Speech by High Commissioner Ms Muanpuii Saiawi on the occasion of 17th Annual Indian Newslink Business Awards,
(Auckland, 02 November, 2026)

Namaste
Tena Koutou Katoa

Distinguished Guests, Community Leaders, Captains of Industry, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me immense pleasure to stand before you tonight at the Seventeenth Annual Indian Newslink Business Awards. This prestigious occasion is not merely a celebration of commercial success; it is a profound tribute to the spirit of enterprise, resilience, and community that defines the Indian Diaspora across Aotearoa New Zealand.

India and New Zealand stand today at a remarkably promising and dynamic juncture in their historical relationship. Our engagement is shaped by shared values and mutual respect. As two robust democratic nations, we look to the future with absolute confidence, recognizing that our partnership is essential to the stability, peace, and economic vibrancy of the broader Indo-Pacific region.

This bilateral partnership has gained momentum in recent times. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi visited New Zealand in July. The bilateral relationship was elevated to Strategic Partnership and MoUs were signed across a vast spectrum of subjects, including maritime, counter-terrorism, culture, tourism and sports. We are celebrating 100 Years of Unity Through Sports and I had the singular privilege of handing the winning T20 trophy to the captain of the Indian cricket team in Hamilton last night.

A landmark testament to this shared commitment is the historic Free Trade Agreement between India and New Zealand, which came into effect just days ago, on 20 October. This significant framework opens transformative avenues for economic collaboration, reducing trade barriers, enhancing market access, and unlocking unprecedented opportunities for commercial, technological, and agricultural synergies between our two economies.

At the very core of India's contemporary economic transformation is its extraordinary human capital. India today stands as an unparalleled global reservoir of talent, home to a young population of roughly 400 million people who are well educated, highly qualified, technically skilled, and eager to serve both their motherland and the world. This dynamic workforce represents the premier engine of global growth in the 21st Century.

In harnessing this vast energy, both the New Zealand government and our vibrant Indian Diaspora have a critical role to play. By opening wider pathways for bilateral trade, educational collaboration, joint technology ventures, and professional exchange, we can transform this immense human potential into a force for shared global prosperity.

According to the report commissioned by the Waitakere Indian Association, Indians in New Zealand made a substantial economic contribution of 37.3 billion New Zealand Dollars in GDP, equivalent to 8.6% of New Zealand's total GDP.

Today, as India marches resolutely towards Viksit Bharat, a fully developed, self-reliant nation by 2047, marking one hundred years of independence, the Indian Diaspora serves as an indispensable bridge. Every enterprise you build, every high-value job you create, and every innovation you champion here in New Zealand contributes directly to that grand national effort. You are our finest cultural ambassadors and economic drivers, carrying the timeless Indian values of hard work, integrity, community service and social responsibility across international borders.

In this vital process, the Indian Newslink Business Awards fulfill a crucial role. By recognising business excellence, fostering healthy competition, and honouring entrepreneurial grit, these awards nurture the precise leadership required to render the vision of Viksit Bharat an achievable reality. They demonstrate unequivocally that when visionary leadership meets unwavering dedication, extraordinary progress is within our reach.

I also take this opportunity to highlight that the High Commission of India in Wellington and Consulate General of India in Auckland are here to strengthen the Strategic Partnership between Indian and New Zealand, facilitating bilateral trade, delivering efficient consular services, as also advancing cultural and people to people ties.

As true partners in progress, let us continue to build an even stronger, more prosperous bridge between India and New Zealand.

I wish all the entrants to the Indian Newslink Business Awards well and my heartiest congratulations to all the Finalists and Award Winners tonight.

Dhanyavaad
Na reira, Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou, Kia Ora Tatou Katoa

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