

India–New Zealand: Bilateral Brief

India and New Zealand share warm and friendly ties. Diplomatic relations were established in 1952. Both countries share similarities such as membership of the Commonwealth, common law practices and pursuing shared aspirations of achieving economic development and prosperity through democratic governance systems for diverse communities. Tourism and sporting links, particularly cricket, hockey and mountaineering, have played a significant role in fostering goodwill.

2. NZ identified India as a priority country in its “*Opening Doors to India*” policy notified in October 2011, which was reiterated in 2015. In 2011, NZ launched the NZ Inc. India Strategy, aiming to make India a core trade, economic and political partner for NZ. On the eve of the visit of DPM / Foreign Minister of NZ to India from 25-28 February 2020, NZ released the Strategy Paper “*India-NZ 2025 – Investing in the Relationship*”, which builds on earlier policy papers and envisions a more “enduring strategic relationship” with India over the next five years.

Bilateral Visits and High-Level Meetings:

HOS/HOG Visits/Meetings:

3. **Meeting of PM Modi with PM Luxon:** On 11 October 2024, PM Narendra Modi met NZ Prime Minister Christopher Luxon in Laos on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit. PM Modi and PM Luxon also had a telephonic conversation in July 2024, during which NZPM congratulated PM Modi on his party’s victory in the general elections and his third term as PM.

4. **Visit of President of India to NZ:** Hon. President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu undertook a State Visit to New Zealand from 7 to 9 August 2024. She had meetings with the Governor General, Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and DPM & Foreign Minister Winston Peters and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

5. Prime Minister Modi met New Zealand PM Chris Hipkins on 22 May 2023 on the sidelines of FIPIC-III Summit in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

High Level Visits/Meetings:

6. On 16 December 2024, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met Todd McClay, Trade Minister of New Zealand in New Delhi.

7. On 06 November 2024, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar met NZ DPM and FM Winston Peters during 'Raisina Down Under' in Canberra.

Parliamentary Exchanges:

8. A four-member delegation from New Zealand Parliament’s South and South-East Asia Parliamentary Friendship Group visited New Delhi and Mumbai from 20-26 November 2019.

9. Lok Sabha Speaker Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan led a Parliamentary delegation to New Zealand on 17-25 September 2016.

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

Institutional Dialogue Mechanisms:

11. **Foreign Ministry Consultations:** On 18 August 2023, the 5th India-NZ Foreign Ministry Consultations (FMC) took place in Wellington. Discussions included various aspects of the bilateral relations, including political, economic, trade, defence, education, science, technology, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people connections.

12. **Joint Trade Committee:** The last JTC meeting was held on 26 April 2024. The talks included discussions on India-NZ trade relationship, business presence, agricultural cooperation including horticulture, market access issues, collaboration in pharmaceuticals sector and the bilateral economic dialogue architecture.

13. **India-NZ Cyber Dialogue:** The second edition of the India-NZ Bilateral Cyber Dialogue was held on 16-17 November 2021 in virtual mode to discuss various aspects of existing bilateral cooperation in cyberspace and to explore initiatives to further deepen cyber cooperation.

14. **NZ-India Economic Dialogue:** The seventh round of India-NZ Economic Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 28 November, 2019. Discussions focused on current economic conditions, global economic environment, infrastructure and tax reforms.

15. **Track-1.5 Dialogue:** The 7th round of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Asia New Zealand Foundation (ANZF) track 1.5 Dialogue was held in Christchurch from January 30-31, 2025.

Bilateral Trade:

16. In the year 2023-24, NZ exported US\$ 0.84 billion of total goods and services to India and imported US\$ 0.91 billion and a total trade value of US\$ 1.75 billion. India primarily imports wool, Iron & Steel, fruit & nuts and aluminium from NZ. Indian exports to NZ mostly are pharmaceuticals/medications, Mechanical Machinery, Made up textile articles and Pearls, Precious stones & Metals.

Bilateral Trade in the last 5 years (in US Dollars)

	Indian Imports from NZ		Total Imports	Indian Exports to NZ		Total Exports	Total Trade (US\$ billion)
	Goods	Services		Goods	Services		
2023	0.32b	0.52b	0.84b	0.68b	0.23b	0.91b	\$1.75b

2022	0.36b	0.18b	0.54b	0.77b	0.21b	0.96b	\$1.50b
2021	0.32b	0.43b	0.75b	0.74b	0.15b	0.80b	\$1.55b
2020	0.34b	0.60b	0.93b	0.51b	0.26b	0.74b	\$1.67b
2019	0.51b	0.70b	1.22b	0.56b	0.20b	0.75b	\$1.97b

*Source: Statistics NZ

17. **Indian companies in NZ:** All major Indian IT companies are present in NZ. Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and New India Assurance have commercial operations in NZ. HCL, Mahindra Motors, Tech Mahindra Ltd, TCS, Infosys, Dr. Reddy Laboratories and Royal Enfield Motors have presence in NZ.

18. **NZ companies in India:** Leading NZ companies having substantial business undertakings in India are Gallagher Group, Sealegs, Hamilton Jet, Glidepath, Quality NZ, Redesign Group, Valocity. Rakon NZ has established a manufacturing unit in Bengaluru through a JV with Centum Electronics Limited, specializing in telecommunications products. Their chips were used in Chandrayaan-3.

Defence Cooperation:

19. India-NZ defence cooperation is in keeping with the overall friendly relations.

20. Chief of the Royal NZ Navy, Rear Admiral David Proctor, visited India from 19 to 27 February 2024. Earlier Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar visited NZ from 29 September to 1 October 2022, with a three-member delegation.

21. INSV Tarini, an Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV), which is on a circumnavigation mission under Indian Navy's expedition named "Navika Sagar Parikrama-II" made a port call at Port Lyttelton from December 22 to January 4, 2025. Earlier, in a significant and historic event, **two Indian Naval Ships, INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata, made port calls in New Zealand** from 31 August to 3 September 2023, with one ship visiting Wellington and the other Auckland.

22. **Combined Task Force (CTF) 150:** It is a multinational naval task force working under Combined Maritime Forces and is based in Bahrain. Indian Navy has committed a contribution of 5 staff members including the deputy commander to the CTF150 battle staff during the period RNZ Navy is leading the CTF150 from January 2025.

23. Customs Cooperation: In August 2024, New Zealand and India signed a Customs Cooperative Arrangement, aimed at enhancing trade ties and intensifying collaboration against transnational organized crime.

24. International Solar Alliance: New Zealand ratified the International Solar Alliance and handed over the document during the state visit of our President to Wellington in August 2024.

25. Education: India is the 2nd largest source of international students in NZ. Currently, there are approximately 8,000 Indian students in NZ, pursuing higher

education in various disciplines such as IT, hospitality, science, engineering, and architecture.

26. **NZ Centre at IIT Delhi:** On 11 February 2020, IIT Delhi signed an MoU with NZ universities to establish a NZ Centre at the Institute. IIT Delhi and NZ universities are contributing NZ \$50,000 each to fund 10 research projects on cancer, waste management, cyber security, robotics, autonomous vehicles and medical technology, which is being done in collaboration by academics from IIT Delhi and one NZ varsity.

27. In February 2024, Education New Zealand (ENZ) furthered its commitment to India by signing two Education Cooperation Arrangements with GIFT City and IIM Ahmedabad.

People to People ties and cultural ties:

28. The presence of large Indian diaspora in NZ and strong people-to-people linkages act as the foundation for close cultural cooperation between the two countries. All Indian festivals including Diwali, Holi, Rakshabandhan, Baisakhi, Guruparvs, Onam, Pongal, Annakut, etc. are celebrated with much enthusiasm all over NZ. There are several schools all over NZ that teach Indian traditional art forms such as Kathak and Bharatnatyam as well as contemporary Bollywood dance styles. There are several schools teaching and promoting Hindi and other Indian languages in NZ.

29. Both India and NZ enjoy close sporting links, particularly in cricket, hockey and mountaineering. In the field of mountaineering, Sir Edmund Hillary, who is considered a NZ hero, is also an iconic name in India. He served as NZ High Commissioner to India from 1985 to 1988.

30. There are 292,092 persons of Indian ethnicity in NZ. Around 70,000 persons are estimated to be Indian passport holders. Hindi is the fifth most spoken language in NZ. They are mainly engaged in professional activities including as doctors, professors, engineers, chartered accountants and computer experts. Many are also engaged in grocery and food distribution business, dairy farming and as cab drivers. There are Indian Associations in all major towns, which help the community nurture its cultural heritage.

31. **Opening of Consulate in Auckland:** The new Consulate in Auckland became operational from September 5, 2024.

March 2025