India–New Zealand FTA in force from 20 Oct 2026; 100% duty-free access for Indian goods on all 8,284 tariff lines

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News

The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) entered into force on 20 Oct 2026. Talks began in March 2025 and concluded in December 2025; Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and NZ Trade Minister Todd McClay signed it in New Delhi on 27 Apr 2026. Indian goods get 100% duty-free access on all 8,284 of New Zealand's tariff lines from day one. India has opened about 70% of its tariff lines (~95% of NZ's current exports); dairy, sugar, edible oils, onions, chickpeas etc. are excluded. New Zealand committed to US$20 billion of investment in India over 15 years.

Key facts

In force	20 Oct 2026; ratification exchanged 21 Sept 2026, Wellington
Signed	27 Apr 2026, New Delhi – Piyush Goyal, Todd McClay
For India	100% duty-free on 8,284 tariff lines; NZ's earlier peak tariff 10% (textiles & clothing, engineering, leather, footwear)
Excluded	Dairy, sugar, edible oils, onions, chickpeas, peas, corn, almonds
Services / mobility	118 service sectors (incl. Ayurveda, Yoga); up to 4 years' post-study work for STEM graduates

Target	Bilateral trade NZ$7 bn by 2030; US$20 bn investment (15 yrs)

Background

- Terms: FTA – tariffs removed on most goods; CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership) – goods, services, investment, IPR; CECA – narrower cooperation than CEPA; PTA – concessions on only some goods.
- India's recent pacts: Mauritius CECPA (2021 – first with an African country), UAE CEPA (1 May 2022), Australia ECTA (29 Dec 2022), EFTA TEPA (1 Oct 2025), Oman CEPA (1 June 2026), UK CETA (15 July 2026).
- RCEP – 10 ASEAN nations + China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand; India walked out in November 2019. So this is India's first bilateral trade pact with New Zealand.
- Tariff line – a product category based on the Harmonized System (HS) code, developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO, Brussels) – 6 digits internationally; India uses the 8-digit ITC-HS. Geography: New Zealand – capital Wellington, largest city Auckland; two main islands, North and South.

Tamil Nadu link: the pact gives duty-free access to textiles and apparel; Tiruppur, India's knitwear capital, and auto-component exporters can gain (no State-specific estimate has been published yet).

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