

High Commission of India
Wellington, New Zealand

INDIA - NEW ZEALAND: BILATERAL BRIEF

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 approx. 200,000, have made New Zealand their permanent home. There are over 30,000 Indian students in New Zealand. 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.

BILATERAL VISITS

VVIP VISITS:

East Asia Summit: Hon. Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and Hon. Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern, met on the side-lines of East Asia Summit held in Manila on 13 Nov 2017 and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations.

Visit of NZ Prime Minister to India: Prime Minister John Key paid a state visit to India from 25-27 Oct 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 side-lines 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.

Visit of Hon’ble President of India to NZ: Hon’ble President of India paid a State visit to New Zealand from 30 April-2 May 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.

OTHER HIGH-LEVEL VISITS:

Visit by Hon'ble Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare: On 1 June 2018, after visiting Tuvalu and Fiji, Hon Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, transited through NZ while returning to India.

Visit by Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs: From 20-23 May 2018, Hon Jaswantsinh Bhabhor, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, transited through NZ, en route a visit to Samoa.

Visit by Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways: On 24 April 2018, en-route a goodwill visit to Tonga, Hon Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Chemicals & Fertilizers, visited Auckland.

Visit of MOS (VKS) to NZ: 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.

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

OTHER OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS:

NZ Chief of Defence Force visits India: The Chief of Defence Force of New Zealand, Lieutenant General Tim Keating accompanied by a nine-member delegation visited Delhi Agra and Mumbai from 19-23 Feb 2018. During his visit, he interacted with all Service Chiefs and Defence Secretary and discussed cooperation in the field of white shipping data and cyber security. He also visited the Western Naval Command and INS Tarkash.

Kiwi-Indian MPs & Mayor attend PIO Conference in India: On 9 Jan 2018, Hon Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi (List MP, National Party), Hon Dr Parmjeet Parmar (List MP, National Party), Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan (List MP, Labour Party) and Kapiti Mayor K Gurunathan participated in the PIO conference in Delhi. The event witnessed participation of about 143 parliamentarians from 24 countries.

Foreign Office Consultations: The India-New Zealand Foreign Office Consultations were held on 05 Dec 2017. The Indian side was led by Mrs. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), while Mr. Brook Barrington, Foreign Secretary, led the New Zealand side. Mr Barrington also had separate meetings with the Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary.

INSV Tarini to NZ: The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini arrived in New Zealand at Lyttleton Port on 29 Nov 2017 in its second leg of its maiden voyage to circumnavigate the globe. The all-women crew of the historic circumnavigation attempt was welcomed by Deputy Mayor of Christchurch with a traditional Maori welcome. High Commissioner organised a welcome reception on 30 November which was attended by about 100 distinguished guests, including Members of Parliament, state officials, businessmen, leaders from Indian community and media persons. The crew also interacted with school children and Indian Association in Christchurch. The Ship departed Lyttleton port on 12 December 2017 for its onward journey to Port Stanley.

First India-NZ Cyber Dialogue: On 27 Nov 2017, the first India-NZ Cyber Dialogue was held in New Delhi. While, the Indian Delegation was led by Mr Sanjay Kumar Verma, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, the NZ delegation was led by Mr Paul Ash, Director of the National Cyber Policy Office, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Areas of discussion included domestic cyber policy landscape, cyber threats and mitigation, new technologies, mechanism on bilateral cooperation and possible cooperation at various international fora and regional fora. Both sides agreed to hold the next India-New Zealand Cyber dialogue in NZ in 2018.

NZ – India Economic Dialogue: The 6th round of the NZ-India Economic Dialogue was held in Wellington from 20-21 July 2017. The delegation from India for the dialogue, was a 3-member team of: Mr S Selvakumar (Joint Secretary) and Mr Gaurav Masaldan (Director) from the Bilateral Cooperation, Department of Economic Affairs, and Mr Siddharth Jain (Assistant Commissioner) from the Department of Revenue. In Wellington, the delegation met with the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ), the NZ Inland Revenue Department (IRD) and the NZ Productivity Commission. The delegation also had a business interaction meeting with the India-NZ Business Council (Wellington Chapter) and the High Commissioner. The annual dialogue between the Ministry of Finance and the New Zealand Treasury commenced in 2009.

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 2017, 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.

INS Sumitra to NZ: An Indian Naval Ship INS Sumitra participated in the International Fleet Review to celebrate 75th Year of New Zealand Navy at Auckland from 16-22 Nov 2016.

Visit of Special Envoys: Secretary (East) Smt. Preeti Saran visited Auckland on 7 June 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 12th August as a Special Envoy of the NZ Foreign Minister.

VISIT BY DELEGATIONS FROM STATES:

Speakers of State Legislatures visit NZ: On 12 Nov 2017, Mr Yumnam Khemchand, Hon Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly arrived in Wellington. On 14 Nov he met with the Assistant Speaker of the NZ Parliament, Poto Williams (Labour Party). The Indian tricolour was also flown alongside the NZ flag in front of the NZ Parliament to welcome Mr Khemchand. Mr Kedarnath Rai, Hon Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly visited Queenstown. Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Hon Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, visited Auckland during the same period and met prominent members of the Kiwi-Indian community. The honourable speakers visited NZ as part a study tour, after the 63rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Dhaka.

Haryana Ministerial Delegation to NZ: 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 greenhouse gases.

Maharashtra State Delegation to NZ: 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.

UP Branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to NZ: 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.

OTHER RECENT VISITS, DELEGATIONS & MEETINGS (2016-2018):**India to New Zealand:**

October 2018: From 28 October - 3 November, a 26-member Indian dairy delegation with representatives from the Ministry of Power, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, UN Industrial Development Organisation, AmulFed Dairy, Kerala Co-Op Milk Marketing Federation Ltd and Sikkim Co-Op Milk Producers' Union Ltd visited NZ. The delegation toured centres in Wellington, Palmerston North, Taupo, Hamilton and Auckland.

October 2018: On 9 October, Mr Shivshankar Menon, former national security advisor of India, arrived in Wellington. Mr Menon was in the country to give a formal talk at the Victoria University of Wellington, at an event organised by the NZ India Research Institute.

September 2018: from 27-28 September, a senior FICCI delegation from India visited NZ to attend the 5th INZBC Summit 2018 on aviation, tourism and technology, hosted by the NZ India Business Council. The High Commissioner was the keynote speaker the event in Auckland. A MoU was also signed between Aviation New Zealand and FICCI.

May 2018: From 25-29 May, as part of the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI)'s Executive Development Programme, a 12-member delegation from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) visited Wellington for a study tour on NZ dairying and horticulture.

May 2018: From 20-25 May, a 16-member delegation from the National Defence College visited Wellington, Rotorua and Auckland. They were accompanied by the Defence Attaché based in Canberra.

May 2018: From 7-9 May, Ms Nidhi Tewari, Under Secretary (D&ISA), MEA, attended the ARF Defence Officials' Dialogue (DOD) and ARF Inter-sessional Support Group Meeting on Confidence-Building Measures and Preventive Diplomacy in Auckland.

April 2018: From 1-7 April, a 4-member delegation from the Indian Food Safety & Standards Authority (FSSAI) and 1-member from FDA-Maharashtra visited Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland.

November 2017: On 30 November, High Commission organised a business forum in Christchurch to highlight the rise of India in the *Ease of Doing Business Index*.

August 2017: On 4 August, a senior FICCI delegation from India visited NZ to attend the 4th Education Summit hosted by the NZ India Business Council. The High Commissioner was a speaker the event.

February-Mar 2017: The High Commissioner held meetings with leading members of the Kiwi-Indian business community in Auckland (15 February) and Wellington (16 March). The focus of discussion was ways and means to strengthen the role in prioritising bilateral trade and investment ties.

August 2016: On 12 August, Andrea Smith, Deputy Secretary subsequently visited New Delhi, as a Special Envoy of the NZ Foreign Minister.

New Zealand to India:

May 2018: At the end of May, 30 students from the Victoria University of Wellington, embarked on an MBA study tour to India. Earlier in May, the High Commissioner had addressed the students.

April 2018: From 23-25 April, as part of the Track-II Dialogue, the Asia NZ Foundation in partnership with the Victoria University's NZ India Research Institute, led a 5-member delegation to New Delhi.

January 2018: From 18-19 January, the India NZ Business Council (INZBC), in coordination with the High Commission, led a 10-member NZ business delegation to the Indus Food Expo organised by TPCI in New Delhi.

November 2017: From November 2017-February 2018, Asia NZ Foundation (non-profit organisation focussed on NZ-Asia relations) sent their first business interns to India.

May 2017: As recipients of the NZ PM's Scholarship for Asia, business students from the Ara Institute of Canterbury travelled to India in May 2017.

SECTOR-WISE COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Cooperation in the Agriculture Sector: In August 2018, NZ dairy giant Fonterra announced its partnership with India's Future Group, to make a range of dairy products for the Indian market. The new partnership called Fonterra Future Dairy Partners, will be Fonterra's second venture into the Indian market. In 2001, Fonterra had formed a joint venture with Bangalore-based Britannia Industries but later pulled out in 2009, stating different strategic requirements. The first consumer products are expected to be launched in India by mid- 2019, using locally sourced milk and dairy products from NZ. The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Co-operative Limited (IFFCO), Fonterra Co-operative Group and Global Dairy Health had signed a MoU 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. The Ministry of Agriculture of India and the Ministry for Primary Industries of NZ signed an Official Assurance Programme for the Export of Mangoes from India to NZ in New Delhi on 17 July 2012, for facilitating export of mangoes to NZ from the approved VHT facilities. The last Bilateral Technical Quarantine Meeting was held in New Delhi on 28 May 2014. Both countries are currently negotiating a MOU on cooperation in agriculture, dairying and fisheries.

Cooperation in the field of S&T: A Protocol for Cooperation on Science and Innovation was signed between the two countries during then-NZ PM John Key'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 March 2015, NZ Chief Science Advisor visited India for a meeting with Secretary DST. The 3rd India-NZ Joint Committee Meeting on Science & Technology Committee was held in New Delhi on 23rd 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.

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-NZ Education Council. The inaugural meeting of the Council was held in New Delhi on 19th October 2012 during which six MoUs of cooperation between different institutions were also signed. Establishment of the NZ-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-NZ Education Council will be held in India. The NZ Excellence Award programme, established in 2016 as a partnership between Education NZ and Universities NZ allocated 35 scholarships of NZ\$5000 across all eight major NZ universities for Indian students. In November 2018, the University of Auckland and India's IIT Kharagpur signed an MoU as part of Government of India's SPARC initiative, to advance academic exchange and research collaboration.

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 11th largest two-way trading partner (2017) with total trade in both goods and services valued at US\$1.91b. Education and tourism have emerged as growth sectors with increasing numbers of both categories coming from India to NZ.

- **NZ goods exports to India:** NZ goods exports to India were valued at US\$485.71m, mostly consisting of - logs and forestry products (US\$193.57m), mineral fuels & oils (US\$55.82m), wood pulp (US\$32.14m), wool (US\$27.85m) and edible fruit & nuts (US\$24.28m).
- **NZ goods imports from India:** Goods imports into NZ from India were valued at US\$423.57m, mostly consisting of – pharmaceuticals/medications (US\$50m), precious metals & gems (US\$42.14m), textiles and motor vehicles (US\$25m each) and non-knitted apparel and accessories (US\$19.28m).

Bilateral trade for the last 3 years:

	NZ Exports to India		NZ Imports from India		Total Trade
	Goods	Services	Goods	Services	
2017	US\$485.71m	US\$805m	US\$423.57m	US\$189.28m	US\$1.91b
2016	US\$456.42m	US\$794.28m	US\$404.28m	US\$176.42m	US\$1.83b
2015	US\$455.71m	US\$564.28m	US\$411.42m	US\$144.28m	US\$1.57b

Commercial engagement: Commercial engagements grew further in 2016, with two-way expansion of businesses between NZ and India. With respect to Indian foray into NZ, all major Indian IT companies are present in NZ. 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. 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. Some leading NZ companies who have established substantial business undertakings in India are:

- Gallagher Group: deployed security systems in the Indian Parliament, ISRO & 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 India's 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.

Tourism growth: As on year ended Dec 2017, international visitor arrivals from India to NZ increased by 18.1% to 61,440. This makes India the 9th-fastest growing source for tourists to NZ, ahead of Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia. As on year ended Dec 2017, NZ resident-traveller departures to India rose to 71,900 (+14.3% from 2016).

Free Trade Agreement: NZ and India agreed to undertake a joint study into the implications of a free trade agreement (FTA) in 2007 and negotiations for an FTA between India and NZ 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 side-lines of the RCEP negotiations held in Auckland in June 2016 and met in October 2018 in Auckland during RCEP. On 19 October, NZ Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor, welcomed officials to the 24th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations in Auckland. This included a delegation from India. The 24th RCEP negotiation round in Auckland closed on 27 October.

CO-OPERATION IN THE CULTURAL FIELD

Independence Day: Indian Independence Day is celebrated each year by the Mission in association with Indian organizations in Wellington and across major cities in New Zealand. In 2017, India@70 was a grand cultural event organized by the Mission with support from the Indian Ministry of Culture, bringing in cultural groups from India and was attended by over 1200 people in the cities of Wellington and Auckland. The guests included the former Governor-General of NZ the Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, and several members from the NZ Parliament, NZ Govt bodies, Diplomatic Missions, City Council members and other distinguished guests. For this occasion, for the very first time the Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga was lit up in the colours of the Indian Flag and the Indian tricolour was hoisted alongside the NZ Flag at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington. The NZ Parliament passed a resolution to congratulate India on its journey. The Mission organized a poster drawing and essay writing competition for all students which was met with a great response. In 2018, in a historic first, High Commissioner's initiative brought all Indian organizations and the Indian diaspora to jointly celebrate the occasion.

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 is celebrated in all major cities in NZ. In October 2018, in a historic first the Auckland Harbour Bridge was lit up in colours of Diwali lights.

Ambedkar Jayanti: A special function was held in the New Zealand Parliament on 10 May 2016 to remember Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Prime Minister of New participated in the event and also unveiled a statue of Dr. Ambedkar.

Yoga Day: High Commission celebrated the fourth International Day of Yoga in Wellington and other important cities in New Zealand on 24 June 2018. There was an enthusiastic response at these events.

Gandhi Jayanti: To mark the start to the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, many celebrations were held across New Zealand. On 2nd October, NZ Members of Parliament, Mayors, prominent Indians and members of the Kiwi and Kiwi-Indian community gathered at the Gandhi statue at the Wellington Railway station to pay homage. On the evening of 5th October, a special event was held at the Indian Association hall in Wellington, which was attended by the former Governor-General of NZ Sir Anand Satyanand (who was also the keynote speaker), Finance Minister Grant Robertson, Members of Parliament, the Diplomatic Corp., prominent Indians and members

of the Kiwi and Kiwi-Indian community. To mark the occasion, commemorative postage stamps were released in Wellington and a peace march was also held in Auckland on 30th September 2018. In a historic first, NZ postage stamps featuring Gandhi were released in Auckland and for the release the High Commissioner was joined on stage by NZ PM Jacinda Ardern and Auckland Mayor Phil Goff.

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

Indian Community. Of the 200,000 strong Indian Diaspora about 75,000 persons are estimated to be of Indian passport holders and 125000 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.

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 over 30,000 Indian students in NZ. However, there was a fall in the number of Indian students arriving in NZ in the second half of 2016 and in 2017. 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.

(November 2018)