerment in the country that first granted women's suffrage 125 years ago. Deepa met with NZ sports officials, Paralympians and para athletes, and visited sports facilities. She gave an inspirational talk to students at Wellington College, interacted with the Indian diaspora community in Auckland, and met women business leaders, sharing her experiences as a record-holding sports person and an advocate for the rights of women and of people with disabilities.



Inaugural Wellbeing Budget puts people first

New Zealand introduced its first ever Wellbeing Budget on 30 May, wherein funding of initiatives will be prioritised based on their contribution to wellbeing. The Wellbeing Budget adds measures of living standards and environmental sustainability to the usual financial criteria in order to generate a much broader picture of government performance. The five key areas in the budget comprise supporting mental wellbeing for all New Zealanders; reducing child poverty and improving child wellbeing; lifting Māori and Pacific incomes, skills and opportunities; supporting a thriving nation in the digital age through innovation, social and economic opportunities; and creating opportunities for businesses, regions, iwi (tribes) and others to transition to a sustainable and low-emissions economy. The budget marks a landmark moment in New Zealand's changing approach to tackling long-term challenges and ensuring the well-being of its people in a sustainable manner.



Finance Minister Grant Robertson with a copy of the budget. Photo from New Zealand Herald

New Zealand and France lead Christchurch Call



French President Emmanuel Macron brought together Heads of State and Government and leaders from the tech sector to adopt the Christchurch Call to Action—a commitment by governments and tech companies to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. Leaders from 18 countries, including India, and 8 tech companies joined the Christchurch Call, which promotes the shared belief that a free, open and secure internet offers extraordinary benefits to society.

The tragic Christchurch terrorist attack of 15 March was live-streamed on Facebook for 17 minutes, and the video remained on the web for some time afterwards despite efforts to remove it. On 15 May, two months after the attack, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and

Fonterra launches in India with four-product offering

In a well-attended event in Mumbai on 26 June, Fonterra launched in India under the brand 'Dreamery' through a joint venture with Indian retail giant Future Group. Their first offering is a range of four products: two milkshakes, a yogurt and toned milk.

Fonterra's entry is a great example of complementarity between India, the world's leading dairy producer, and New Zealand, the leading dairy exporter globally. The products are designed in New Zealand and made in India from locally sourced milk.



High Commission's Head of Mission Fund touches vulnerable lives

The New Zealand High Commission's Head of Mission Fund (HOMF) is a means for us to reach out to community groups using small grants to make what we hope is a big difference. In the fiscal year 2018-19, the projects supported by HOMF were in the areas of mental health, capacity-building for women, empowerment of marginalised communities and heritage conservation.



Capacity-building: HOMF supported female inmates living with their children in Sonipat Jail, through education and recreational support. Sonipat is a district in the state of Haryana in north India. The project 'Hope' provided English-speaking skills and included recreational activities and motivational sessions. The children, aged under three years, were given access to creche facilities to allow their mothers to participate in the sessions.

Mental health: We supported an NGO, Anjali, working with mental health patients in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata. They have been running a fully automated laundry, Dhobi Ghar, since 2001 in the city's largest government-run mental hospital—Pavlov Mental Hospital. We supported an industrial washing machine and associated costs to help scale up the laundry. Twenty men and women inmates of Pavlov were employed there and received remuneration for their work. The project empowered the beneficiaries and reinstated their self-belief, at the same time helping to erase the stigma that is often associated with mental illness.



Empowerment of the marginalised: The Musahars are one of India's most marginalised communities. In Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, 535 members of the community (407 of them women) were benefited through HOMF support for kitchen garden projects. Fruits and vegetables were grown in kitchen gardens, raising their nutritive value and resulting in high yields, which could then be sold in the market.

Heritage conservation: Another beneficiary of HOMF, Nepal's Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, safeguards the architectural heritage of Nepal. The 'Let's Discover Patan Durbar' project inspired children and young adults to explore the rich heritage of Patan Durbar in Kathmandu.

It entailed training of Patan Museum staff as guides for school tours, facilitating guided tours for students from government and private schools using interactive cultural maps and reprinting 'Let's Discover Patan Durbar' maps. Within the span of a year, 2870 schoolchildren and 178 teachers from 53 schools in Kathmandu Valley took these guided tours. Helped by experienced facilitators, the children learnt about history, art, architecture, traditional craftsmanship and anecdotes and myths connected with heritage sites which will go a long way to inculcate appreciation of their heritage.



Our funding pool is small, but if you know of an NGO that could benefit from our support, put them in touch for an application.

Former PM Helen Clark visits Nepal for Sir Ed's birth centenary celebrations



As the first patron of the Himalayan Trust, New Zealand's former Prime Minister Helen Clark visited the Everest region in May to attend Sir Edmund's birth centenary celebrations. On 29 May, she was given a tour of the work of the Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust (*See article above*). New Zealand Honorary Consul to Nepal Lisa Choegyhal took advantage of Helen Clark's visit to Patan Museum to donate a beautiful 19th-century Newari *torana* (door lintel) to the museum. The woodcarving will be displayed in the museum's new Architectural Galleries. Choegyhal inherited it from the late Elizabeth Hawley, who served as NZ's first Honorary Consul to Nepal from 1980-2000.

Meet our new Deputy High Commissioner

On 26 June, we welcomed our new Deputy High Commissioner Erin Duncan with a Kiwi barbecue. Erin has been with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, most recently as Senior Policy Officer in the Asia Regional Division, covering the ASEAN Regional Forum, East Asia Summit and Indo-Pacific. Prior to that, Erin was posted as First Secretary to the New Zealand Embassy in Seoul.



The welcome reception saw diplomats, government officials and business leaders in attendance. The Kiwi barbecue is synonymous with summertime in New Zealand, and we tried to recreate that on the lawns of the High Commissioner's residence with delicious New Zealand food and drink.

Aaron Glasson on painting NZ's first street art in India



Acclaimed Kiwi multi-disciplinary artist Aaron Glasson tells us more about 'The Sacrosanct Whole', his mural in Lodhi Art District in New Delhi, created as part of the St+art India street art festival.

The mural and its message: This mural was organised and funded in a collaboration between the New Zealand High Commission and St+Art India. I wanted to make a painting that represented a commonality between Indian and New Zealand native philosophy. I found that in both Hinduism and Buddhism there is a reverence for all life and a belief in a common life force that's shared in all things, that makes all life

connected and, therefore, sacred. The same concept exists in Māori culture and is known as 'Tapu'. So in the final painting, there are a lot of subplots, but the overarching message is that all of existence is connected, whether on a spiritual or a scientific level; that natural forms and life should be respected equally as objects we worship.

Fusion of NZ and Indian elements: I was particularly inspired by Māori traditional wood and jade carvings and forms I saw in Delhi. I depicted abstract sculptural structures that fuse together the two. I also combined native plants of India with those of New Zealand. The colour palette was also very much inspired by the two countries.

The India experience: I've done a lot of festivals over the years but this was honestly the best I've experienced. It was extremely well organised, professional and so deeply involved with the community. The feedback from locals was nothing but positive, which felt great knowing we are transforming and beautifying the urban landscape. It was also an honour to be supported by the New Zealand High Commission and represent my country in India. Many people told me the work instantly blended in and 'felt at home' in the street, which was lovely.

Murals in Sri Lanka: I painted a huge wall on Drift BnB (*image right*) depicting three local women from old photos I found in archives. Each represents one of the three main religions and ethnic groups of Sri Lanka. It was the first big mural in the country, and people seem to really like it. I got another mural commission in Colombo thanks to my last mural there.



Asha interns pick up new skills at NZHC

We hosted interns Amir Khan and Varsha from Asha Society from 10 June–5 July. During their stint here, they spent time with staff of the various divisions in the High Commission, as well as Education New Zealand and Immigration New Zealand, picking up new skills. While Amir's aim is to crack the Indian Civil Service examinations, Varsha wants to enter the field of medical care. We wish them both good luck for 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.