

India–New Zealand FTA 2026 Explained: Key Benefits, Trade Impact, and What It Means for India’s Economy

After more than ten years of discussions, India and New Zealand inked a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA), significantly strengthening their bilateral economic ties. The agreement provides duty-free access to the majority of Indian exports, which is particularly advantageous for industries including engineering items, textiles, and medicines. Additionally, it opens up visa options for Indian professionals and students, improves labour mobility, and liberalizes services. Crucially, India has steadily lowered duties on certain imports while safeguarding delicate industries like dairy. It is anticipated that the pact will boost commerce, draw up to \$20 billion in investment, and bolster India's standing in the Indo-Pacific trading arena. All things considered, it is a calculated step to broaden exports and strengthen international economic ties.

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