

India-New Zealand Relations

Political Relations

India and New Zealand share a common historical connection with the British Empire and have cordial and friendly relations rooted in the linkages of Commonwealth, parliamentary democracy and the English language. The two countries have been fellow travelers in their commitment to disarmament, global peace, North-South Dialogue, human rights, ecological preservation and combating international terrorism. The people-to-people contacts have been in focus since migration from India to this country began at the turn of the last century, and a sizeable population of Indian origin (estimated about 155,000) has made New Zealand its permanent home. Tourism and sporting links, particularly in cricket, hockey and mountaineering, have played a significant role in fostering goodwill between the two countries.

Recent High level visits from New Zealand

At the invitation of Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to PM of New Zealand Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to GOI & DEA visited Auckland from August 28-29, 2014 to attend a conference titled 'Science Advice to Governments- A Global Conference for Leading Practitioners'.

Shri Ramendra Chandra Debnath, Hon'ble Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly visited Auckland from 15-18 October 2014 and held exchanges with three Indian origin Members in the New Zealand Parliament and influential members of the Indo-New Zealand community.

At the invitation of Hon. Simon Bridges, Minister of Energy and Resources, Government of New Zealand, Shri Beni Prasad Verma, Hon'ble Minister of Steel, led an eight-member Indian delegation to New Zealand from 29th January to 1st February 2014. Besides meeting with his counterpart Hon. Simon Bridges, the Hon'ble Minister of Steel also interacted with senior functionaries of the India-New Zealand Business Council and the state sector company Solid Energy.

Prof. P. J. Kurien, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, led a four-member Indian Parliamentary delegation to New Zealand for participation in the 22nd Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC), held at Wellington from 21-24 January 2014.

Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, led the Indian delegation to the 2nd meeting of the India-New Zealand Education Council held at Wellington on 9 July 2013.

Smt. Meira Kumar, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, led a Parliamentary delegation to New Zealand from 13-17 April 2012. During her visit to Auckland on 13th April, the Hon'ble Speaker interacted with the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians of NZ

and also attended a reception organised by the India-New Zealand Business Council. The Hon'ble Speaker also extended an invitation to her NZ counterpart to visit India, together with a delegation of the Members of the House of Representatives of New Zealand.

State visit of Prime Minister John Key to India: Prime Minister, H.E. John Key, accompanied by Mrs. Bronagh Key, paid a state visit to India from June 26-30, 2011. He was accompanied by the Trade Minister Hon. Tim Groser and Member of Parliament, Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, senior officials and a business and media delegation. He called on the President and Vice –President, held talks with the Prime Minister and met with the External Affairs Minister, Chairperson, UPA and the Leader of the Opposition. Prime Minister John Key also addressed a business luncheon organized jointly by CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM. Two agreements were signed during the visit- (i) Agreement on Audio-visual Cooperation; and (ii) Protocol for Cooperation on Science and innovation.

Foreign Minister Murray McCully's Visit to India: NZ Foreign Minister visited India on 4th June 2013. During his visit he held bilateral meetings with Hon'ble EAM, CITM, Sports Minister and NSA. Besides progress on FTA, a high priority for NZ; other bilateral/regional issues were also discussed. EAM has accepted the NZFM's invitation to visit New Zealand at a convenient time. NZFM also attended the Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers' [ASEM] FMs Meet in New Delhi in November 2013.

Record of Bilateral visits

VVIP visits from India:

Sr. No.	Date	Dignitary
1.	1968	Smt. Indira Gandhi
2.	1986	Shri Rajiv Gandhi

VVIP visits from New Zealand:

Sr. No.	Date	Dignitary
1.	1960s	PM Walter Nash
2.	1970s	PM Norman Kirk
3.	1980s	P M David Lange
4.	Oct'2004	PM Helen Clark
5.	Sept 2008	Governor General Anand Satyanand
6.	Oct 2010	Governor General Anand Satyanand
7.	Jan 2011	Governor General Anand Satyanand
8.	Jun' 2011	Prime Minister John Key

(c) Other High Level Visits from India

Sr. No.	Date	Dignitary
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1.	Apr'08	Minister of Youth, Sports and Local Government, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar.
2.	May'08	Minister of Commerce, Mr. Kamal Nath.
3.	Aug'08	MOS(EA), Mr. E. Ahamed.
4.	Mar'09	Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. M.S. Gill.
5.	Feb'10	Member of Parliament, Mr. Rahul Gandhi.
6.	Mar'10	Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Mr. M.K. Alagiri.
7.	Apr'10	Minister for Human Resource Development, Mr. Kapil Sibal.
8.	June'10	Minister for Power, Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde (private visit)
9.	June'10	Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Mr. Vayalar Ravi.
10.	Sept'10	Governor of Orissa, Mr. Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare.
11.	Sept'10	Finance Secretary, Mr. Ashok Chawla.
12.	May'11	Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Anand Sharma.
13.	Sept'11	Minister of State for External Affairs, Ms. Preneet Kaur.
14.	April 12	Mrs. Meira Kumar, Hon'ble Speaker (along with a Parliamentary delegation)
15.	July 13	Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju, Hon'ble HRD Minister
16.	Sep 13	Lt. Gen. K. Singh, Vice Chief of the Army Staff
17.	Jan 14	Prof. P.J. Kurien, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha
18.	Jan 14	Shri Beni Prasad Verma, Hon'ble Steel Minister
19.	Aug 14	Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to GOI
20.	Oct 14	Mr. Ramendra Chandra Debnath, Hon'ble Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly

Other High Level Visits from New Zealand

Sr. No.	Date	Dignitary
1.	Mar'08	Agriculture and Forestry Minister, Hon. Jim Anderton
2.	Feb'09	Minister of Trade & Conservation and Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues & Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tim Groser.
3.	Feb'09	Former Minister for Internal Affairs, Dr. Richard Worth.
4.	Sept'09	Minister of Trade & Conservation and Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues & Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tim Groser.
5.	Mar'11	Minister of Immigration, Mr. Jonathan Coleman.
6.	Apr'11	Minister for Defence, Science and Innovation and Associate Minister for Economic Development and Tertiary Education, Mr. Wayne Mapp.
7.	Oct 12	Mr. Steven Joyce, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment
8.	Oct 12	Mr. Kate Wilkinson, Conservation Minister
9.	Nov/Dec 12	Mr. David Carter, Minister for Primary Industries
10.	June 13	Mr. Murray McCully, Foreign Minister
11.	Nov 13	Mr. Murry McCully, Foreign Minister for ASEM-FM Meet

12.	Nov 14	Mr. Nathan Guy, Minister for Primary Industry & Mr. Michael Woodhouse, Immigration Minister
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Agreements between the two countries:

- Trade Agreement - October 1986
- Agreement on avoidance of Double Taxation - October, 1986
- Civil Aviation Agreement between India and New Zealand August 1997
- MOU on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between ICAR and Horti Research of New Zealand - March 1998
- MoU of Technical Cooperation between Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, GOI and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Regulatory Authority of New Zealand on Cooperation on Plant Quarantine Issues, April 1999
- Arrangement between India and New Zealand for cooperation in the area of Information Technology, December 2001.
- MoU between Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) and the Wool Research Organisation of New Zealand (WRONZ), May 2003
- MOU on Cooperation between the Indian Council of World Affairs and the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, November 2008
- Education Cooperation Arrangement, April 2010
- MOU between Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, for establishment of Council's short-term Chair in India's International Relations and/or Indian Politics at the University; September 2010.
- Agreement on Audio-visual Cooperation.
- Protocol for Cooperation on Science and innovation

Foreign Office Consultations: India-New Zealand Foreign Office Consultations were held in Wellington on 24th September, 2012.

Commercial Relations

Bilateral Trade:

The bilateral trade has been growing steadily reaching nearly \$1.1 billion in 2013. Figures regarding bilateral trade in NZ \$ (millions) in the last five years are as under:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 (Till Oct)
Exports to India	900	938	789	669	516
Imports from India	368	387	419	423	415

Major items of export to India are Coking Coal, Wool, Logs, Sheep skin leather, raw hides and skins. Major items of import from India are Diamond, Jewellery articles, Bed linen, table linen, garments and footwear. Mahindra-Satyam, HCL Technologies, WIPRO, Infosys and Tech Mahindra, New India Assurance Co. Ltd., and Bank of Baroda have presence in New Zealand.

Joint Commission: Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the nodal Ministry. The last Joint Business Council meeting was held in New Zealand in May, 2011.

Free Trade Agreement: New Zealand and India agreed to undertake a joint study into the implications of a free trade agreement (FTA) in 2007. That study was completed in February 2009 and has since been accepted and approved by the New Zealand and Indian governments. The negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and New Zealand commenced in April 2010. Until now, nine rounds of negotiations have taken place, the most recent held in Wellington on 29-30 July 2013. The 10th round of negotiations is scheduled to take Place in New Delhi in the near future.

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 3rd in New Delhi in November 2011. The fifth annual dialogue was held in New Delhi on 13 June 2014.

Cooperation in the Cultural Field:

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. The Auckland Diwali Festival in 2014 was inaugurated by PM John Key. The New Zealand Parliament also held a function on 28 Oct 2014 for celebrating Diwali, which was attended by Prime Minister John Key.

Indian Community:

There are about 155,000 people of India and Indian origin and per latest NZ Census published in December 2013. As per NZ Government Report arrival of Indian jumped 64 percent during the year ended 31st October making India the third largest source of migrants at 10,722 people. Around 12,000 fee-paying Indian students studying in New Zealand in the year 2013. 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 major towns, which help the community and nurture its cultural heritage.

Useful Resources:

High Commission of India, Wellington website:

<http://www.hicomind.org.nz/hcinz/>

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