

Proactive Release

Date: 11 June 2024

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – March 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0144
Report on travel: Visit to India, Indonesia and Singapore: 10-16 March 2024	

There is a Cabinet Minute associated with this Cabinet Paper. This paper was approved by Ministers with Powers to Act outside the Cabinet schedule.

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- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – March 2024

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 29 April 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-24-SUB-0144 on his travel, from 10 to 16 March 2024, to India, Indonesia, and Singapore for bilateral discussions.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Restricted

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

REPORT ON TRAVEL: VISIT TO INDIA, INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE: 10–16 MARCH 2024

1. I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to India, Indonesia and Singapore from Sunday 10 to Saturday 16 March.

Visit to India

2. Our visit to India (New Delhi and Gujarat) took place over three days and involved a full programme of meetings and events.

3. In New Delhi we:

- a. held bilateral talks and a dinner with Foreign Minister Jaishankar;
- b. had a meeting with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval (a first for New Zealand);
- c. had a courtesy call on Vice President Dhankhar;
- d. had meetings with senior Indian business leaders;
- e. attended a new Women's Indian Premier League cricket match, featuring two New Zealand players ^{s9(2)(g)(i)}
_{s9(2)(g)(i)}
- f. opened a Polo match at a club with a strong connection to New Zealand.

4. In Gujarat, we:

- g. met with Chief Minister Patel;
- h. had lunch with local business leaders; and
- i. visited the new high-tech Gujarat International Finance-Tech (GIFT) City.

Our Indian counterparts were generous with their time and the atmospherics of the visit were excellent.

New Delhi

5. ^{s6(a)}
_{s6(a)}

We pressed that New Zealand understood any relationship with India needed to broad-based, underpinned by strong political, security, and defence cooperation.

s6(b)(i), s9(2)(j)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

7. India, given its historical non-alignment, has a unique perspective on global issues. ^{s6(a)}

s6(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(j)

9. Our meetings with others – a courtesy call on the Vice President; business, religious, sporting and Pacific-related engagements – were underpinned by an instinctive warmth between our two countries. But there was a shared sense that the relationship has potential that goes beyond that warmth, based in large part on India's remarkable development and the opportunities this presented for collaboration across the spectrum.

10. Against a backdrop of mutual desire to lift the relationship, growing political connections will be particularly important. ^{s6(a)}

s6(a)

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s6(a)

Gujarat

11. The state of Gujarat, which counts among its previous Chief Ministers Prime Minister Modi, has an important place in the nation's political economy.

s6(a)

s6(a)

The state itself has bold ambitions to being a major food producer, including with assistance from New Zealand. s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

We also visited the Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City – India's first greenfield smart city and international financial services centre – at which we were surprised to see an Australia university had already established a satellite campus.

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Visit to Indonesia

13. We travelled to Indonesia on 14 March and met with Foreign Minister Marsudi and Defence Minister (and President-elect) Prabowo Subianto. We also visited Al Istiqlal Mosque, the largest in Southeast Asia, to mark the fifth anniversary of the Christchurch attacks.

14. s6(a), s9(2)(j)

s6(a), s9(2)(j)

s6(a), s9(2)(j)

s6(d)

s6(d)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

17. In our meeting with Minister Prabowo we identified some shared policy challenges, including around housing, education and healthcare, and wage growth.
s6(a), s9(2)(j)

Visit to Singapore

18. We were in Singapore for less than a day, during which we met with Second Foreign Minister Maliki and Defence Minister Ng. We registered New Zealand's interest in elevating the bilateral relationship through an upgrade of the New Zealand Singapore Enhanced partnership. Nested within that ambition we discussed working towards a 'green economy' agreement; closer defence cooperation; and expanded people links, including through education.

s6(a)

20. This is a mature relationship valued by both sides, which is being further highlighted by the Prime Minister's visit in mid-April. s6(a)

s6(a) For New Zealand, this will include demonstrating our broader strategic value, including on defence issues, and on niche areas like food security.

Proactive release

21. This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

22. I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt. Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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