

**The  
NEW ZEALAND INDIAN  
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION  
(INC.)**

●  
**28th ANNUAL REPORT**

**AND**

**BALANCE SHEET**

●  
**CONFERENCE**

Held 17th & 18th APRIL, 1954

At Palmerston North

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**ADDRESSES OF OFFICIALS:**

**President:** Mr. J. K. NATALI—25 Bayview Rd., Browns Bay  
(Auckland).

**Vice-President:** Mr. RAVJI HIRA—36 Hopper St. (Wellington).

**General Secretary:** Mr. J. G. NAGER—G.P.O. Box 1941 (Wellington).

**Assistant Secretary:** Mr. NARSHI B. PATEL—9 Cockburn St.,  
Grey Lynn (Auckland).

**Auditor:** Mr. S. MASTER—Dannevirke.

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# **NEW ZEALAND INDIAN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (Inc.)**

The 28th Annual Conference of The New Zealand Indian Central Association Inc. was held at Palmerston North on the 17th and 18th April, 1954.

Mr. D. Nana the Representative of the Manawatu, Hawke's Bay Indian Association, received the Delegates from all branches and was responsible for the excellent accommodation and meals provided for the Delegates which was appreciated by all. This was a fine effort for a small and scattered Association. This effort proves to the members what can be achieved when unity and harmony go hand in hand.

The following delegates had been elected to represent their Branches at the New Zealand Indian Central Association Conference, 17th and 18th April, 1954:—

## **AUCKLAND**

Mr. Devji K. Patel  
Mr. Narsih B. Patel  
Mr. Lalu N. Patel  
Mr. Khusal Madhu  
Mr. Morari Patel  
Mr. Paebhu Patel  
Mr. Dayal Kesery  
Mr. Nanu Bhana  
Mr. J. K. Natali  
Mr. M. Bhikha

## **CHRISTCHURCH**

Mr. Ganda Chhiba  
Mr. Dayal Gopal

## **COUNTRY SECTION**

Mr. Karm Singh  
Mr. Pair Singh  
Mr. Inder Singh Radhawa  
Mr. Bachint Singh

## **MANAWATU-HAWKE'S BAY**

Mr. Shivilal Master  
Mr. Chhiba Panchia  
Mr. Rama Ranchhod  
Mr. Hari Naran

## **PUKEKOHE**

Mr. R. C. Harri  
Mr. Moti Vallabh  
Mr. P. K. Chhiba

## **ROTORUA**

Mr. Unka Kanji  
Mr. Bhana Unka

## **WAIKATO**

Mr. M. Chunilal  
Mr. D. Lala

## **WELLINGTON**

Mr. J. G. Nager  
Mr. Dahya Parag  
Mr. Lala Bava  
Mr. Ravji Hira  
Mr. Lakhu Vasani  
Mr. Hari Dahya  
Mr. Ranchhod Rama  
Mr. Dahya Chhiba  
Mr. Hira Bava  
Mr. Govind Kanji  
Mr. Magan Khushal  
Mr. Dullabh Madhav

The conference was opened at 2 p.m. on the 17th April, 1954, with a welcome speech by the reception President, Mr. Dayal Nana. The meeting was declared open by the National President, Mr. Devji Kanji. Two minutes silence was observed in respect to all deceased members of the commonwealth. A copy of the President's Report was distributed to all the Delegates.

## **Report (1953-54) of the New Zealand Indian Central Association**

**Presented by the President (Mr. K. Devji)**

Another year has passed since our last Conference in Auckland, which was enjoyed by all. The young people of the Association added a very enjoyable ending to the occasion by an Indian play. The passed year as usual has left behind its Rejoicings and Sorrows.

On the 2nd June we had the pleasure of hearing our Queen crowned Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey. A cable was sent to Her Majesty on this occasion. This was an occasion of world wide interest.

On the same day of Her Majesty's Coronation a New Zealander and an Indian, Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing, were successful in reaching the Summit of Everest, never before conquered by man. Many had tried to accomplish this but always met with disappointment, it was with great pleasure that we learnt that a New Zealander and an Indian one of our own countrymen had conquered the impossible. A telegram was sent to Sir Edmund Hillary.

In June General Carriappa was appointed by the Indian Government as High Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand. In August His Excellency came to New Zealand to present his credentials to the Governor-General, Sir Willoughby Norrie, also at present His Excellency is on an extensive tour of the Dominion, and he has accepted an invitation from the Central Association to be present at the Conference on the 18th April.

The most important occasion in New Zealand for the Indian Community during the year was the opening of the Nehru Hall, Pukekohe. For the small community in Pukekohe it is a marvellous achievement, and they have been well rewarded for their hard work. This is the first Indian Hall to be built in New Zealand and I feel that hearty congratulations are in order. The Hall was officially opened on the 15th August, 1953, by the First Secretary to the High Commissioner for India, Mr. Sanyal. The opening Ceremony was also a credit to the Pukekohe Indian Community. A Hall Clock was presented by the Central Association as a goodwill token. I trust that the other centres will follow

in the footsteps of Pukekohe and have their own Hall as soon as it is possible.

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was elected President by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The first daughter of India to hold such a high position in world affairs this surely is a great Honour for our motherland. A cable of congratulations was sent to New York.

Five pounds was sent to Massey College for the Mahatma Gandhi Prize and was won by Mr. R. A. Dennis and R. I. Howey.

In September the Executive Committee Meeting of the above Association was held in the Nehru Hall, Pukekohe. The main items were The New Rules and the Eighteen Months problem. All branches were informed of the procedure adopted at this meeting.

On the 22nd December, 1953, History was made in New Zealand, the First reigning Monarch arrived in Auckland on a Royal Tour of our Dominion. He Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh were given an enthusiastic welcome throughout the country. Their interest in all of their subjects will never be forgotten by the people of this country. A telegram was sent, to the Minister in waiting to the Queen, of welcome to our country.

On the 24th December, 1953, one of the greatest tragedies in the history of New Zealand took place at Tangiwai. It was a severe shock to the whole country at the Christmas season. A cloud seemed to hang over every city, town and country place at this time. Many families were lost, relations and friends parted for all time. A telegram was sent to the Prime Minister in sympathy with all connected in any way with the disaster. On the day of the funeral in Wellington a wreath was sent and Representatives of the Association were present at the Karori Cemetery.

An Annual Report was sent to all branches after the last Conference with the resolutions passed by the Delegates. These have all been dealt with and will be presented in the Conference.

Prior to the last Conference a deputation was taken to Parliament to the Minister of Immigration, Mr. Sullivan, on the subject of Restricted Immigration. There has been much uneasiness on the part of members about the above mentioned question. (It was decided in the last Conference by the Delegates to wait for a further letter, then call Committee—last year's Resolution No. 8.) This dissatisfaction on the part of some members as to the inaction of the Executive. On this question it is regretted that on such an important subject the Executive can do no more than what it is authorised to do.

The last Conference was convened at Auckland on the 4th and 5th days of April, during the Easter period. There were

Delegates present from the various centres and deliberations took place on many important subjects. The importance of such Conferences lie in that we are able to meet and exchange our views for the community. It is my earnest request to every Indian in New Zealand that he or she should give their utmost support to the Association. Without your co-operation the Executive is unable to achieve their objective. I thank you all for your co-operation to our Executive in the past year and I hope that in future we will have more unity among our members.

On behalf of the Executive,

K. DEVJI,  
President.

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The Report of the activities achieved during the year (1953-1954) is as follows:—

### **LAST YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

**Rules to Comply with Branches:** A report from the sub-committee appointed to revise the Rules of the above Association was presented by Mr. L. N. Patel for approval of the individual branches. This was a lengthy discussion by all and a decision was made that the drafted Rules be amended and distributed to all branches three months before next year's Conference for discussion and approval.

**South Africa Fund:** During last year the Reserve Bank was approached for a remittance to send money to All India Congress Committee in aid of South Africa Campaign. The Reserve Bank would prefer that the Association did not submit any application for permission to remit funds based on political matters. It was decided in the Executive Meeting to drop the matter, and at the Conference a resolution was passed to inform the All India Congress Committee of the Reserve Bank decision.

**Baroda State:** Correspondence during the year has taken place between the Indian High Commissioner's office and the secretary (J. G. Nager) and no satisfactory results are at hand, but we understand that it is still under Indian Government review.

**Binding of Important Records:** This work was entrusted to Mr. B. Singh who reported that he was not able to procure the records from the past official (Mr. Unka K. Danji). Mr. Danji said he had gone through the papers and could find nothing of importance. It was decided that the papers were to be sent to the secretary.

**Accommodation in Sydney:** Those Indians intending travelling to and from India who require accommodation, write or cable

to Messrs. John Campbell & Co., 195 Sussex Street, Sydney.  
Cable address: LORN, SYDNEY.

**Information to India:** Mr. Ramesh had been authorised to communicate with Mr. Parsai.

**British Postal Notes:** British Postal Notes have been available to the Indian Community since last October to be used for literature (books, newspapers) but NOT for maintenance of families, insurance policies, or a way to send money to India.

**Approach Reserve Bank before collecting Funds:** The Reserve Bank requests that persons intending collecting Funds must first approach the Reserve Bank for remittance to send to India.

**T.B. Fund for India:** A letter was received from the High Commissioner's Office for T.B. Fund for India. This matter was discussed at the Conference and the Delegates decided that each individual branch should deal with this in their own way.

Please note the three following subjects and read with care for your future use:—

1. British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship (or New Zealand passport): A New Zealand passport can be obtained by any person who can declare his or her true nationality to prove this, (i) a British-born Birth Certificate; (ii) that you were resident in New Zealand from January, 1948, until January, 1949.

2. No person qualifies for New Zealand citizenship if they entered this country under a temporary permit.

3. This does not include persons born in Protected States— for example, Baroda State, and there are others.

**New Zealand-born Child:** The birth of child occurred in New Zealand at a time when both parents, being of British nationality (being resident in New Zealand during 1948-1949 and born British subjects—see above paragraph). These children only require a New Zealand passport. They are unrestricted in their rights of egress and ingress from and to New Zealand. (No permit required.)

**Further Correspondence for Deputation:** A decision at the Executive Meeting at Pukekohe was to write a reminder to the Minister, Mr. Sullivan. The reply was as follows:

“I have not lost sight of the representations which your Association made early this year, but although a great deal of work has been carried out, the position is still the same as it was in February.

“The present legislation and policy is still under review but it may be some time yet before definite progress is made.

“Yours faithfully,

“W. SULLIVAN,

“Minister of Immigration.”

This letter was put to the Delegates at Conference and it was decided to refer the matter to the High Commissioner for India,  
(Continued on last page.)



15/10/53	Congratulations Cable Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi	2 17 9
27/11/53	Wedding Congratulation Telegram Mr. Kanji	1 2 9
27/11/53	Punch, Staples & Typewriter Ribbon	1 7 3
23/12/53	Welcome Telegram Queen. Arrival to N.Z.	5 10
23/12/53	Phone Call to President for New Rules	13 0
26/12/53	Sympathy Telegram. Tangiwai Train Disaster	6 2
31/12/53	Wreath Unidentified Train Disaster Victims	2 3 6
1/4/54	Year Rental for G.P.O. Box	2 10 0
2/4/54	Printer's Charge for 15 Copies of Rules	6 0 0
13/4/54	Printer's Charge for 50 Copies of President's Report	2 4 3
31/3/54	Annual Fee for Bank of N.Z.	1 0 0
	Cash on Hand	5 10
		<hr/>
		£114 8 0
	Balance in P.O. Savings Bank	339 18 4
	Balance in Bank of N.Z.	33 17 6
		<hr/>
		£488 4 3

	<hr/>
To pay General Secretary	£486 6 1
	1 18 2
	<hr/>
	£488 4 3
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General Carriappa, and await his reply. An Executive Committee Meeting will be called if we receive a negative answer for further action.

The President's Annual Report and the Secretary's Accounts and Balance Sheets were duly approved by all Delegates.

The resolution was passed unanimously by the Delegates that a vote of thanks be given to the officers for their services during the year 1953-1954.

The following new officers were elected for the year 1954-55:

**President:** Mr. J. K. Natali (Auckland).

**Vice-President:** Mr. Ravji Hira (Wellington).

**General Secretary:** Mr. J. G. Nager (Wellington).

**Assistant Secretary:** Mr. Narshi B. Patel (Auckland).

**Auditor:** Mr. S. Master (Manawatu).

**Committee:** Messrs. K. Devji (Auckland), Karam Singh (Country Section), U. K. Danji (Rotorua), C. Panchia (Manawatu), D. Madhav (Wellington), G. Chhiba (Christchurch), P. K. Chhiba (Pukekohe), M. Chunilal (Waikato).

### **NEW RESOLUTIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

1. It was resolved that the expense of the Executive Members attending meetings be paid out of the Funds of the Association, at the Members' request.

2. After a long discussion on the film distribution the Conference decided the Central body will not be involved.

3. The difficulties experienced by Mr. Daji Manga in trying to bring his wife and family to New Zealand was brought to the notice of General Carriappa. If he cannot help in any way full authority has been given to the General Secretary to act as he sees fit.

A luncheon was held at Mr. Hari Naran's residence in honour of General Carriappa, Indian High Commissioner to Australia and New Zealand. The General then attended the Conference and was welcomed by the President (Mr. J. K. Natali). The General gave an enlightening address to the members on their rights and duties in New Zealand. (A copy was sent to all branches.)

An invitation by the Country Section Association for next year's Conference was accepted.

All Delegates expressed their thanks to the Hawke's Bay-Manawatu Branch for their kind hospitality during their stay in their city.

As the Conference came to a close, the President, Mr. J. K. Natali, expressed his gratitude to the Delegates for their co-operation in helping to bring this gathering to a successful conclusion and he also thanked the members of the Hawke's Bay-Manawatu Assn. for the commendable manner in which they had taken care of the Delegates.

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN

Dear Friends,

No doubt most of you are aware that our N.Z. Government is seeking a loan of £30 million pounds by way of public subscriptions for National Development. As we consider ourselves citizens of this country, I feel it my duty to implore you to subscribe to this loan to the extent of your available finance. As you will see from the advertisements in daily papers, there are a lot of advantages in subscribing to this loan. I am sure quite a few of us have funds lying in banks earning nothing or in savings banks earning only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interest, while this loan guarantees a minimum interest of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. By subscribing to this loan we are not only bettering ourselves, but it also affords us a privilege to play our part in furthering the progress and prosperity of our adopted country. Our own welfare and prosperity depend on the very welfare and prosperity of this country; and as this loan is required for urgent needs we endeavour to support it. It is held against us that we do not play our part as citizens to help develop this country and this is our opportunity to prove that we have the welfare of the country at heart by subscribing to the loan.

I would like to see everyone investing at least £50 in this loan and more if possible. The minimum investment an individual can make in this loan is ten pounds or multiple of it. He will be entitled to the Certificate of Registration in his own name and will receive interest direct from the Reserve Bank every six months. Also this Government Stock is negotiable and can be sold in the open market if one wishes to sell later on.

I suggest every local Association each form a committee and approach members of their respective branch for subscriptions and fully explain the reason why we should subscribe to this loan. We have a lot of privileges in this country and we must also live up to our responsibilities as worthy citizens.

Yours faithfully,

J. K. NATALI,

President.

