

**Welcoming Speech by  
Ms Neeta Bhushan High Commissioner of India  
on the occasion of Meet & Greet with Indian Students from Victoria  
University of Wellington  
(31<sup>st</sup> July, 2025)**

Good morning,  
Namaste,  
Kia ora,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the high commission this morning. It is lovely to see so many bright talented students from india to embark on a journey of academic pursuit here in beautiful New Zealand. I want to congratulate each one of you for your incredible achievement so far and for being selected in a prestigious university like the Victoria university in Wellington. Heartiest congratulations. You have just recently embarked on a remarkable journey This is an opportunity to expand your horizons, explore and share your culture with other Kiwi and international friends. I have no doubt that you will do very well in that. The High Commission is your home away from home and you are welcome here any time.

2. Our civilizational relationship dates back millennia forged by traders, travelers, intellectuals, and people seeking education, who traveled freely across the region of Pacific and Oceania. Some of you have travelled to India for education. A large number of Indian students came here to study on their own, and some students from here to India have benefited from Government of India scholarships, including Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) scholarships since 2009.

3. You have played a key role in enhancing goodwill for India among the people of New Zealand, and vice versa. This has been felt by the members of the Indian community whenever they approach any institution or the friendly Kiwi people.

## **Friends,**

4. Now India has also made tremendous strides in education. World-class universities have made India an educational hub. Students from all over the world today study at premier institutions like IITs, IIMs, and universities offering niche courses in space and hi-tech areas. Further, applied professional courses have generated considerable interest from students abroad. We welcome more and more students from abroad, including New Zealand, to come and study in India, both on a self-financing basis as well as through Government of India scholarships and the ITEC program.

5. I want to read some key notes on the education system in India:

i. India is fast going to become a globally prominent education hub in the near future. The education sector in India is expected to reach USD 313 Billion by FY 2030.

ii. India has one of the largest networks of higher education systems in the world with 45,000 degree colleges, over 1,000 universities, and around 1,500 top institutes.

iii. India is becoming the Education Tech capital of the world.

iv. 100% FDI (automatic route) is allowed in the education sector in India.

v. The Study in India Portal was also launched by the Government of India in August 2023, which provides comprehensive information about the Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The details of the Study in India portal are also available on the website of the High Commission.

6. I can tell you that I myself have seen a tremendous shift in the educational spectrum of India. When I was doing my graduation in the 90s, we hardly thought of private universities as an option. Today, I can say with great confidence that many of the Indian private universities could be better than the government/central ones. The options for education have increased tremendously. Despite the growth in educational institutions, we are not able to meet the demand. A large number of our students go to

other countries for a variety of reasons. Similarly, we are seeing greater demand for Indian universities among foreign students. This has led to some of our premier universities like IITs, BITS, and others setting up campuses abroad. Recent examples include the setting up of the IIT Delhi campus in UAE last year and the IIT Madras campus in Tanzania.

**Friends,**

7. **The Students' Handbook for Studying Abroad** is also available on the High Commission website. It is a comprehensive tool to help students make informed and safe decisions about studying abroad. The handbook offers useful tips for Indian students who wish to pursue higher education overseas. It will guide you at every step from preparing for your departure to planning your career. Every year, thousands of Indian students come to New Zealand to study at various educational institutions. It is important that students are well-informed about all aspects of their journey and stay abroad. The India Centre for Migration, a think tank under the Ministry of External Affairs has recommended important guidelines for Indian students, which are included in the Students' Handbook.

8. When students from India come to New Zealand, they might come as foreigners, but over time they become our family. They take back a bit of New Zealand with them when they return. For India, the whole world is one family with the spirit of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.” The same was also reflected in the theme of the G-20 Summit, as India took over the Presidency of the group of the world’s twenty most powerful economies. The theme ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’ very aptly demonstrates Indian ethos, development paradigm, and foreign policy.

9. New Zealand has emerged as an attractive destination to live and study, with a high-ranking education system and welcoming environment. Students choosing New Zealand should be doing so with the primary intention of studying. Students need to come financially prepared to maintain their stay. They should also commit to undertaking their own due diligence on education providers and programmes they are interested in. Students who are successful in New Zealand are focused on their study

and the qualifications that will set them up for their future. **Detailed information can be found on the New Zealand Government's Study in New Zealand website.**

10. Students should make use of the various information sources available when choosing an education provider and should not rely on just one source. They should consider several factors, including the institution's New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) category rating, tuition fees, track record in India, international accreditations, partnerships with other institutions, feedback from alumni, visa approval rates, and their relationship with agents.

**All the relevant information such as immigration rules, studying in New Zealand, choosing an education institution, and living in New Zealand is available on the High Commission's website under the Education section.**

**Dear Students and Alumni,**

9. I am sure that discussion and exchange of ideas in today's meeting will prove to be an important catalyst in further strengthening friendship between the people of the two countries. We highly value this dialogue and intend to continue the same on a regular basis.

10. I would like to conclude here with the hope that this event could contribute in its own way to greater collaboration between India and New Zealand in the field of higher education, enrollment of Kiwi students in India, and enrollment of Indian students in New Zealand.

11. Let me once again thank all of you for your presence today. I look forward to having greater interaction with each one of you during the course of the event.

Thank you.

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