



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Dr Shane Reti	<b>Portfolio</b>	Science, Innovation and Technology
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026 Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026	<b>Date to be published</b>	26 May 2026

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
February 2026	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026	Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
2 February 2026	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026 CAB-26-MIN-0017 Minute	Cabinet Office
April 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026	Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
7 April 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026 CAB-26-MIN-0104 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**YES / NO** (please select)

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of free and frank opinions, international relations and confidential advice to government.

## **In Confidence**

Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Universities  
Chair, Cabinet

### **Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr Shane Reti – February 2026**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to New Delhi, India, from 14 February to 21 February to attend the AI Impact Summit.

#### **Report**

- 1 The main purpose of my travel was to represent New Zealand at the AI Impact Summit, the world's foremost global forum on AI issues, in New Delhi, India, from 19-20 February and to undertake bilateral engagements related to my Science, Innovation and Technology and Universities portfolios.
- 2 I was accompanied by Senior Ministerial Adviser Jonathan Franklin, Principal Adviser New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technology Establishment Team Sarah Box, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's General Manager Science Gina Williamson. New Zealand High Commissioner to India Patrick Rata, Education New Zealand Country Manager Jugnu Roy and Trade Commissioner Graham Rouse and others provided in-country support.
- 3 The AI Impact Summit was the fourth iteration of the global AI Summit Series and the first to be held in the Global South by a country that is a 'net taker' of AI technologies. This was the first time New Zealand was represented at this forum at Ministerial level, providing a global platform to profile New Zealand's approach to AI, our science reforms, and our focus on emerging technologies.
- 4 As well as attending the Summit, I met with the Indian Ministers of Science and Technology, Education, and Electronics and IT, continuing the positive momentum in the bilateral relationship, reinvigorating science connections and reinforcing the importance of our education links.

#### **AI Summit outcomes**

- 5 A key part of my visit was attending the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi from 19–20 February (with related programme activity across 16–20 February). This was the fourth major global AI Summit (following the United Kingdom 2023, Republic of Korea 2024, and France 2025). India's hosting emphasised the "impact" of AI, including accessibility and democratisation of AI resources.
- 6 The Summit's scale (over 100 participating countries, 45+ Ministers and major technology CEOs attending, alongside a large business exhibition) provided a valuable opportunity to advance New Zealand interests through concentrated senior-level engagement, profiling New Zealand's approach to AI and to emerging technologies more broadly in a high-visibility setting.

- 7 In my plenary intervention, I outlined New Zealand’s approach to AI, with an emphasis on the practical, outcomes-focused uses of AI that deliver tangible benefits for people, businesses and communities. I reinforced the position that AI should support economic growth and deliver enduring public benefit. I also participated in a Council meeting of the Global Partnership on AI, welcoming the group’s ongoing work to ground AI policy in real-world experience.
- 8 The principal Summit outcome was the “Delhi Declaration”, a non-binding consensus communique acknowledging AI development should be inclusive, accessible and safe. New Zealand endorsed the Declaration, supporting our objective of being present as international expectations for AI governance continue to form. I recommend that New Zealand continue to actively engage in this forum – Switzerland will host the next iteration in 2027.
- 9 In addition to my engagements with Indian counterparts, I used the Summit margins to meet with likeminded partners to advance New Zealand interests in AI governance and practical cooperation. International relations

[Redacted]

### Engagements including bilateral meetings

- 10 I met with the Indian Science and Technology Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw where the discussion focused on reinvigorating science, innovation and technology connections after a period of limited engagement. International relations

[Redacted]

Free and frank opinions

- 11 I met with representatives of New Zealand technology firms operating in India who collectively highlighted the complexity and competitiveness of operating in the Indian market and the importance of strong local networks and on-the-ground capability. I also attended a formal reception at the High Commission Residence, with attendees from across the science, technology and education sectors, enabling valuable networking opportunities and profiling the breadth of New Zealand expertise and commitment to partnerships in India.

- 12 International relations
- [Redacted]
- in targeted priority areas including faculty and student exchanges (with dairy and food services a key area of interest) and leveraging relative strengths across institutions. The discussions reinforced the value of in-person engagement to strengthen

- 13 I visited the New Zealand–India Centre at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Confidential advice to Government

### Concluding comments

- 14 Overall, my programme in New Delhi strengthened New Zealand engagement on AI and emerging technologies, reinforced key relationships in my science and education portfolios, and helped position New Zealand as a constructive and pragmatic partner as international AI expectations continue to evolve.
- 15 My engagements generated a number of practical follow-up actions. MBIE, alongside other New Zealand agencies, is working with counterparts and New Zealand posts offshore to progress initiatives discussed during the visit, including identification of early collaboration opportunities in priority science and technology areas and advancing education cooperation through the Joint Working Group.
- 16 I profiled New Zealand’s approach to AI and emerging technologies through media engagements and in my National Statement at the AI Impact Summit, and through bilateral and margin interactions with counterparts. My interviews with *Asia News International* and *The Economic Times* generated strong domestic coverage and reinforced key messages, including the significance of the FTA in deepening bilateral ties, our respective approaches to AI, and the value of reinvigorating dialogue on cooperation opportunities.

### Proactive release

- 17 I propose releasing this paper proactively within 30 business days, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

### Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr Shane Reti

**Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

**Minister for Universities**