



Foreword from the High Commissioner



New Zealand closer to those we engage with in South Asia and in New Zealand.

Launching a newsletter complements these efforts by taking us to people who may not be active on social media. It will also allow us to go into some greater detail on the growing bilateral relationships New Zealand has with India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. This issue, for instance, includes a piece highlighting the key outcomes of the historic visit by Shri Pranab Mukherjee to New Zealand, the first by an Indian President to our country. It also features an update on the Air Services Agreement that was signed during the President's visit, explaining how it will make flying easier between India and New Zealand. I hope you keep reading our newsletter and that you take time out to send us some of your valuable feedback. This is our first newsletter, one I hope you enjoy. We will also be open to special interest pieces or guest articles written by those actively advancing New Zealand's relations in the countries of South Asia. Your contributions will render these pages much more meaningful.

Grahame Morton

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

Follow Grahame Morton on Twitter on @GMortonNZ

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the inaugural issue of our High Commission Quarterly Newsletter. It is another step forward in enhancing our public outreach, having started our Facebook page in March 2014 and our Twitter accounts in January 2015. We continue to grow online daily, bringing



High Commissioner Grahame Morton attended this year's ANZAC Day service in Kathmandu, which also marked the first anniversary of the April 25 earthquake

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Upcoming Events

- Eminent and award-winning Māori writer Witi Ihimaera will visit India and Bhutan in August. He will be travelling to Thimphu to attend the Mountain Echoes Literature Festival
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- Education New Zealand will host fairs in New Delhi (August 27) and Chennai (August 28)
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- Tourism New Zealand will organise 'Kiwi Link India' in Mumbai from July 11-15 to support the promotion of New Zealand as tourism destination in the Indian market
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- The Black Caps will tour India from September 23 – October 30 for a series of test and one-day international matches

A snapshot of the India-NZ relationship



New Zealand's relationship with India is a priority and we share a warm friendship. The relationship is underpinned by our historical ties, which continue even today through the Commonwealth, and our shared love for cricket!

Here are some fast facts about the India - New Zealand relationship:

- Latest figures from Statistics New Zealand show that bilateral trade in goods and services between our two countries crossed NZ\$2 billion for the first time last year.
- Top exports to India include logs, kiwifruits, apples and wool. Imports from India, on the other hand, comprise retail medicines, motor vehicles and precious metal jewellery.
- India is New Zealand's second largest market for international students. For the year ending December 2015, a total of 21,093 student visas were issued to Indian students to study in New Zealand, which is an increase of 20% from 2014!
- Outbound tourism from India to New Zealand is at record levels! For the year ending March 2016, 46,512 Indians visited New Zealand.
- With more than 160,000 New Zealanders of Indian origin, Indians account for around four percent of New Zealand's population.

New Zealand and India sign a revised Air Services Agreement

A key agreement signed during President Pranab Mukherjee's visit to New Zealand in April was a revised Air Services Agreement between our two countries. New Zealand Transport Minister Simon Bridges signed the deal with Sanjeev Balyan, India's Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The agreement will boost tourism and trade by enhancing air connectivity. New Zealand airlines now have the opportunity to sell seats through code shares on international flights to seven Indian cities - Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi. Indian airlines, on the other hand, can do so to any airport in New Zealand and Fiji. It also keeps open the door for direct flights between the two countries when airlines consider commercial conditions are ripe.

"Today's signing will boost tourism, trade and personal ties between our two countries," Minister Bridges said



Prime Minister John Key visits Sri Lanka

Highlighting growing commercial and political ties between Sri Lanka and New Zealand, Prime Minister John Key landed in Colombo on February 24 on a three-day visit. After bilateral discussions with President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, Key launched two dairy development projects to support



the Sri Lankan dairy sector and boost farmer incomes. He also opened Fonterra's new demonstration farm in Pannala which is training local farmers to improve the volumes and quality of local milk supply. The Prime Minister later met some northern Sri Lankan farmers whose lives have been improved through the Wannu Dairy Regeneration Activity, a programme that has been running with support from the New Zealand Aid Programme. He also announced an extension to this project to help communities in the country's Northern, Eastern and North Central provinces. On this last day in Sri Lanka, Key spoke to Sri Lankan and Kiwi business leaders, urging them to take advantage of the growing commercial opportunities between the two countries. He also visited Kandy's Temple Of The Sacred Tooth Relic and the city's Royal Botanic Gardens, where he planted a mango sapling and in doing so followed the footsteps of former Prime Minister Walter Nash, who planted a now large tree in 1957.

Education NZ announces India scholarships



Indian students seeking financial support to study in New Zealand can now apply for the New Zealand Excellence Awards. Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Steven Joyce announced this new university scholarship initiative in May in the presence of Indian President Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The programme will offer thirty-five top Indian scholars the opportunity to study graduate and postgraduate programmes at all eight of New Zealand's world class universities, including in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), fashion and business-related courses. The successful New Zealand Excellence Awards recipients will each receive NZ\$ 5,000 towards their tuition fees and will begin their studies in 2016 and 2017. Education is a key pillar in New Zealand's bilateral relationship with India. In 2014, more than 20,000 Indian students chose to study in New Zealand, making India the second largest source of international students to New Zealand. Indian students can also apply for the New Zealand Commonwealth scholarships to fund their higher studies at New Zealand universities.



President Pranab Mukherjee was welcomed with a special Māori ceremony at Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae's Residence in Auckland

Historic first visit by President Mukherjee to NZ

A clear Auckland morning greeted Shri Pranab Mukherjee at the start his three-day visit on April 30, the first by an Indian President. He held bilateral talks with Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae and was later hosted at a state dinner at his Residence. He had further talks with Prime Minister John Key and Opposition Leader Andrew Little. One of the key agreements signed on this visit was a revised Air Services Agreement. Shri Mukherjee also visited Auckland Museum, laying a wreath and visiting its famous Māori and Pacific collection. He also addressed students of AUT's Business School, highlighting the role education has played in developing our ties. A MoU supporting an Indian Council for Cultural Relations Chair of Indian Studies at the Victoria University of Wellington was also signed. The President's other engagements included a Business Leaders function in Auckland and a large interaction with the Indian community. We thank the President for visiting us and look forward to the next high-level visit from India.

New Zealand nominates former PM Helen Clark for the position of Secretary-General of the UN

"A strong candidate for the job"

New Zealand has nominated Helen Clark as its candidate for the post of the United Nations Secretary-General. Having served as the Prime Minister of New Zealand for nine years and as the Administrator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Clark is a strong candidate. As the head of UNDP, Clark last visited India in March this year and has actively followed growth and development in the country. She was also the keynote speaker at an event hosted by the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in New York on April 13 to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the Father of the Indian Constitution. You can learn more about her campaign on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website at <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/helen> or by following @Helen4SG on Twitter.

Bangladesh builds ship for NZ

Western Marine, a Chittagong-based shipbuilder, has built a vessel commissioned by the New Zealand Ministry for Foreign Affairs & Trade. The ship, named MV Mataliki, is part of New Zealand's Aid Programme for Tokelau, a group of islands in the Pacific. Built with an investment of \$12.5 million, the ship was handed over by Foreign Minister Murray McCully in Apia on February 25. Western Marine won the contract after a competitive international tender. The Mataliki is a purpose-built vessel that has been specifically designed to carry passengers and cargo between Samoa and the three atolls of Tokelau, whose population of about 1,400 is entirely dependent on shipping for people and goods, as there are no flights to and from the islands.



When the MV Mataliki begins service, voyages from Apia will be scheduled on a fortnightly basis. The new ship has the capacity to increase voyages between the three atolls, which take 4-6 hours.

Meet our new Deputy High Commissioner



We welcome Suzannah Jessep, our new Deputy High Commissioner, who joined us earlier this year. She comes to us from Wellington, where she worked on New Zealand's close relationship with Australia as a Senior Policy Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Suzannah has previously served as the Deputy High Commissioner to Vanuatu in the Pacific and has worked extensively on political and security-related briefs. She is joined by her husband Mike Hogan, who is a musician and composer, and two children – Grace (7) and Max (4). They are thrilled to be in India and look forward to learning more about India and the region.

High Commission supports Cricket Live Foundation



The High Commission in New Delhi manages a Head of the Mission Fund that is used to support small-scale, short-term community projects that contribute to wider community well-being. Under this programme, we are pleased to support Cricket Live Foundation, a New Zealand-based charity that uses cricket as a social development tool in Sri Lanka, where it

currently runs four centres. Their goal is to help underprivileged children to enhance their life, education and cricketing skills through a formal training and education programme. The project is divided into three parts: coach and teacher training, cricket coaching and life skills education. The money received from the High Commission went to supporting the coach and teacher training. The coaches, who are being trained to become community leaders and mentors will be taught coaching and team building skills. A total of 384 children, including 48 girls, will benefit under this programme. This is the second time that the High Commission has supported the Cricket Live Foundation and we wish them success in this year's programme.

#ShareYourNZTrip

This photo of Lake Wakatipu in New Zealand's South Island was taken by New Delhi-based photographer and writer Anuradha Sehgal in June 2014. Two friends are seen chatting under a tree, while in the distance the Remarkables mountains are quietly sliced by low-lying clouds. "When I see this picture I feel like I'm sitting there with them, listening to them talk. It's such a warm feeling of two friends sharing a beautiful space. If you would like to share a photo from your New Zealand trip with us and our readers, email it on nzhcindia@mfat.net.



NZHC hosts Asha interns



In June, the High Commission hosted Priya and Ranjeet, our two new interns under the Asha Society Internship Programme which offers students from less privileged families a chance to experience what it is like to work in a professional environment, to develop their verbal and written communication, as well as technical and professional skills.

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.