

## India-New Zealand Relations

India and New Zealand historically share close and cordial ties. Commonalities such as membership of the Commonwealth, upholding of common law practices and pursuing shared aspirations of achieving economic development and prosperity through democratic governance systems for diverse communities in both countries (NZ also has a sizeable Maori and Polynesian population) provide an excellent backdrop for deepening ongoing ties. Tourism and sporting links, particularly in cricket, hockey and mountaineering, have also played a significant role in fostering goodwill between the two countries. Both countries are fellow travellers in their commitment to disarmament, global peace, North-South Dialogue, human rights, ecological preservation and combating international terrorism. People-to-people contacts have flourished since migration from India to this country began at the turn of the last century. A sizeable population of Indian and Indian origin people, numbering approximately 1,80,000, has made New Zealand its permanent home. There are over 30,000 Indian students in New Zealand.

2. Bilateral relations were established in 1952 between India and New Zealand. NZ identified India as a priority country in its "Opening Doors to India" policy notified in October 2011 which was reiterated by them in 2015.

### VVIP Visits

3. **Visit to NZ Prime Minister to India:** Prime Minister John Key paid a state visit to India from October 25-27, 2016. He was accompanied by a large business delegation. Besides detailed delegation level talks led by the two Prime Ministers, NZ PM called on Hon'ble President of India. The two sides signed agreements on food safety and on cooperation in the field of youth affairs and sports. The two sides also finalized amendment to the Treaty on Avoidance of Double Taxation. In addition, it was decided to establish a ministerial dialogue, annual Foreign Ministry consultations and a dialogue on cyber security. The two PMs had earlier met on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit on 31st March 2016. Both PMs discussed issues of mutual interest such as tourism, aviation, education and food processing technology.

4. **Visit of Hon'ble President of India to New Zealand:** Hon'ble President of India paid a State visit to New Zealand from April 30 to May 2, 2016. Hon'ble President was given a ceremonial welcome by the Governor General of New Zealand followed by a State Banquet. He had substantive meetings with Governor General Jerry Mateparae, PM John Key and Leader of Opposition Mr. Andrew Little.

During the visit, an Air Services Agreement was signed between India and New Zealand. Hon'ble President also addressed the Business leaders, gave a lecture at Auckland University of Technology and interacted with the Indian students. An MoU between ICCR and Victoria University to extend the Indian Chair in Wellington was signed at Auckland University of Technology in his presence. He also met the Indian community at a reception.

5. Hon'ble PM met the newly elected PM of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern on November 14, 2017 on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit held in Manila. Both leaders discussed ways to expand bilateral cooperation in different fields.

## Other high-level visits

6. **Visit of MOS(VKS):** Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. V.K. Singh was in NZ from 7-9 June 2017. He was in Auckland, as the Guest of Honour at the Kiwi-Indian Hall of Fame event organized by Indian Weekender, ethnic Indian newspaper. MOS had exclusive discussions with Prime Minister Bill English on a wide range of issues. MOS had a meeting with NZ Opposition Leader Andrew Little as well as meetings with Indian-origin NZ MPs- Mr. Mahesh Bindra, Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi and Dr. Paramjeet Parmar. He also separately met with various community leaders.

7. **Visit by Mr Amitabh Kant to NZ:** Mr Amitabh Kant, CEO of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), was in NZ as recipient of the Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2017. During his visit to NZ from 30 April – 6 May, Mr Kant had a meeting with NZ Prime Minister Bill English in Wellington on 2 May at Parliament. He had meetings with MP Todd Muller, Chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committee and senior officials from MFAT and the State Services Commission. Mr Kant also met NZ Trade Minister Todd McClay at Rotorua on a visit to the Miraka Dairy operation.

8. **Visit by Hon'ble Speaker:** Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha led a Parliamentary delegation to New Zealand from September 17 to 25, 2016. Besides her meetings with Speaker David Carter and interaction with NZ Parliamentarians, she met with Acting Prime Minister Bill English.

9. A multi-party Parliamentary Goodwill delegation from India led by Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Hon'ble Minister of State(Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Parliamentary Affairs visited New Zealand from June 1-3, 2015.

## Visit by Delegations from States

10. **Maharashtra State delegation :** A 20 member high-level Parliamentary delegation from the Maharashtra Legislature led by the Speaker Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Shri Haribahau Bagde visited NZ from 10-14 May 2017. The delegation met with NZ Speaker, Hon David Carter in Wellington. The delegation also visited Auckland and met with Indian Parliamentary Friendship Group. At Queenstown, the delegation met with city Councillors, followed by a tourism presentation by the Queenstown Council.

11. **Haryana Ministerial Delegation :** At the invitation of NZ Primary Industries Minister, Hon Nathan Guy, a 16-member Haryana delegation visited NZ from 13-17 June 2017 to study-cattle rearing methods and systems to tackle stray cattle. The delegation was led by Shri Om Prakash Dhankar, Agriculture Minister of the Haryana Government. The delegation had high level meeting with Minister Hon Nathan Guy, NZ Speaker Hon David Carter and Deputy Prime Minister Hon Paula Bennett. The delegation attended the Fieldays event in Hamilton, which is NZ's largest annual farming and agriculture trade show. The delegation met local businesses and discussed possible collaboration in the sectors of horticulture, dairy production and green house gases.

12. A high-level delegation of UP Branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association led by Mr. Azam Khan, Hon'ble Minister for Parliamentary Affairs visited New Zealand from 06-10 April 2016. Hon'ble Speakers of Legislative Assemblies of

Manipur, Sikkim, Assam and Haryana visited New Zealand on Study Tour in New Zealand 2017.

13. NZ Minister of Justice, Courts, Broadcasting and Communication led a trade and business enterprise delegation to India from September 20-25, 2015. The purpose of the visit was to promote trade and enterprise between India and New Zealand in clean technologies, renewable energy, smart cities and information and communication technology.

### **Other Official Delegations**

14. An Indian Naval Ship INS Sumitra participated in the International Fleet Review to celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Year of New Zealand Navy at Auckland from November 16 to 22, 2016.

15. Secretary (East) Smt. Preeti Saran visited Auckland on June 7, 2016 as a Special Envoy and briefed the New Zealand Foreign Minister on India's bid for NSG membership. This was followed by telephone calls between EAM and PM with their respective counterparts. Ms. Andrea Smith, Deputy Secretary subsequently visited New Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> August as a Special Envoy of the NZ Foreign Minister.

16. **Foreign Office Consultations:** The India-New Zealand Foreign Office Consultations were held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The Indian side was led by Shri Anil Wadhwa, Secretary (East), while Ms Andrea Smith, Deputy Secretary (Asia and Americas Group), led the New Zealand side.

### **Sector-wise cooperation between India and New Zealand**

17. **Cooperation in the Agriculture Sector.** The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO), Fonterra Co-operative Group and Global Dairy Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2010 for jointly conducting a feasibility study on a pilot dairy farm in India as a first step towards the vision of establishing large-scale world-class dairy farms in India. Fonterra opened its first office in India in early 2013.

18. The Ministry of Agriculture of India and the Ministry for Primary Industries of New Zealand signed an Official Assurance Programme for the Export of Mangoes from India to New Zealand in New Delhi on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012, for facilitating export of mangoes to New Zealand from the approved VHT facilities. Last Bilateral Technical Quarantine Meeting was held in New Delhi on 28 May 2014.

19. **Cooperation in the Education Sector:** As part of the Prime Ministers' Education Initiative, announced during PM John Key's visit in June 2011, the two countries have set up an India-New Zealand Education Council. The inaugural meeting of the Council was held in New Delhi on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012 during which six MoUs of cooperation between different institutions were also signed. Establishment of the New Zealand-India Research Institute (NZIRI) was also announced during Minister Steven Joyce's visit to India in October 2012. The Institute was formally launched in Wellington in August 2013. Next meeting of the India-New Zealand Education Council will be held in India.

20. **Economic Dialogue between India & New Zealand:** The annual dialogue between the Ministry of Finance and the New Zealand Treasury commenced in 2009. The inaugural talks took place in New Delhi in June 2009. The second round was held in Wellington in September 2010 and the third round was held in New Delhi in November 2011. The fourth annual dialogue was held in Wellington on 15-16 April 2013. The 5th Annual dialogue was held in New Delhi on 13th June 2014 and 6th round of dialogue was held in New Zealand from 20-21 July 2017.

21. **Cooperation in the field of S&T:** A Protocol for Cooperation on Science and Innovation was signed between the two countries during PMJK's visit to India in June 2011. As a follow-up, a six member NZ delegation visited India from 24-26 May 2012 to hold meetings with the Department of Science & Technology. The two sides agreed that India and NZ would be launching a joint call for collaborative R&D proposals. Areas of cooperation mentioned in the meeting were food & dairy research, Ocean science/polar research. However, in view of the ongoing restructuring of its Ministry of Science and Innovation (Technology), a confirmation on this proposal is required from the NZ side. Dr. A. Mitra, Adviser & Head, International Bilateral Division, Department of S&T, led a two-member Indian delegation for the first meeting of the Joint Science & Technology Committee, held at Wellington during 26-29 August 2013. During the deliberations, two projects viz. 'Developing Probiotic Foods for India' and 'Development of antioxidant efficacy assays', were identified for joint funding. On 09<sup>th</sup> March 2015, NZ Chief Science Advisor visited India for a meeting with Secretary DST. The 3<sup>rd</sup> India-New Zealand Joint Committee Meeting on Science & Technology Committee was held in New Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016. NZ side was led by Dr. Pure Williams, General Manager, Science Investment, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and India side was led by Dr. Arabinda Mitra, Head International Bilateral Cooperation, Dept of S&T.

22. **Cooperation in Defence Sector:** The New Zealand Government is keen to enhance defence cooperation. Its Defence Adviser to India, then based at Wellington, undertook his first accreditation visit to India in October 2012. From 2014 onwards, New Zealand's Canberra-based Defence Adviser has been accredited to India. NZ is now planning to post a DA at its Mission in Delhi. HMNZS 'Te Mana' of the Royal NZ Navy visited Mumbai in January 2014. Rear Admiral J. R. Steer, Chief of Royal New Zealand Navy, also paid an official visit to India in January 2014. India's Vice-Chief of Army Staff Lt. Gen. Krishna Singh visited New Zealand for the 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific Armies Chief Conference held at Auckland from 9-11 September 2013. Indian Navy participated in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Royal NZ Navy held in November 2016.

### 23. **Bilateral Economic & Commercial Relations**

In 2011 NZ launched the NZ Inc India Strategy, aiming to make India a core trade, economic and political partner for New Zealand. India was NZ's 10<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner (June 2016) with total trade in both goods and services valued at USD1.765b. NZ exports to India were valued at NZ\$638m (USD446m), mostly consisting of wood and wood products (NZ\$227.9m or USD159.3m), edible fruits (NZ\$41.16m or USD28.78m), mineral fuels (NZ\$46.77m or USD32.7m) and wool (NZ\$25.89m or USD18.1m). Imports into NZ from India were valued at NZ\$591m (USD413.28m) and goods comprised of pharmaceutical products (NZ\$36.30m or USD25.38m), textile articles (NZ\$19.21m or USD13.43m), precious metals (NZ\$16.7m or USD11.67m) and machinery (NZ\$17.91m or USD12.52m). While

there has been a marginal increase in trade of goods, figures from the New Zealand authorities indicates that trade in services has shown a considerable uptrend, with NZ service imports to India valued at NZ\$1.06b (USD741.25m) and imports at NZ\$230m. Education and Tourism have emerged as growth sectors with increasing numbers of both categories coming from India to New Zealand.

Year	2013 US\$	2014 US\$	2015 US\$	2016 US\$
Exports to India(Goods)	587.74	498.15	419.84	446
Imports from India(Goods)	355.67	406.85	379.02	413

**(NZ figures of bilateral trade in goods)**

**Free Trade Agreement:** New Zealand and India agreed to undertake a joint study into the implications of a free trade agreement (FTA) in 2007 and negotiations for a FTA between India and New Zealand commenced in April 2010. The 10th round of negotiations took place in New Delhi from 16-18 February, 2015. Chief Negotiators exchanged views on the progress made so far on the sidelines of the RCEP negotiations held in Auckland in June 2016.

**Commercial engagement:** Commercial engagements grew further in 2016, with two way expansion of businesses between NZ and India. Some leading NZ companies established substantial business undertakings in India such as:

- Gallagher Group: deployed security systems in the Indian Parliament, ISRO and other key locations.
- Sealegs: supplied amphibious motor boats to the Mumbai Police.
- Hamilton Jet: supplied water propulsion jet engines for the patrol boats of the Indian Coast Guard.
- Glidepath: supplied air cargo handling systems / conveyor belts at many of India's leading international airports.
- Quality NZ: an influential trading group supplying high-quality seafood, meat products, fruits, wine to various five-star hotels in India (has significant ownership interests by leading NZ cricketers).
- Redesign Group: involved in designing of shopping malls and other projects at major, Indian international airports etc.

With respect to Indian foray into NZ, all major Indian IT companies are present in New Zealand. Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and New India Assurance also have commercial operations in NZ. In 2014, ONGC Videsh Limited was awarded oil and gas exploration permits by the New Zealand Government, enabling ownership rights for 12 years for undertaking offshore hydrocarbon exploration along the Taranaki coast in New Zealand's North Island region. In October 2016, Zindia Limited (the largest exporter of NZ logs to India) signed a MOU with Adani Port and SEZ Limited to promote a Timber Industrial Park at Mudra Port in Gujarat. An Agriculture Summit was organized by India NZ Business Council (INZBC), in collaboration with High Commission of India in June 2016, to enhance potential of two way trade in the sector. INZBC and the Indian High Commission also co-hosted an event in February 2016 in Auckland to provide greater momentum to the 'Make in India' initiative. The event was well attended by noted businessman from New Zealand and NZ government representatives. Two Business Seminars were held

on the themes of Cooperation in Agriculture and Education in Auckland in June 2016 and May 2017 which saw a sizeable Indian participation.

24. **Tourism Growth:** From March 2016 to February 2017, international visitor arrivals from India to NZ increased by 14.8% to 53,424. This makes India the ninth-fastest growing source for tourists to NZ, ahead of Malaysia and Indonesia. Departure to India rose by 17.6% to nearly 52,000 until March last year indicating that the India travel market is firmly growing. After the full implementation of the India-NZ Air Services Agreement (signed during the visit of Hon'ble President of India to NZ), the number of tourists going to India are likely to increase further.

25. **Co-operation in the Cultural field:**

**Diwali:** In light of the support by the ICCR/New Zealand organizations and initiative by the local Indian community, there have been many visits of dance troupes from India and other cultural events are also often held. Since 2002, Diwali has been recognized as the representative festival of the Indian community in New Zealand, and week-long celebrations are organized every year by the Asia-New Zealand Foundation in all the major cities of NZ under the aegis of the respective City Councils. Diwali was celebrated in all major cities in NZ. The Auckland Diwali festival was inaugurated by PM John Key. The NZ Parliament also held a function on 10 November 2016 for celebrating the festival. ICCR funded cultural troupe performed in all major cities during Diwali.

**Yoga Day:** High Commission celebrated the third International Day of Yoga in Wellington and other important cities in New Zealand on 18 June 2017. There was an enthusiastic response at these events.

**Gandhi Jayanti:** The unveiling of a life size statute of Mahatma Gandhi in Wellington by the Governor General and the Mayor on October 2, 2007 underlined the commitment of peoples of both countries to shared values of peace, non violence and international cooperation. City Council of Wellington in cooperation with local Indian organization and this Mission celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's Birth every year.

**Constitution Day:** The Constitution Day was celebrated in Auckland on November 27, 2016.

**India @70 :** Two major events were held in Wellington and Auckland in August 2017 to mark completion of 70 years of India's Independence. Two performing groups from India participated in these events.

26. **Indian Community.** Of the 200,000 strong Indian Diaspora about 75,000 persons are estimated to be of Indian passport holders and 125,000 are PIOs. Out these PIOs, 35,000 persons are estimated to be of Fijian-Indian descent. They mainly hail from Gujarat and Punjab and are concentrated in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch. Most of them are engaged in grocery business and dairy farming. There are also several professionals including doctors, professors, engineers, chartered accountants and computer experts. Most people of Indian origin have acquired New Zealand citizenship. There are Indian Associations in ten major towns, which help the community nurture its cultural heritage. Currently there

are three Indian origin MPs in the New Zealand Parliament. In 2016, more than 10,500 Indians came to New Zealand on long-term visa.

27. **Indian Students:** The number of Indian students has significantly increased over the last few years and India is the 2nd largest source of students to NZ (after China), with nearly 32,000 Indian students in NZ. However there was a fall in the number of Indian students arriving in NZ in the second half of 2016. In the year ending December 2016, 7603 Indian students arrived in New Zealand, down by 5727(-43%) during the same period in 2015. The fall was attributed to tighter rules and monitoring of student visa applications from India, due to many students arriving with inadequate money to support themselves and with limited English skills. A number of students have been deported over the last few months after they were found to have secured admission on the basis of fraudulent documents. Mission was confronted with a number of issues concerning Indian students which related to multiple government agencies in New Zealand. Mission has institutionalized a system of a quarterly combined meeting with the representative of government bodies such as Foreign Office, Immigration NZ, Education NZ and NZ Quality Assurance. NZ recently announced NZ Excellence Awards, allocating 35 scholarships of NZ\$5000 across all eight major NZ universities for Indian students.

#### **Useful Resources:**

High Commission of India, Wellington website:

[www.hicomind.org.nz](http://www.hicomind.org.nz)

High Commission of India, Wellington Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HighCommissionofIndiaNewZealand>

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