

Press Release 16 Apr 2026

NZ-India Free Trade Agreement – irresponsible comments, politics and unfortunate incidents – ‘Kill Indians’

Concerned about some statements related to the NZ-India FTA, and seeing the reactions coming from some on social media, and now taken to extreme limits with ‘graffiti’, the New Zealand Indian Central Association, as the lead advocacy group of Indian New Zealanders, has taken the following action:

1. NZICA demanded urgent action from the police.
2. NZICA invested in understanding the details of the FTA and convinced itself about the huge benefits that such a deal can bring to New Zealand.
3. NZICA reached out to various political parties and the Indian Consul in Auckland to understand their take on FTA and to convey the harmful impacts of some irresponsible politicking.
4. NZICA received an immediate response from the Labour Party, and a meeting was held in Manukau on 15th April. The highlights of the meeting were
 - a. Labour Party is pro-trade
 - b. It has concerns about the investment clause
 - c. It does not have the full information about the deal
 - d. They share the concerns about anti-Indian comments and the ‘graffiti.’



5. NZICA also received meeting acceptance from the trade minister, and the NZICA delegation met him today at Rotorua. The meeting highlights included:-
 - a. A few rounds of discussion have already taken place with the Labour Party, and further information is to be shared today.
 - b. The FTA agreement is a big win for New Zealand, and the government expects support from the other major political party in the same way as National has done when Labour was in govt.
 - c. The government is putting in extra effort to bring the graffiti culprit (s) to justice



6. The response received from Hon' Winston Peter's office was

"On behalf of Rt Hon Winston Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs, we acknowledge your email below and understand that a man has now been arrested for the concerning graffiti. While Minister Peters is unavailable for an urgent meeting, if you wish to speak to MFAT, please contact"



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NZICA Response:

1. We thank New Zealand police for the swift action, and we hope a thorough investigation follows through for this, unlike New Zealand exhibit - 'graffiti'
2. We understand the compulsions of an election year, but New Zealand has to maintain being decent. Irresponsible statements from some may have temporarily helped seat projections, but NZICA sees this as a wrong trend that is not civil. Not only the strong Indian diaspora but all New Zealanders will give their verdict at the elections accordingly.
3. NZICA appeals to all political parties to support the NZ-Indian FTA and avail the benefits of the market of 1.4 billion people in the fastest economy of the world. An environment of joy has to replace any trace of hate..

Issued to press:

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