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# India Independence Day, Aug 15, celebrations in New Zealand

Christchurch



Southland



New Plymouth



Wellington



Northland



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# Pakistan Independence Day, Aug 14, celebrations



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# New steps towards a multi-religious New Zealand

How are religious studies taught in the schools of other secular democracies? What do New Zealanders think about religious education? How do they feel about the two approaches, a broad study of the major faiths and value systems taught by professional qualified teachers, and religious instruction in a particular religion as offered now in many primary schools?

These are pertinent questions that are not yet openly discussed. But following a meeting with the Minister of Education, Chris Hipkins, about religion in schools, the Religious Diversity Centre, co-chaired by Jocelyn Armstrong and Dr Jenny Te Paa Daniel, was tasked to report on these questions.

Research has been carried out on the experience of five other countries

in terms of history, legislation, public discourse, what is taught and by whom. Over 650 New Zealand stakeholders have been surveyed about their attitudes to the existing situation and possible future changes. The draft report of the findings is with the Ministry and will help to frame future policy.

New Zealand is now the 15th most religiously diverse country in the world. The Religious Diversity Centre (RDC) was set up in March 2016 to foster appreciation, understanding, and deeper relationships among the many different religious and secular communities in New Zealand.

RDC's key programmes bring people from different faith backgrounds together: in the local community with religious diversity and anti-discrimination

workshops; in organisations with professional development in religious diversity; in Jewish Muslim student dialogues and Year 12 student religious diversity leadership days.

The RDC has a three-part series on Muslim-Christian relations by Professor Douglas Pratt available on YouTube, and has launched a series of virtual panel discussions entitled Becoming Better Together: Interfaith Perspectives on Current Issues.

Armstrong says that building relationships is a vital part of the RDC's work. An annual forum brings the national religious leaders together. The four Connecting Faiths/Interfaith hui hosted early in the year by the Office of Ethnic Communities gave the RDC the opportunity to meet with Faith and

Interfaith leaders throughout the country. The aim of the hui was to explore how government and others might support efforts towards greater social inclusion and religious tolerance in New Zealand. Ethnic Communities Minister Salesa's report from the hui is due out shortly.

Jocelyn Armstrong recently received the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lambeth Hubert Walter Award, in recognition of her "outstanding contribution to interfaith relations in New Zealand." Jocelyn has welcomed the award as recognition of New Zealand's standing in the world and the development of interfaith relationships achieved by the work of many people and groups over the past thirty years.

- from the Religious Diversity Centre Aotearoa New Zealand ([www.rdc.org.nz](http://www.rdc.org.nz))



The Religious Diversity Centre Annual General Meeting took place with some participating in person and some by zoom! Co-Chair Jocelyn Armstrong outlined the achievements of the past year and where the Centre is headed



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# Government introduces COVID-19 Leave Support scheme

Wage  
subsidy

New Zealand Government

COVID-19  
FAQs

In the past few days we have seen an extraordinary increase in testing for Covid-19. Over 100,000 people have been tested since the new outbreak began. As we work to control the current outbreak, this level of testing gives us

some assurance that collectively, we will again track and contain the virus. As unlucky as we are to be experiencing this outbreak, locking down hard and early is again our best chance of emerging safely.

We should all be very grateful to everyone who has turned up for testing. They are doing the right thing, even if it means staying home from work and community activities until the test result is known. They are truly part of the team of five-million.

For some of us, staying home when we are unwell will involve a mind-shift. We try to power on through illnesses and injuries,

keeping on with work and mixing with others. But we all need to be proactive about getting tested if we have symptoms that could indicate Covid-19. Those symptoms are just like ordinary colds: if you have a sore throat, a runny nose, or a cough, then please consider getting tested and staying home.

We also need to enable people to do things differently. The government has changed the Covid-19 Leave Support scheme to make it easier for workers to take leave to get tested and self-isolate, and to support businesses when workers take leave. From now on, if a worker has been told by health officials or their medical practitioner to self-isolate, their employer will be able to receive the equivalent of the wage subsidy to help cover the cost of wages.

Taking leave when we are sick should become a normal thing to do.

The other thing we all need to learn to do is wear facemasks. Some New Zealanders are already good at doing this, but all of us need to do it. Wearing a facemask helps to reduce the chances of

infection.

There are no magic cures for Covid-19. But we can all help reduce its impact by getting tested, staying home when we're sick, wearing facemasks, washing hands and keeping physically distant where possible. It all makes a difference, and by doing it, we are all helping each other.



**Deborah Russell**

*Labour MP based in New Lynn, Auckland.*

## Is this the most expensive operational failure in New Zealand history?



We all operated with confidence based on an assurance one month ago that the government was testing all border workers. This was untrue. That no-one in

Cabinet noticed that border and MIQ staff – the thousands of people who were most likely to get Covid-19 – had not yet all been tested is unbelievable. Strike 2.

Testing numbers fell dramatically in July. People at community testing centres have faced seven-hour delays. Staff at MIQ facilities have been photographed without PPE. This is the equivalent of watching the cabin crew forgetting to close the door before take-off, while assuring us of their thorough procedures.

Last week the Government told us it had set itself one job – test, trace and isolate the virus in three days – but it has failed. The mechanisms that were supposed to control another outbreak and protect failed. We were told for 100 days another outbreak was a matter of “when” not “if” – so Mt Roskill residents will rightly ask ‘what preparations were made during the last 100 days? Strike 3.

Finally, if the strategy was always for restrictions to last one incubation cycle of 14 days, the Government should have said so rather than announcing just 3 days. It's fair to look at the decision to extend Auckland's lockdown by 12 days is an admission that the Government is out of its depth. Strike 4.

The border should have always been the Government biggest focus. Now we will all pay a heavy price.

A lockdown in March was OK given the information we had at the time, but it's clear the subsequent strategy hasn't worked.

The costs of lockdowns – in terms of mental health, delayed health treatments, small business failures, unemployment and debt for future generations – are just too high.

It's easy to criticise, what ACT is proposing is a new strategy. We need to revise the way we're dealing with Covid-19 and operating our border because it's simply unaffordable not to.

ACT has set out five principles for better public health: stop preaching fear, have an open debate about our national strategy, treat travel to different countries differently based on risk, use better technology, and use private sector solutions for testing, tracing and isolation.

Taiwan has managed to have low rates

of death and infection without imposing severe lockdowns.

It's time for an honest conversation about what our overall strategy is. We cannot afford a rolling maul of blunt and expensive lockdowns. We need competence, not just good communication.

While Mt Roskill breathes through its oxygen mask of (yet more) wage subsidies and debt for our children, we are saying to ourselves that we will never fly on this airline again. - *by ACT's candidate for Mt Roskill, Chris Johnston, who has outlined above, what principles and policies ACT stands for. Chris is a Project Manager who was born in Whanganui and has lived around Mt Roskill and Dominion Road for eight years with his wife and children.*



Most Kiwis stake their lives on the operational safety of airlines. They squeeze us into metal tubes where our very lives are dependant upon the care and attention to detail of the maintenance engineers, pilots and many ground staff. We expect thorough operational processes to ensure that “the mistake” that causes a lot of damage is minimised.

The operational failures at our border over the last 100 days will cost many New Zealanders their liberty, health, and hundreds of millions per week. Worse, it will cost us confidence in the ability to plan our lives and our businesses – prompting many to stop investing, stop creating jobs and close.

Given the failure, a lockdown seems like the only option, but no-one is happy that a well communicating cabin crew is shouting “brace, brace, brace” – we should have avoided the crash.

It is clear that all border workers should have been tested regularly. Strike 1.



# National's 2020 Party List: Bakshi at 24, Parmar at 27, Beeram at 52

## Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi (List MP since 2008)

- New Zealand Parliament's first Indian Sikh Member
- National's spokesperson for ethnic communities and associate justice

**Electorate: Panmure-Otahuhu, Auckland**  
**List ranking: 24**



## Parmjeet Parmar (List MP since 2014)

- First Indian born woman to be a Member of Parliament in New Zealand
- National's spokesperson for research, science and innovation, as well as statistics

**Electorate: Mount Roskill, Auckland**  
**List ranking: 27**

## Bala Beeram

- Past President of New Zealand Telugu Association
- Associated with the National Party since 2007

**Electorate: Kelston, Auckland**  
**List ranking: 52**



## Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi

National List MP based in Manukau East

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# New Zealand First selects Fiji-Indian Anne Degia-Pala as its candidate from Kelston again



the West Auckland area for over 30 years.

"Anne was elected as the first woman president of the Waitakere Ethnic Board in 2004 and was later appointed to the Ethnic People's Advisory Panel for Auckland Council. She founded EthNix Links, a women's leadership network in 2006, a board member of Make a Wish Pacific Foundation, Drowning Prevention Auckland, and a member of the Interfaith Auckland group. Her work in voluntary sector toward ethnic communities earned her a Queen's Service Medal

In an announcement early this month, the Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters party, New Zealand First, has selected Fiji-Indian Anne Degia-Pala as its candidate from the West Auckland electorate of Kelston once again.

"Ms Pala was our candidate in the same electorate in 2017 and represented our Party's values very well. She has lived in

in 2007.

"Ms Pala is an advocate for peace and social justice, equality, human rights and child poverty. With the wealth of experience she brings and her continued commitment to the Party, we are glad to have her as our candidate for Kelston in 2020," said the party. - *TIN Bureau*

## About Anne Degia-Papa (as told to *Multicultural Times* last year)

Last year, when Degia-Papa stood in the local government elections for the Whau Ward, she told the *Multicultural Times* in an email interview:

"My arrival in New Zealand was in February 1990 with my husband and two children. I am born in Fiji with a South Asian heritage from Gujarat, India. I worked as an executive officer at the University of Auckland followed by senior executive positions in the corporate sector. I am a company director of WinMac Solutions Ltd an Information Technology Company now operating some 24 years in West Auckland."

In my spare time, I volunteered for women and children. In 2001 a family tragedy led me to become involved in education and the

Waitakere Ethnic Board. I passionately pursued community development and governance which I am strongly committed to in my effort to advance social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of families, especially women and children. I developed an interest in public policy, social development, human rights and advocacy.

I was elected the first woman President of Waitakere Ethnic Board in 2004 followed by several community roles and appointed as a founding member of the Auckland Council Ethnic Peoples Advisory Panel in 2010.

For my work with women and children, I was awarded a Queen Service Medal by the Government of New Zealand in 2007 and was appointed an Ambassador for Peace in 2017 by the Family Federation of World Peace."



# Communities covered – face masks for communities



At Alert Level 3, you are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering

when you're out and about. Wearing a face covering helps keep you and others safe.

The Auckland Indian Association and Belong Aotearoa are working together to make sure our communities are covered by providing face masks to community organisations. This is not available for all and anyone wanting masks.

This service is only available to community organisations and leaders who are able to distribute masks to those in their community who they have identified as being vulnerable, in need and who would otherwise not have access to face masks.

These masks will be available at a community hub for community groups wishing to distribute to vulnerable members of their community, to pick up for distribution upon appointment only from this week between set hours.

Please note if you do not have a face covering, you don't need to rush out to obtain a face mask. You can use another kind of covering, like a bandanna, scarf or t-shirt.

To find out more information about accessing face masks, please contact us on [info@belong.org.nz](mailto:info@belong.org.nz)

Together, let's make sure our communities are covered.

Stay kind. Keep safe.  
- from Auckland Indian Association Inc. and Belong Aotearoa



## Election to be held on October 17

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has confirmed the General Election will be held on 17 October.

"The Electoral Commission, via the Ministry of Justice, has advised me that a safe and accessible election is achievable on this date. This short delay gives the Commission more time to prepare including freeing up facilities for early voting during school holidays," Jacinda Ardern said.

"Moving the date by four weeks also gives all parties a fair shot to campaign and delivers New Zealanders certainty without unnecessarily long delays.

"With the re-emergence of Covid-19 in our community these are not ordinary times and so while the decision as to the election date sits with me, I spoke with all party leaders to seek their views.

"Covid will be with us for some time to come. Continuously pushing out an election does not lessen the risk of disruption and this is why the Electoral Commission has planned for the possibility of holding an election where the country is at Level 2, and with some parts at Level 3.

"I will not change the election date again.

"This decision gives all parties time over the next nine weeks to campaign and the Electoral Commission enough time to ensure an election can go ahead," Jacinda Ardern said. - *TIN Bureau*



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### Key dates

- 6 September: Parliament dissolves
- 13 September: Writ Day, nominations close 18 September
- 3 October: Advance voting begins, last day for return of the writ is 12 November
- 17 October: Election day

# Kiwi-Indian doctor's advise on home medical management plan for mild COVID-19 goes 'viral'

• *Vritti Parasher*

Dr Sandhya Ramanatha, General Practitioner in Grey Lynn, Auckland, has become a social media sensation in the last two months where she shared an eighteen-minute-long video of home medical management plan for treating mild COVID-19.

From 18 to 5.42K subscribers on YouTube, to getting circulated on Whatsapp that further landed in the medical circle all across the globe, and finally getting picked up by various media outlets, particularly in India, she now has more than 4.4 million views of her video.

No, she has not come out with a magical vaccine or medication for this cruel virus, but has asked everyone to find solutions in simple things around to fight this pandemic.

"You have to actively fight it! Focus on finding solutions and applying common sense rather than letting this rule you," she says.

Wearing mask is one such solution which she says can reduce the risk of catching the virus. It's simple and effective, maintaining that distance and washing hands regularly.

"Nothing I have said will cause harm,

in fact, the management plan is not only for COVID-19, its relevant for any virus," Dr Sandhya explains, backed by the philosophy of treating every patient like a family member.

Ramanathan's management plan has recommendation for equipments to keep at home for managing the mild symptoms. This is in context to cities and towns where the access to hospital level care is difficult. This originated from her intention to help her family overseas in countries like the UK, US, Australia, and India.

Thereafter, in her video she prescribes an active home management plan divided into three broad categories, priming immunity, reducing viral load and breathing exercises/positioning. This would help anyone optimally manage a mild case of coronavirus at home and prevent it becoming severe.

When she talks about reducing viral load i.e Betadine or saline gargles twice daily, Saline nasal spray or rinsing with a few drops betadine concentrate twice daily, steam inhalation with vicks especially if having loss of smell and nasal decongestants; her emphasis on keeping

the upper respiratory tract clear and preventing further spread of infection in the channel is evident.

"Knowledge is power, information that is relevant needs to be clearly communicated to people," says the motivated doctor who is on a mission to empower people and raise awareness.

In New Zealand, it is important for people not to panic as this can affect immunity.

Anxiety management and looking after themselves is of utter most importance at this hour. "The more you educate yourself, including children the better it would be. People are looking for information from a credible source and giving them the right kind of knowledge is essential," explains Dr Ramanathan.

Humbled with the kind of response she has got from everywhere, she is just doing her best and wants to save lives in this era where the world still has not got any respite for the pandemic which is spreading like wild fire. New

Zealand being gripped by second wave at present.



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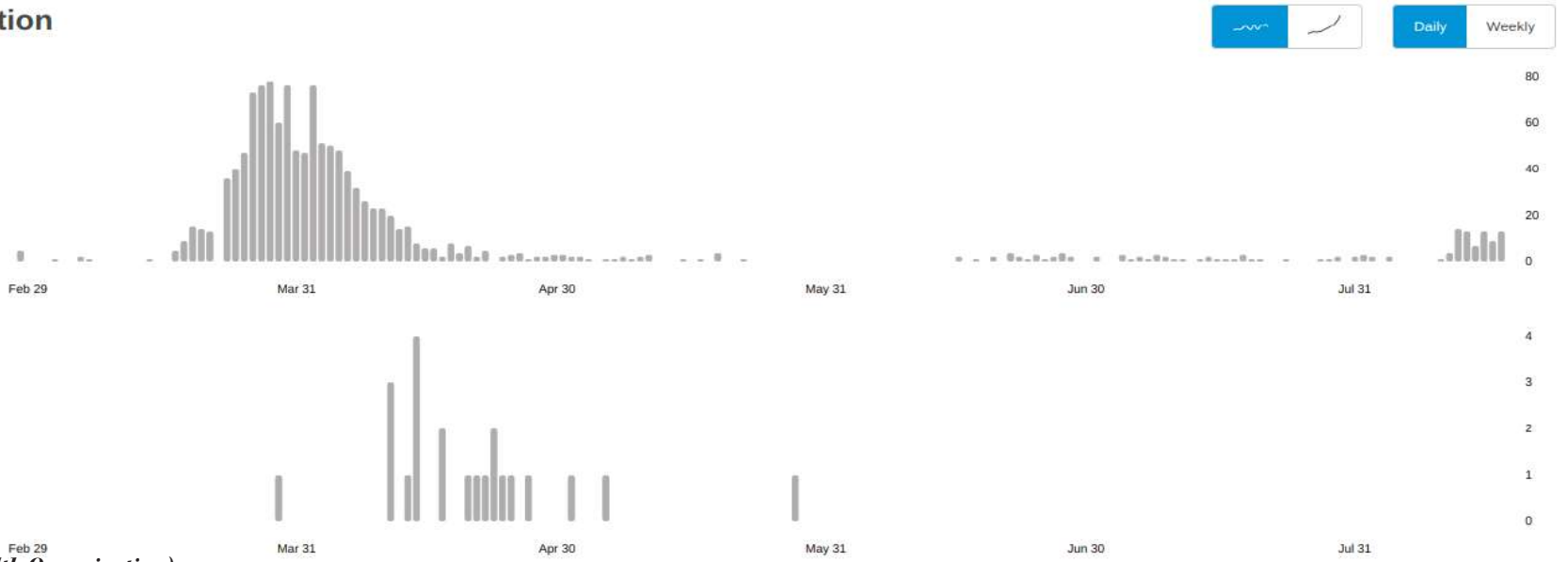


In New Zealand, from Feb 28 to 2:16pm CEST, 18 August 2020, there have been 1,293 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 22 deaths.

New Zealand Situation

1,293 confirmed cases

22 deaths



(Graph courtesy World Health Organisation)

# COVID-19 related announcements this week

## New wage subsidy, leave scheme protects jobs and businesses

Workers whose jobs may be affected by the re-emergence of COVID-19 in Auckland will be supported by a new wage subsidy scheme and a simplified leave scheme.

The Government has this week set out the criteria for a new nationwide wage subsidy covering the period that Auckland is at COVID-19 Alert Level 3. It has also removed the revenue-drop test for the COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme.

“The new wage subsidy will help support cashflow and confidence. Along with the existing wage subsidy extension – which is open until 1 September for eligible businesses – the Treasury estimates that about 930,000 jobs will be covered by the two schemes. We know in New Zealand that the best economic response is a strong health response. We’ve seen the benefits to the economy by going hard and early to get on top of the virus, with activity in June and July running above levels seen last year as the economy reopened after lockdown and business got going again,” Finance Minister Grant Robertson said.

“To further support wide-scale testing, we’ve removed the revenue-drop

and ‘negatively impacted’ tests for the COVID-19 Leave Support Scheme. This means businesses with workers who have been told by health officials or their medical practitioner to self-isolate will receive the equivalent of the wage subsidy to help cover that person’s wages for the time they cannot be at work.

“Our focus is on doing everything we can to support our strong public health response. That means removing barriers to a person getting tested, including fears that a positive result would put their employment at risk or that they wouldn’t receive income while they couldn’t work because they had used up their sick leave.”

The mortgage deferral scheme is also being extended from its current end-date of 27 September, to 31 March 2021. Further details will be made available by the Reserve Bank and the retail banks.

Grant Robertson also confirmed that further work is being done to ensure support continues to be adaptable and flexible for alert level movements. This includes work on the Small Business Cashflow Loan Scheme and potential further changes to the Leave Support Scheme. - *TIN Bureau*

**Salient points**

- The new wage subsidy is forecast to cost about \$510 million and cover 470,000 jobs.
- The criteria for the new wage subsidy are similar to the current extension: In particular, a business must have had, or is predicting to have, a revenue drop due to COVID-19 of at least 40 percent. For this new scheme, the revenue drop applies for any consecutive period of at least 14 days within 12 August and 10 September compared to last year.
- The Treasury also estimates that a number of businesses that weren’t able to access the extended wage subsidy before it expires on 1 September will now become eligible to do so. This is expected to cover about 460,000 workers, at \$1.1 billion.
- The costs are expected to be covered by the previous underspend on the



extended wage subsidy.

- MSD has advised the new wage subsidy scheme will be open for applications by the end of the week, Friday 21 August.
- Making the scheme nationwide recognises the specific nature of the current outbreak and Auckland’s position in the New Zealand economy. Tourism operators that had been expecting visitors from Auckland, companies that supply and trade with Auckland businesses and hospitality and retail businesses around the country are all affected by the measures to fight the virus.

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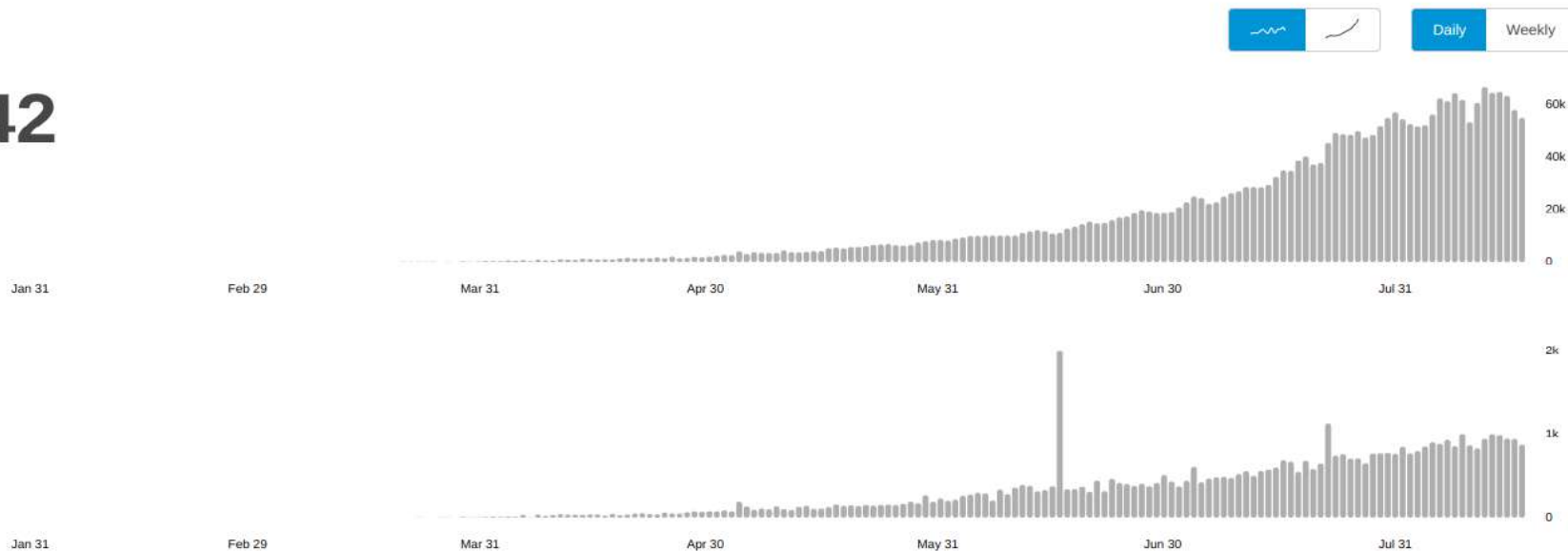


In India, from Jan 30 to 2:16pm CEST, 18 August 2020, there have been 2,702,742 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 51,797 deaths.

India Situation

**2,702,742**  
confirmed cases

**51,797**  
deaths



Source: World Health Organization (Graph courtesy World Health Organisation)

# India records most COVID-19 cases in the last 7 days



(Graph courtesy World Health Organisation)

# Centre lauds States contribution in popularising eSanjeevani, India's telemedicine platform



Dr Harsh Vardhan this month lauded the contribution of States in popularising eSanjeevani (<https://esanjeevani.in/>). The eSanjeevani platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services - Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations. It was launched in November last year. Since then, tele-consultation by eSanjeevani and eSanjeevaniOPD have been implemented by 23 States, which covers 75 percent of the population.

Addressing a review meeting with states and Union Territories, Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "The national telemedicine service has completed more than one lakh 50 thousand tele-consultations enabling patient to doctor consultations from the confines of their home. The government has started implementing the vision of Digital India through broadband and mobile phones at the Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres. With the cooperation of States and UTs, and a pool of selfless and medical practitioners and specialists, have been able to provide healthcare services through eSanjeevani. This has substantially augmented the health infrastructure during the COVID pandemic." - *TIN Bureau*

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)** Help us to help you

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A healthy mind is a healthy you

Badalkar Apna Vyavahar, Karein Corona Par Vaar

For information related to COVID-19 Call the State helpline numbers or Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India's 24x7 helpline number 1075 (Toll Free), Email at [ncov2019@gov.in](mailto:ncov2019@gov.in), [ncov2019@gmail.com](mailto:ncov2019@gmail.com)

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**Confirmed cases**  
**27,02,742**  
(↑ 55,079)

**Recovered**  
**19,77,779**  
(↑ 57,937)

**Deaths**  
**51,797**  
(↑ 876)

**Active cases**  
**6,73,166**  
(↓ -3,734)

**Samples tested**  
Cumulative total up to August 17  
**3,09,41,264**  
On August 17  
**8,99,864**

**CORONA WATCH**  
Situation in India at 8:00 am on August 18  
(↑ ↓ ↔ Change over the last 24 hours)

**State / UT-wise position**

	Active cases	Recovered	Deaths	Confirmed cases
Maharashtra	1,55,579 ↓ -3,126	4,28,514 ↑ 11,391	20,265 ↑ 228	6,04,358
Andhra Pradesh	84,777 ↓ -1,168	2,09,100 ↑ 7,866	2,732 ↑ 82	2,96,609
Karnataka	80,659 ↓ -869	1,48,562 ↑ 7,071	4,062 ↑ 115	2,33,283
Tamil Nadu	54,122 ↑ 103	2,83,937 ↑ 5,667	5,886 ↑ 120	3,43,945
Uttar Pradesh	50,893 ↓ -644	1,04,808 ↑ 4,376	2,515 ↑ 66	1,58,216
Bihar	29,387 ↓ -1,672	76,452 ↑ 4,128	468 ↑ 7	1,06,307
West Bengal	27,402 ↑ 103	89,703 ↑ 2,932	2,473 ↑ 45	1,19,578
Assam	22,736 ↑ 1,265	56,734 ↑ 1,519	197 ↑ 8	79,667
Telangana	21,024 ↓ -396	72,202 ↑ 2,070	711 ↑ 8	93,937
Odisha	18,161 ↑ 731	43,780 ↑ 1,503	353 ↑ 10	62,294
Kerala	15,946 ↑ 581	30,025 ↑ 1,131	169 ↑ 13	46,140
Gujarat	14,315 ↓ -68	62,595 ↑ 1,083	2,800 ↑ 15	79,710
Rajasthan	14,089 ↑ 273	47,654 ↑ 1,050	887 ↑ 11	62,630
Punjab	11,653 ↑ 690	20,180 ↑ 749	863 ↑ 51	32,696
Delhi	10,852 ↑ 29	1,38,301 ↑ 740	4,214 ↑ 18	1,53,367
Madhya Pradesh	10,232 ↓ -80	35,025 ↑ 987	1,128 ↑ 23	46,385
Jharkhand	8,451 ↑ 339	15,051 ↑ 352	250 ↑ 6	23,752
Jammu & Kashmir	7,048 ↑ 63	21,296 ↑ 353	548 ↑ 6	28,892
Haryana	6,880 ↓ -134	40,610 ↑ 1,009	550 ↑ 12	48,040
Chhattisgarh	5,277 ↑ 182	10,598 ↑ 363	150 ↑ 9	16,025
Uttarakhand	3,850 ↓ -73	8,485 ↑ 385	158 ↑ 6	12,493
Goa	3,825 ↑ 65	8,058 ↑ 283	111 ↑ 7	11,994
Puducherry	3,288 ↑ 109	4,627 ↑ 184	114 ↑ 4	8,029
Tripura	1,943 ↑ 84	5,404 ↑ 118	62 ↑ 3	7,409
Manipur	1,936 ↑ 15	2,734 ↑ 102	17 ↑ 1	4,687
Nagaland	1,917 ↓ -47	1,530 ↑ 108	8	3,455
Himachal Pradesh	1,321 ↓ -96	2,834 ↑ 114	19	4,174
A&N Islands	1,091 ↓ -54	1,325 ↑ 99	29 ↑ 1	2,445
Chandigarh	1,003 ↑ 67	1,183 ↑ 46	30 ↑ 1	2,216
Arunachal Pradesh	843 ↓ -45	1,893 ↑ 85	5	2,741
Meghalaya	733 ↑ 40	679 ↑ 4	6	1,418
Ladakh	584 ↑ 6	1,368 ↑ 12	14	1,966
Sikkim	485 ↓ -8	701 ↑ 28	1	1,187
DNH / Daman & Diu	447 ↑ 2	1,459 ↑ 28	2	1,908
Mizoram	417 ↓ -1	372 ↑ 1	0	789

More than 70% deaths due to comorbidities  
 Figures are subject to further reconciliation  
 Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & ICMR

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# Change of election date in New Zealand

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced on 17th August to change the election date of 19th September to 17th October and stressed that she will not change the election date again. The community outbreak of Covid-19 in Auckland forced the political parties to suspend their election campaigning and prompted calls to postpone the general election dates.

Jacinda Ardern was under pressure from her coalition partner NZ First's Winston Peters, opposition National Party and other parties to make it a fair election. Hence it became inevitable to change the election date as most parties believed that due to Covid-19 restrictions in Auckland political parties would not get enough time for the electioneering. After the announcement of the new election date the Prime Minister reiterated that Covid is the new normal in the world now and we will need to learn to live with it. She further said that the date she chose was her own decision and that she would be sticking to the date of 17th October. Though, she said, she reached out to few people to seek their views on this and the general view was that some form of delay was warranted.

As per reports, even the Election Commission was planning a range of options since last few months including holding elections at country being at alert Level 2 or even some parts of country being at alert Level 3. Prime Minister wanted to delay elections by two weeks only, but Election Commission advised her that any change of date will require Election Commission at least four weeks' time to make all necessary arrangements like informing all voters about the change and rebooking voting venues. Jacinda discussed with different political parties and took both her coalition partners in confidence before making the announcement and said that while deciding to change the date, she wanted a sense of fairness and a sense of comfort for the voters that this will be a safe

election. In New Zealand, under the law once the Parliament is dissolved and if the Election Commission believes that they cannot hold a safe or fair election, they have the power to move the date.

All political parties obviously welcomed the government's decision of changing the election dates and gave indication of business as usual for them. Their will not be any relaunching of any election campaigning and no hoardings will be brought down to put them back later as these elections are being held in some very extraordinary circumstances. The parliament is scheduled to reconvene on 18th August to dissolve on 6th September. The new last date to file nominations is now 13th September and the advance voting will start from 3rd of October. With this postponement, all the parties can now prepare to begin campaigning again and this time they will be confident that they have got enough time and resources to engage in a free and fair elections.

While the demand of parties like National Party, NZ First and others has been met by moving the date to enable them to do 100% electioneering, NZ's Health Minister Chris Hipkins says these elections are still not going to be risk free elections. The Election Commission is prepared to conduct elections even in alert Level 2 if situation arise, but Minister says voter's safety and wellbeing is paramount for the government. All parties seem to set now to take full advantage of prevalent situation in their own ways, while for Labour Party, elections held earlier will be an advantage for them.

Elections will come and go but any party winning this election should be prepared to move the mountain of bringing the derailed economy back to track. The new government will need to find new sources of employment and at the same time take care of general prosperity and wellbeing of the people of New Zealand.

- Yugal Parashar

## THE INDIAN NEWS

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Marketing & PR - Yugal Parashar

Printer - Horton Media, Auckland.

Registered Office - 258 Balmoral Road, Sandringham, Auckland 1025, New Zealand.

Time: 10am - 6pm | Phone: +64 9 846 8080 | www.indiannews.co.nz

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HIGH COMMISSION OF  
INDIA  
WELLINGTON



The High Commission of India is pleased to announce following Air India special flight for New Zealand under #vande Bharatmissionphase5:

Flight No.	Date & Time	Sector
AI 1320	22 August 2020 19:30 hrs	Delhi to Auckland  (Please contact <b>High Commission of New Zealand in New Delhi</b> for eligibility conditions for availing of this flight)
AI 1321	25 August 2020 09:00 hrs	Auckland to Delhi

2. High Commission will announce details relating to the ticket booking process after the information is received from Air India. The approximate economy class airfare from Auckland to Delhi would be around NZD2480.

\*\*\*\*

11 August 2020



HIGH COMMISSION OF  
INDIA  
WELLINGTON



**VANDE BHARAT MISSION PHASE-5**

**ADVISORY ON PRIVATE CHARTERED FLIGHTS**

Apart from the 9 Air India flights, two private chartered flights have operated between India and New Zealand as part of Vande Bharat Mission, organised by M/s A-1 Travels and M/s Sehion Tours & Travels respectively.

The High Commission has recently been receiving several queries regarding proposed operation of private chartered flights between New Zealand and India by a few travel companies in the coming days. In this regard, we would like to clarify that though preliminary enquiries have been received from a few travel agencies about the procedure to operate such flights, no concrete proposal has yet been received from any of them for High Commission's approval, **after which they will be required to obtain necessary approvals of civil aviation authorities of both India and New Zealand. High Commission of India will approve lists of passengers after the same is received from the travel agency and does not assume financial or other responsibility** regarding the tickets being purchased by passengers from these private travel agencies.

\*\*\*\*

17 August 2020

More details at Indian High Commission's Facebook page.

NZ | MC

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# The Golden Rules for life and businesses at Alert Level 3

-  **Stay home.** If you are not at work, school, exercising or getting essentials then you must be at home, the same as at Alert Level 4.
-  **Work and learn from home if you can.** We still want the vast majority of people working from home, and children and young people learning from home. At-risk students and staff should also stay at home, and they will be supported to do so. Early learning centres and schools will physically be open for up to Year 10 for families that need them.
-  **Make your business COVID-19 safe.** COVID-19 has spread in workplaces, so the quid pro quo of being able to open is doing it in a way that doesn't spread the virus.
-  **Stay regional.** You can exercise at parks or beaches within your region, but the closer to home the better. Activities must be safe – keep 2 metres away from anybody not in your bubble. Make minimal trips.
-  **If you are sick, stay at home and quickly seek advice from your GP or Healthline about getting a test.** There is no stigma to COVID-19. We will only be successful if everyone is willing to play their part in finding it wherever it is.
-  **Keep your bubble as small as possible.** If you need to, you can expand your bubble a small amount to bring in close family, isolated people or caregivers.
-  **Wash your hands often with soap. Then dry them. Cough and sneeze into your elbow.**
-  **If your business requires close physical contact it can't operate.**
-  **If you used PPE in your business before COVID-19, then keep using it in the same way. If you didn't use PPE in your business before COVID-19, you don't need it now.** This is advice for retailers, manufacturers and the service industries. Different advice applies to essential healthcare workers, border agencies, courts and tribunal staff, first responders and corrections staff.
-  **Your staff should work from home if they can.**
-  **Your business must be contactless.** Your customers can pay online, over the phone or in a contactless way. Delivery or pick-up must also be contactless.
-  **You must meet all other health and safety obligations.**
-  **Basic hygiene measures must be maintained.** Physical distancing, hand washing and regularly cleaning surfaces. Workers must stay home if they are sick.
-  **Customers cannot come onto your premises.** Unless you are a supermarket, dairy, petrol station, pharmacy or permitted health service.

## If you're unwell

- If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work or school. Don't socialise.
- If you have symptoms of cold or flu call your doctor or Healthline and get advice about being tested.
- If you have been told to self-isolate you must do so immediately.

## Personal movement

Under Alert Level 3 you should continue to stay in your household bubbles whenever you are not at work or school.

You must stay within your household bubble but can expand this to connect with close family and whānau, or bring in caregivers, or support isolated people. It's important to protect your bubble. Keep your bubble exclusive and only include people where it will keep you and them safe and well. If anyone within your bubble feels unwell, they must immediately self-isolate from everyone else within your bubble.

Don't invite or allow social visitors, such as friends, family and whānau, to enter

your home.

### Physical distance

Maintain physical distancing of 2 metres outside your home, when buying the groceries or exercising. Wearing a face covering when in contact with others you don't know is strongly recommended.

### Face coverings

You are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering when you're outside your home and in a place where it's hard to stay 2 metres away from other people, like on public transport or in shops.

## Travel and transport

At Alert Level 3 travel is restricted. This is to minimise the risk of transmission and COVID-19 spreading.

### Travel within your local area

You can travel within your local area, for example going to work or school, shopping, or getting exercise. Public transport can continue to operate with strict health and safety requirements.

You should maintain physical distancing. You are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering if you can't maintain 2 metres distance from people you don't know.

### Travel between regions

Travel into, out of, and through Auckland is heavily restricted while the region is at Alert Level 3.

You can travel if you are returning to your primary residence. Not to go to a bach or holiday home.

There are limited exemptions for other people to travel which are listed in the Order, this includes people who are moving freight, and a range of government workers.

The Police are enforcing this at checkpoints around Auckland.

This restriction is initially very tight, and there is room for us to adjust if we need to.

### Travelling through Auckland Airport

The restrictions on flying into and out of Auckland are the same as driving in our out.

Aviation Security staff at the doors of Auckland Airport. They are asking people why they are travelling, and if they believe there are any issues they can bring Police into that conversation.

## Education

Where possible we encourage students to learn from home. Schools can safely open but will have limited capacity.

## Exercise and recreation

You can do low-risk recreation activities in your local area, for example to go for a walk or a run, a swim at the beach or a day walk.

Now isn't the time to take up new activities, or expose yourself or your bubble to any risk. Use your common sense — stay local, stay safe.

Recreational fishing is allowed from public conservation land as long as you stay in your local area.

Boating, yachting and any team sports or training are not allowed.

You can do recreational activities by yourself or with people from your bubble.

Whitebaiting is permitted at Alert Level 3 during the whitebaiting season. You may only fish locally, stay 2 metres from other river users and don't use motorised vehicles to get to your fishing spot.

## At-risk people

People at high risk of severe illness such as older people and those with existing medical conditions are encouraged to stay at home where possible, and take additional precautions when leaving home.

## Gatherings and events

Gatherings of up to 10 people can continue, but only for:

- wedding services
- funerals and tangihanga.

Physical distancing and public health measures must be maintained.



# India Independence Day, August 15, celebrations across New Zealand



Wellington



India in New Zealand @IndianNZ  
High Commission of India acknowledge the contribution made by 9 distinguished individuals/organisations for their exceptional community services during Covid-19 outbreak.



Picture courtesy Wellington Indian Association

New Plymouth Indian Community, New Zealand - NPCNZ  
We keep going....



Picture courtesy: New Plymouth Indian community



Picture courtesy: Southland Hindi School and Himani Mishra



Christchurch

Picture courtesy: Surinder Tandon

Hitesh Sharma is with Surinder Tandon and 17 others...  
Thanks everyone for attending and braving the cold this morning! On this auspicious occasion, we would like to wish our extended communities a happy Indian Independence Day 🇮🇳🇮🇳, take care and look after each other in these tough times! Thanks to Radio Sadeela and Dhruvil for their support and capturing the beautiful memories 📸

Picture courtesy Hitesh Sharma



Pic courtesy: Northland Indian Association

# Pakistan Independence Day, August 14, celebrations across New Zealand

Pakistan Association of New Zealand (PANZ) Auckland...  
Today due to covid -19 we were not able to celebrate independence as planned but that did not discourage our willngness to show how proud we are as Pakistanis. Sharing are some of the pictures and videos from our children chanting with joy. Pakistan Zindabad 🇵🇰🇵🇰🇵🇰



Picture courtesy: Pakistan Association of New Zealand



Picture courtesy: Pakistan Association of Canterbury



Christchurch

Waikato and Hawke's Bay Pakistan Association of New Zealand (PANZ)  
Dear Community Members  
Asalaam-o-Alaikum / Kia Ora  
We are thrilled to see Pakistan's 74th Independence Day & Eid Al Adha celebrated with our colorful art, diverse culture & enthusiasm in the different regions of New Zealand. PANZ Waikato & PANZ Hawke's Bay arranged eminent events for the Pakistani community & wider ethnic communities on 8th August 2020.  
PANZ Waikato Event  
Mayor of Hamilton Paula Southgate, Pakistan HC Dr. Abdul Malik, National Party Leaders David Bennett & Tim Macindoe, Labour Party Leader Jamie Strange, NZ police, PANZ National Team, and various other ethnic community leaders attended the event.  
PANZ Hawke's Bay Event  
Mayor of Napier Kirsten Wise, Mayor of Hastings Sandra Hazlehurst, Napier City Councillor Maxine Boag, and the Representative of Pakistan embassy attended the event.  
We congratulate PANZ Waikato & PANZ Hawke's Bay Team on arranging phenomenal events & achieving critical milestones for the Pakistani community in regions.  
Shukria / Niga mihi  
Team #PANZ



Picture courtesy: Pakistan Association of New Zealand



Wellington  
Picture courtesy Pakistan High Commission Wellington



# Key takeaways from PM Modi's Independence Day Speech



## PM Modi Addresses the Nation on the Occasion of 74th Independence Day

### Key Takeaways (1/4)

I believe the indomitable will power & determination of 130 crore countrymen will make us win over Corona

Amid Covid pandemic, 130 crore Indians took the resolve to be self-reliant, and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' turned into a pledge

From agriculture, space to healthcare, India is taking several steps to build Aatmanirbhar Bharat which will generate many new employment opportunities for our youth

Apart from 'Make in India', we must also embrace the mantra of 'Make for World'

Self-reliant India not only means reduction of imports, but also to increase our skills and our creativity

## PM Modi Addresses the Nation on the Occasion of 74th Independence Day

### Key Takeaways (2/4)

FDI inflow broke all records & India witnessed a 18% jump even during the pandemic

One Nation-One Ration Card, One Nation - One Tax, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and Merger of Banks is the reality today

Vocal for Local, Re-Skill & Up-Skill will bring about a self-reliant economy in the lives of people living below the poverty line

To provide modern infrastructure to the farmers 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund' of Rs 1 lakh crore has been created

Last year on this day, I announced the mission of Jal Jeevan. Now, more than 1 lakh houses are getting water connection every day



## PM Modi Addresses the Nation on the Occasion of 74th Independence Day

### Key Takeaways (3/4)

When the pandemic hit the country, there was only one Lab for Corona Testing, today there are more than 1,400 Labs

Of the 40 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened, about 22 crore accounts are of women

In the next 1000 days, Lakshadweep will also be connected to submarine optical fiber cable

When the pandemic hit the country, there was only one Lab for Corona Testing, today there are more than 1,400 Labs

Special campaign with a holistic approach to reduce pollution in 100 selected cities of the country is also being worked on

## PM Modi Addresses the Nation on the Occasion of 74th Independence Day

### Key Takeaways (4/4)

Three Corona vaccines are currently under testing phase in India. As soon as the green signal is received we are ready for their mass production

Just as Sikkim has made its mark as an Organic State, in the coming days, Ladakh, will make its identity as a carbon neutral region

From the LOC to the LAC, whoever has raised eyes on the sovereignty of the country, the army of the country has responded in the same language

This year is the year of a new development journey of J&K. This year is the year of rights for women & Dalits in J&K! It is also a year of the dignified life of refugees in J&K

Narendra Modi @narendramodi

Sharing some glimpses from the Independence Day celebrations earlier this morning.



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## Modi unveils the platform "Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest", in a big new push for tax reforms

Last week, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced key tax reforms and unveiled the new platform "Transparent Taxation - Honouring the Honest". This carries forward the journey of direct tax reforms in India, such as "faceless appeals" where taxpayers don't have to visit offices to rectify errors. "When we talk of faceless taxation, what it means is that the taxpayer and the tax officer have no interaction, as should be the case. There should be no contact between the tax officer and taxpayer. This has potential to reduce interference, and empowers the taxpayer," he said.

The taxpayer will now be given the respect they deserve. The taxpayer will now be trusted, not looked at with doubt. The (tax) department will have to carry out the steps and processes in a time-bound manner, Modi added.

He also informed that the faceless assessment and taxpayer charter has come into place from last week, while the



faceless appeal is going to be applicable from September 25.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who also attended the virtual event, noted the reforms "mark an important step forward in providing a simple and transparent taxation regime for India".

- TIN Bureau

### Features of the Faceless Assessment Scheme: (as reported by The Indian Express)

- Selection of a tax payer only through system using data analytics and AI
- Abolition of territorial jurisdiction
- Automated random allocation of cases

- Central issuance of notices with Document Identification No. (DIN)
- No physical interface, no need to visit the income tax office
- Team-based assessments and team-based review
- Draft assessment order in one city, review in another city and finalisation in third city

## Jamia ranks top among central universities in govt's assessment report

In the Indian Ministry of Human Resource and Development (HRD) assessment report out this week, Jamia Millia Islami (JMI) University ranked top with 90 percent points in the assessment of 40 central universities. Arunachal Pradesh's Rajiv Gandhi University ranked second with 83 percent points and Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) ranked third with 78 percent points. The score is based

on a tri-partite agreement between the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the HRD Ministry's higher education division.

As reported by India Today, the evaluation is based on student intake across courses, percentage of female students, students who are not domicile of the state in which the university is based in, foreign students ratio, quality of faculty, as well as proportion of students placed through campus recruitment and qualifying top examinations such as GATE, NET etc.

- TIN Bureau





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# Winners announced for India's #AatmaNirbharBharat App Innovation Challenge

**Chingari**  
Meet 'Chingari', a homegrown short video platform for citizens to showcase their talent to the world  
Winner of the 'Social Media' category of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Innovate Challenge

**HITWICKET SUPERSTARS**  
Meet the online gaming app, HitWicket Superstars which aims to give the most immersive experience to all cricket fans. Winner of the 'Games' category of AatmaNirbhar App Innovation Challenge

**MOVE**  
Professionally created detailed map of India with ISRO's Bhuvan Satellite view, MapmyIndia Move App houses features like Maps, Navigation & Tracking among others. Winner of the 'Others' category of AatmaNirbhar App Innovation Challenge

**STEP SET GO**  
Meet StepSetGo, an app where every step is rewarded with coins that can later be redeemed for products & discounts. Winner of the 'Health' category of AatmaNirbhar App Innovation Challenge

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# Market holding strong in record numbers despite COVID Return

Despite what had been described as “inevitable” Auckland was taken by surprise last Tuesday when the government announced that COVID-19 has re-emerged in the community with no identifiable trace to the border. The response has been swift and we are now locally in the midst of a two week Lockdown at Level 3, with the rest of the nation at level 2.

Despite having what feels like the rug pulled from beneath us, the property market has seen some welcomed news around the health of the market, and with Loan deferrals being extended, there’s a strong chance the market will prevail through this second wave.

**Here’s what to need to know: Property Market Fights Off Economic Uncertainty and Winter Blues**

According to the latest figures from the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand, it seems that despite the traditional winter downturn and dire economic predictions from the pandemic, The housing market performed strongly in July with sales volumes up 25% compared to July last year - and the highest number of sales made in the month of July in the last five years.

In Auckland, July sales were up 30.3% compared to July last year, which was also the best July month for sales in five years. For the rest of New Zealand (excluding Auckland) sales were up 21.5% compared to July last year, which was the best July for sales in 15 years.

The national median selling price was \$660,000 up 3.4% compared to June and up 14.8% compared to July last year. In Auckland the median price was flat at \$920,000, down just 0.1% compared to June, but still up 11.5% compared to July last year.

REINZ Chief Executive Bindi Norwell addressed the recent return of Covid, stating, “Even though anecdotally we’ve had a great start to August, the real question now is how long this can be sustained for, particularly now Auckland has gone back into Level 3.”

How the two weeks in lockdown affects the Auckland market will remain to be seen, but there is some security in these July figures moving forward.

**Reserve Bank Agrees to Help Banks Extend Mortgage Repayment Deferrals**

The Reserve Bank (RBNZ) Governor Adrian Orr confirmed last Wednesday



that the RBNZ has agreed to help banks extend the mortgage repayment deferrals they’ve been offering their customers since the end of March.

The decision came just after community transmission was confirmed again in the Auckland community, but Orr urged people not to flood banks with inquiries, as the details of what will be offered are still being ironed out – with an

announcement expected later in the week.

As always, an extension is not permanent,” Orr said.

It is ultimately a bank’s decision whether it enables a customer to defer the principle and interest repayments on their mortgage.

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**Ravi Mehta**

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**INDIAN NEWS**



# Conducting real estate business during COVID-19 Alert Level 3

## Summary

- Talk to your agent and lawyer or conveyancer, about what to do if you have a transaction under way.
- Property inspectors, valuers, engineers and tradespeople can visit properties at alert level 3 if it is necessary, if they comply with public health and industry-specific guidance and if the property's occupants agree.
- Buyers and sellers who deferred settlement during alert level 4 may now be able to settle if both parties agree.
- During alert level 3, buyers and sellers can move house (including between regions).
- If you want to sell a tenanted property, you will be affected by the new protections against terminations. For more information, visit the Tenancy Services website.
- You can find information about what you can and can't do during alert level 3 on the COVID-19 website.

## Listing and marketing a property

### Meeting clients and appraising a property

Where possible, appraise the property using virtual methods instead of visiting the property.

If you conduct a virtual appraisal at alert level 3, you should conduct a physical appraisal at alert level 2.

### Signing the agency agreement

All discussions regarding the agency agreement must be done remotely.

### Marketing a property

Professionals (for example, photographers, videographers or home stagers) who visit the property must comply with the health requirements referred to above as well as any industry-specific or government guidance relevant to their role. If the property is tenanted, the tenant's approval is required.

### Open homes and viewings

Open homes are not allowed at alert level 3.

Prospective buyers should view a property online (for example, by video) wherever possible. If this isn't possible or practical, private viewings are allowed at alert level 3 under the following conditions.

### Preparing for the viewing

- Licensees should try to ensure that only buyers who are serious about making an offer or are in the process of making an offer are given a private viewing.
- There should be no more than two private viewings per day – allow time to clean all surfaces between viewings.
- Prospective buyers cannot travel between regions for a private

viewing.

### During the viewing

- Licensees should open all internal doors before the viewing to minimise surface contact. Only the licensee is to touch doors or surfaces in the home.

### After the viewing

- The licensee must clean all surfaces that the licensee (or anyone else) comes into contact with during the viewing. The covid19.govt.nz website has information about cleaning surfaces

### The transaction

#### Auctions

Auctions can only take place by phone or online bidding.

#### Signing the sale and purchase agreement

All discussions about the sale and purchase agreement or offers received must take place by phone or video call.

Contracts must be signed electronically. You can use contactless pickup or delivery for the contract if absolutely necessary.

#### Settlement

#### Moving

House movers can work at alert level 3, so buyers and sellers can move house if they follow government guidance. Moves can occur between regions at level 3.

#### Other matters

#### Agency offices

REA expects that most, if not all, licensees will be able to work primarily from home. *(All the given information is courtesy Real Estate Authority - REA)*



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## Indian Minister of Sports Kiren Rijiju launches Fit India Youth Clubs to promote fitness among Indians

This week, Indian Union Minister of Youth and Sports Kiren Rijiju launched the Fit India Youth Club, on the occasion of the 73rd Independence Day of the country. The Fit India Youth Club, a part of the Fit India Movement envisioned by Prime Minister Modi, endeavours to harness the power of youth to create

mass awareness about the importance of fitness, across the country.

The initiative brings together fitness and voluntarism in a unique way in which 7.5 million volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme, along with Scouts and Guides, NCC and other youth organisations will

come together to register as Fit India Youth Clubs in every block in the country, under the aegis of a district unit and each member of the club will motivate people from the community to take up fitness activities of 30 to 60 minutes in his or her daily routine. Additionally, the clubs will organise and encourage schools and local bodies to organise one community fitness programme every quarter.

- TIN Bureau



PIB India  
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Union Minister @KirenRijiju launches nation-wide initiative of #FitIndia Youth Clubs to promote fitness among every citizen

Read here: [pib.gov.in/PressReleasePa...](http://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePa...)



## North and South rugby match may shift to Wellington



New Zealand Rugby (NZR) is continuing to work on contingency plans for the Steinlager North vs South match, with the

squads named for the match to assemble in Wellington to prepare for the game.

NZR General Manager Professional Rugby & Performance Chris Lendrum said NZR was still hoping that the eagerly-anticipated match could be played at Eden Park, Auckland, on Saturday August 29, but was also making contingency plans to play the match at SKY Stadium in Wellington instead on the same day.

The squads for the Steinlager North v South match will be announced at midday

tomorrow and were due to assemble in Auckland on Monday next week.

"With Auckland at Alert Level 3 until midnight on Wednesday 26 August, the squads will now assemble in Wellington to prepare for the match.

"New Zealand Rugby is currently working through the Government's normal exemption process to seek approval for the Auckland-based players and management to assemble in Wellington from next Monday.

"A final decision on the venue for the match will be made following the Government's review of Covid-19 levels on Friday," Lendrum said.

In the event that the match can't go ahead in Auckland, ticket holders will be refunded. - TIN Bureau

### Tuipulotu named North Island skipper: RNZ

As per a report by Radio New Zealand on Tuesday, "The stand out performance of Blues skipper Patrick Tuipulotu in Super Rugby Aotearoa has been recognised with All Blacks coach Ian Foster naming him captain of the North Island side for their match against the South later this month. Fellow All Black lock Sam Whitelock will lead the South Island side. The All Blacks selection trio of head coach Ian

Foster, assistant coach John Plumtree and Grant Fox have confirmed the two squads for the fixture scheduled for August 29."

Another report by RNZ on Wednesday noted, "The Auckland-based players involved in the North-South rugby game may be left at home with the Health Minister saying he hasn't given any exemptions for them to travel to Wellington."

So the situation and status of the fixture will get clearer as we near the end of this week, it seems.

# Exercise at Alert Level 3

Exercise and recreation is an important part of maintaining our health and wellbeing. However, there is a very high risk of transmission if we come into contact with others, touch common equipment or surfaces, or need rescuing or medical care.

We need to keep doing our bit so that our gains in Alert Level 4 aren't compromised.

You can do activities that are local, safe, and do not involve interaction with other people outside your bubble.

The most important thing is to stay safe. Do low-risk activities, so you don't need rescuing or medical care. You should also keep a 2 metre distance from people who aren't in your bubble.

You can do more activities at Alert Level 3 but only if you're experienced and do them safely. These include:

- **surfing** — if you are an experienced surfer, you can go to your local break. If you're not experienced, don't surf
- **fishing** — if you want to go fishing you can do so from a wharf or the shore, but don't cast off the rocks or fish from a boat. Boating is not allowed
- **tramping** — is okay for day walks on easy trails. Remember to keep your

distance from other people

- **mountain biking** — if you are experienced and know the trail
- **hunting** — you can hunt on private land, but not on public conservation land. You need to stay within your region and stick to your bubble. Overnight trips are not allowed. You may only hunt on foot — using quad bikes, off-road bikes, helicopters and other motorised vehicles is not allowed.

Boating, yachting and any team sports or training are not allowed.

Now is not the time to take up new activities, or expose yourself or your bubble to any risk. Use your common sense — stay local, stay safe.

### Where you can exercise

Stick to your local area. For example, go to your nearest beach or park, not your favourite one. Staying overnight at a bach or holiday home is not permitted.

You should drive as short a distance as you can and still do the activity.

If you live on a regional boundary, this might mean travelling to a neighbouring region. This is fine as long as it's still local and a close distance from your home.

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# Farewell Mahi! Thank you for the memories...



After 16 years of fabulous international Cricket career, India's world cup winning captain, Mahendra Singh Dhoni made his mic-drop moment when he put out to the world "...from 1929 hours consider me as retired (sic)" on August 15, 2020. Whether he features in this year's Indian Premier League T20 scheduled in the UAE later this year remains to be seen.

Starting his work career as a ticket collector for the Indian Railways and ending it as one of the best international cricketers, Dhoni will surely be remembered for his grit, perseverance, and composure.

**Taking India to top in world rankings** Dhoni was last seen playing for Team India during the semi-final of the World Cup 2019 against New Zealand. He made his debut in 2004 and led the team as the captain to win three major ICC trophies — the T20 World Cup in 2007, the ODI World Cup in 2011, and the ICC Champions Trophy in 2013.

He captained India in a record 322 ODIs with 110 wins. Only a few have played as many international games, but none has been the team's wicket-keeper as well apart from Dhoni.

MS, as he is fondly called, scored 10,773 one-day international (ODI) runs - the 11th highest tally in history. He also played 90 Tests, scoring 4,876 runs and guided India to the top of the world rankings before retiring from test cricket in 2014. The corkscrew on-drive or 'helicopter' shot was uniquely Dhoni's. No other cricketer has been able to imitate it successfully.

#### Tributes

Colleagues, friends, and fans from around the world took to social media to show their love and respect for the former captain. The current Indian captain, Virat Kohli tweeted, "The world has seen achievements, I've seen the person. Thanks for everything skip. I tip my hat to you."

Sachin Tendulkar tweeted, "Your contribution to Indian cricket has been immense, @msdhoni. Winning the 2011 World Cup together has been the best moment of my life." - *by Shivangi Bose, an experienced media professional and writer, who recently moved to Auckland, and has a special interest in script-writing for brand videos.*



#### Raina wraps up too

Minutes after Dhoni's retirement announcement, Suresh Raina followed suit with his own retirement announcement. The 33-year-old represented India in more than 300 internationals in a career that spanned over 13 years. Raina, who made his international debut against Sri Lanka

in 2005, went on to feature in 226 ODIs. The left-hander cricketer brought in a revolution in India's fielding capability. He claimed 167 catches in his international career. In a tweeter post Raina noted, "It was nothing but lovely playing with you, @mahi7781. With my heart full of pride, I choose to join you on this journey. Thank you, India. Jai Hind."

#### Former cricketer Chetan Chauhan succumbs to COVID-19

Chetan Chauhan, the former India team's batsman and veteran cricket administrator, died this week at the age of 73 due to COVID-19. In cricketing career between 1969 and 1981, Chauhan played 40 Tests and seven ODIs. He scored 2,084 Test runs with 16 half-

centuries. The domestic batsman in a first-class cricket career played Ranji Trophy for Maharashtra and then Delhi. On his death, the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi tweeted, "Anguished by his passing away. Condolences to his family and supporters. Om Shanti." Chauhan, the two-time former BJP Lok Sabha Member of Parliament was Home Guard minister in the Uttar Pradesh cabinet.



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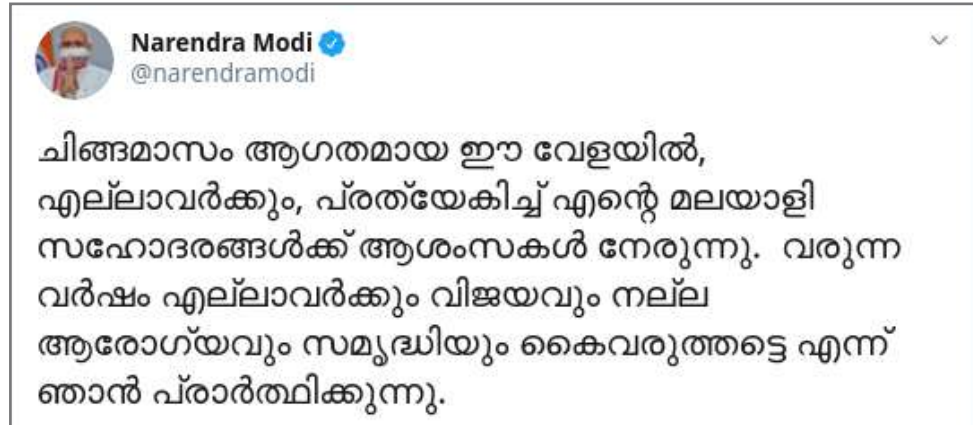
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# PM Modi greets Indians on the occasion of Malayalam New Year

On August 17, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Indians on the occasion of Malayalam New Year. Tweeting in both Malayalam and English, the PM said, "As the month of Chingam commences, my greetings to everyone, especially my Malayali sisters and brothers. I pray that the coming year brings with it success, good health and prosperity for all."

Notably, Monday marked the beginning of Malayalam New Year 'Chingam One' with prayers, poojas and other celebrations across the Indian state of Kerala. Chingam, is the start of month-long celebrations, which will end on September 16, and will see Kerala's biggest festival 'Onam' celebrated during this time. - *TIN Bureau*



## i Community Notice

14.08.2020

ਸੰਗਤ ਨੂੰ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਲਾਕਡਾਊਨ ਲੈਵਲ-3 ਦੇ ਚਲਦਿਆਂ ਸਿੱਖ ਹੈਰੀਟੇਜ ਸਕੂਲ ਦੇ ਸਟਾਫ ਮੈਂਬਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਮੈਨੇਜਮੈਂਟ ਨੇ ਫੈਸਲਾ ਲਿਆ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਅਗਲੇ 2 ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ (15 ਅਗਸਤ ਅਤੇ 22 ਅਗਸਤ) ਨੂੰ ਸਿੱਖ ਹੈਰੀਟੇਜ ਸਕੂਲ ਬੰਦ ਰਹੇਗਾ। ਸਕੂਲ ਨੂੰ ਮੁੜ ਖੋਲਣ ਬਾਰੇ ਸੰਗਤ ਨੂੰ ਦੁਬਾਰਾ ਸੂਚਿਤ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਜਾਵੇਗਾ।

ਸਕੂਲ ਸਬੰਧੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਤਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਈ ਸਕੂਲ ਦੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਨੰਬਰ 021 289 8410 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

It is advised that during Lockdown Level-3 Sikh Heritage School staff members and management committee has decided to close down the Sikh Heritage School for next two Saturdays (15 August & 22 August). You will be notified again about reopening of the school.

For any information, parents can contact Sikh Heritage School directly on this new number 021 289 8410.

**SUPREME SIKH SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND**

## Telugu Association of South Island (Inc)

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Te Hapua Mohoao, 341 Halswell Road

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# What's On

## Gatherings and events at Alert Level 3

Gatherings of people create a very high risk of transmitting COVID-19. At Alert Level 3, we are keeping tight restrictions on gatherings. The only permitted gatherings are for:

- funerals and tangihanga
- wedding ceremonies, not receptions.

Keeping these gatherings small means the risk of community transmission stays low and our gains from Alert Level 4 aren't compromised.

Workplaces, education facilities, public transport and supermarkets are not considered gatherings.

If a gathering goes ahead, there are additional steps the attendees must take to ensure the gathering is safe.

**You should:**

- Keep a 2 metre distance from people who aren't in your extended bubble.
- Wash your hands regularly throughout the event.
- Make a list of those who attended. This will ensure contact tracing can happen if necessary.
- Do not attend if you have COVID-19 symptoms, or if you need to be isolation/quarantine for any reason.

**Weddings and civil unions**

Wedding ceremonies are acceptable gatherings at Alert Level 3 but are limited to 10 people or under.

Wedding receptions and other celebrations are not allowed.

For those holding a wedding ceremony, the limit means there can only be

the couple, the celebrant, a couple of witnesses and a small number of family up to a maximum of 10 people. Other people can still attend through video conferencing.

Those who do attend must keep themselves and others safe. Keep a list of those who attend, stay at least 2 meters apart and wash hands regularly. No food or drink should be consumed and there can be no reception.

**Advice about virtual weddings**

Under the Marriage Act, a marriage can't happen virtually. The couple, celebrant and witnesses must be physically present in the same place.

**How to get a refund for a marriage licence**

The Registrar-General's team is offering refunds to those who cannot use the marriage licence within 3 months of getting it because of COVID-19. Email [celebrants@dia.govt.nz](mailto:celebrants@dia.govt.nz) for a refund.

**Funerals and tangihanga**

Funerals and tangihanga are acceptable gatherings at Alert Level 3 but are limited to 10 people or under. No food or drink should be consumed at any gathering, including funerals and tangihanga.

**Advice for at risk people**

People at higher risk to severe illness from COVID-19 (for example those with underlying medical conditions) should avoid gatherings at Alert Level 3.

-from [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz)

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