

**Address by H.E. Ms Neeta Bhushan, High Commissioner of India
on occasion of 11th Annual Sports, Community and Arts Awards
(21st July, 2025 Auckland)**

Namaste. Kia Ora! Good Evening to all !

Mr Venkat Raman, Editor and General Manager of Indian News Link Channel.

Mr Raj Pardeep and Ms Ashima Singh, from Legal Associates (Barrister & Solicitors)

**Indian Community Leaders & distinguished Guests,
Friends, Ladies & Gentleman!**

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be part of this beautiful evening, celebrating the 11th Annual Sports, Community, Arts and Culture Awards 2025 here in Auckland.

2. I would like to congratulate Indian Newslink Mr. Jacob Mannothra and Venkat ji for their work for the community. Hearties congratulations to all the award winners. It is a matter of great pride to see that so many members of our community are contributing and excelling in various sports, arts and cultural activities. I am always amazed to see that our community members make so many efforts to contribute – hard work, family values and a deep commitment to education and service. They serve as an anchor for deeper India-New Zealand relations. People to people ties are one of the most enduring partnerships and it is through community efforts, student exchanges, business partnerships that this bond continues to grow.

3. I am happy to recognize the growing contributions of people of Indian origin in sports. To celebrate this, Indian Newslink started the Indian Sports Awards in 2012, the first of its kind for Indian community in New Zealand. Since

then, these Awards have grown each year, encouraging talent and recognizing achievements in many different sports. Their careful and fair evaluations ensure that these Awards truly celebrate the best talent in our community.

4. The tremendous response to the 1st Sports Awards has inspired Indian Newslink to grow and improve the programme, expanding it over time to also celebrate contributions in community service, education, health, business, arts, and culture.

5. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the entire Indian Newslink team, especially Mr Venkat Raman ji, for their tireless efforts in promoting cultural exchanges, awareness, political and policy news, important bilateral decisions between our two countries through the news media sector among Kiwi-Indian communities.

6. In closing, I wish to congratulate all the winners of today's Awards. Your achievements in sports, community service, and the arts are truly commendable. You inspire others and help build a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

7. As Indian Newslink continues to grow, I look forward to its continued success and its positive role in strengthening people-to-people ties between India and New Zealand. I am confident it will continue to be a beacon of strong journalism and community leadership in the years ahead.

8. India – New Zealand relations have been soaring and have been never better. It is through these efforts that we have come closer to really our full potential.

Thank you, Jai Hind !
