



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister:

Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister, Hon Mark Mitchell, Hon Louise Upston and Hon Todd McClay - March 2025

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – India, March 2025 (CAB-25-SUB-0191 refers)

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister, Hon Mark Mitchell, Hon Louise Upston and Hon Todd McClay - March 2025 (CAB-25-MIN-0191 refers)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon – India, March 2025

I recommend Cabinet note this report of my travel to India from 15 to 22 March 2025. I was accompanied by the Minister for Tourism and Hospitality, the Minister for Ethnic Affairs, and the Minister for Trade and Investment.

Report

- 2 In what was this Government's biggest offshore mission yet, we spent five days in India, visiting both New Delhi and Mumbai. We achieved our objectives, namely:
 - i *To demonstrate to India's leadership that New Zealand is serious about building a dynamic but enduring partnership through strengthening connections across all sectors in the relationship.* Together with the accompanying Ministers, I succeeded in establishing strong rapport with my political counterparts, demonstrating to Indian colleagues New Zealand's seriousness in committing to a comprehensive relationship.
s9(2)(g)(i), s6(a)
 - ii *To enhance our business-to-business, people-to-people and cultural ties in support of a broad-based relationship.* Throughout the visit, I engaged with Indian business leaders, profiled our sporting ties (principally cricket, but also rugby), and learned more about the place of India's religions in its society. Led by Ministers Upston and McClay, a 40-strong business delegation joined the mission, meeting Indian counterparts, learning about the market opportunities, and intersecting with my programme to promote business opportunities. Led by Minister Mitchell, a 19-strong community delegation was a new and unique addition to a Prime Ministerial mission: it served to underline the people, cultural and sporting connections between our two societies. In addition, our two governments agreed on education and sports cooperation arrangements, and we promoted New Zealand as a tourist destination.
 - iii *To position New Zealand to benefit from India's strong economic trajectory by promoting New Zealand education, technology and innovation, tourism, and agriculture cooperation.* The launch on the first day of the mission of Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement negotiations was the biggest step forward in the NZ-India economic relationship in some decades, with a commitment to negotiate at pace. In addition, a series of education, tourism and primary industry promotional events were undertaken, with 33 commercial deals agreed

by participants in the business delegation. Horticulture, forestry and customs arrangements were signed between the two governments.

- iv *To demonstrate our relevance to India as an engaged and credible Indo-Pacific partner on defence and security.* The mission was designed to underline that New Zealand is an informed and active participant in the Indo-Pacific region through my keynote address at the Raisina Dialogue, the suite of deliverables for the visit (e.g. a Defence Cooperation Arrangement), and engagement between the two countries' navies.

3 In addition to the success in our policy deliverables, the visit worked to reposition perceptions of New Zealand in India, as well as energising the narrative about India back home.

4 Several broader themes were also evident.

- i s9(2)(g)(i), s6(a)

- ii Second, the emphasis PM Modi and others placed on *societal ties*. The way the Indian diaspora has been embraced as part of New Zealand society was clearly noticed. PM Modi also emphasised the opportunity for India from high-performance sports cooperation s6(a)

and our education offering s6(a)

- iii Third, s9(2)(g)(i), there is ample scope for export growth (India currently accounts for just 1.5 percent of our exports). India is the world's fifth largest economy, with the fastest GDP growth rate in the G20, and a middle class that already numbers 445 million. The FTA could be critical s9(2)(g)(i) if we are to tap this potential.

- iv Finally, it is going to be important that we follow through. s9(2)(g)(i)

Proactive release

5 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 04 on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister

Proactively Released



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister, Hon Mark Mitchell, Hon Louise Upston and Hon Todd McClay - March 2025

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 9 June 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-25-SUB-0191 on his travel, together with Hon Mark Mitchell, Hon Louise Upston and Hon Todd McClay, from 15 to 22 March 2025, to New Delhi and Mumbai, India for bilateral meetings.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet