Keynote address for ITS India Congress – 7 Oct 2026

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Ko Lee McKenzie tōku ingoa.

Ka nui te mihi ki a ITS India mō te tono kia kōrero ahau, ā, he honore nui tēnei ki ahau."

My greeting just now was in New Zealand Maori or Te Reo – it broadly translates to:

Warm greetings to you all.

My name is Lee McKenzie.

Thank you, ITS India for the invitation to speak at this Congress, which I regard as a great honour.

I would like to start my address with ‘World – if you are not watching what India is doing – you should be!’

Why? Because the Government of India has a vision to transform the nation into a developed country by 2047, coinciding with the centennial of its independence.

The overarching vision of Viksit Bharat, as it is known, is to transform India into a developed entity characterised by economic prosperity, social advancement, environmental sustainability, and effective governance.

The vision includes several pillars, themes and focus areas.

Environmentally, Viksit Bharat seeks to achieve net-zero carbon emissions and promote sustainable, and green growth, across all sectors.

In relation to technology and innovation, the vision aims to make India a global leader.

The initiative also focuses on 'sunrise sectors' such as digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, and overall technological advancement to propel India into the future.

Viksit Bharat is ambitious and not without its challenges but,

as a reminder of what India can achieve,

in 2016 it was ranked 66 out of 139 countries in global innovation, jumping 15 places from the previous year.

10 years later it is now ranked 38th, which reflects India’s continued growth in digital services, start-ups, research output, and knowledge creation.

And it will come as no surprise that India ranks first globally in ICT services exports, a position it has held since 2017.

So, I say again, the world should be watching India as it continues to make these quantum leaps and for those of us attending this Congress, we are lucky.

For international guests like me, please make the most of these next two days to learn from India and its successes.

To all delegates, share knowledge, make new connections, and identify opportunities for collaboration across borders that will help, not only India to achieve its vision, but all countries seeking to improve their economic, social and environmental outcomes.

And, while speaking of collaboration, I would like to take the opportunity to invite all of you to next year's ITS Asia Pacific Forum – with its theme of Advancing Intelligent Transport Together.

Over the three days, from 5-7 May in Auckland, you will have the opportunity to hear from transport technology experts, policy makers, researchers, academics and innovators not only from the Asia Pacific region, but from across the globe.

There will be technology demonstrations around the city of Auckland and a technical tour that will take you outside of Auckland, combining technology visits and presentations with sightseeing – including Hobbiton for those Lord of the Rings fans.

There is a fabulous exhibition space in the venue - Auckland's new International Convention Centre - and of course many different sponsorship opportunities which can be tailored for your business' needs.

Please consider presenting – showcase and share your research, your innovations and your successes with the wider ITS community or just attend. You are invited and we would love to see you.

India and New Zealand have just signed a free trade agreement so there has never been a better time to do business!

Finally, I would like to finish with this short promotional video for the Forum and wish all of you a great Congress over the next two days.

Nga mihi nui- thank you very much

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siTVN_1ynHs