



# 27.04.2026 NEWS

## INDIA–NEW ZEALAND TRADE AGREEMENT

- India has so far finalized free trade agreements with the United Arab Emirates, Australia, the United Kingdom, Oman, the European Union, and Mauritius. Some of these agreements have already come into force.
- The agreement is being signed at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi in the presence of Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay.
- » Tariff Removal on 95% of Goods
- The objective of the India–New Zealand bilateral trade agreement is to double trade between the two countries within five years.
- According to the agreement, 95% of goods exported from New Zealand to India—such as wool, coal, mutton (sheep meat), wood products, wine, kiwi fruit, blueberries, etc.—will either have tariffs removed or reduced.
- However, to protect Indian farmers and domestic industries, India will not provide any concessions on New Zealand's dairy products, onions, sugar, spices, cooking oil, rubber, etc.
- » 20 billion USD
- Certain goods are excluded from the agreement, including chickpeas, peas, maize, almonds, artificial honey, animal and vegetable fats, arms and explosives, gems and jewellery, copper and aluminium products.
- Investment Commitment , New Zealand has committed to invest around 20 billion USD in India over the next 15 years in sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure, services, innovation, and employment generation.
- Visa and Employment Opportunities, In the services sector, New Zealand will provide temporary work visas for skilled Indian professionals. Around 5,000 visas per year will be issued, allowing stays of up to 3 years.
- » Kiwi fruits
- Eligible professionals include Indian AYUSH doctors, yoga trainers, chefs, music teachers, and workers in IT, engineering, healthcare, education, construction, etc.
- Agricultural and Trade Cooperation, Under the agreement, New Zealand will implement agricultural technology initiatives related to kiwi fruit, apples, and honey.

- The agreement will also help increase India's exports of pharmaceuticals and medical devices to New Zealand. Indian products will be able to enter the New Zealand market without tariffs.
- » Statements by Piyush Goyal
- New Zealand Minister Todd McClay, along with his wife, visited India to sign the agreement.
- Both ministers visited the Taj Mahal with Union Minister Piyush Goyal and interacted with industrialists.
- Piyush Goyal stated that Indian exports to New Zealand will face no tariffs, which will benefit domestic industries, including leather exporters from Agra.

## **BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT IN TAMIL NADU AND MEGHALAYA**

- A five-year project has been launched to strengthen biodiversity conservation.
- The project focuses on : Greening Gram Panchayat development plans, Empowering local communities and institutions through financial allocation. Strengthening Panchayat institutions and Biodiversity Management Committees. Integrating biodiversity actions into local development planning.
- Officials from the Forest Department, Revenue Department, elected representatives, and others will work together in implementation.
- The project also promotes CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funding and green micro-enterprises for sustainable livelihoods.
- Implementation Areas, The project will be launched in:
- Sathyamangalam, Erode district (Tamil Nadu), Garo Hills, Meghalaya
- It is being implemented jointly by the Government of India, global environmental organizations, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- A total funding of Rs.46 crore has been allocated for the period 2025–2030.

## **RENOWNED PHOTOGRAPHER RAGHU RAI**

- Raghu Rai was born in 1942 in Jhang district of West Punjab (now in Pakistan). Although he qualified as an engineer, he developed a strong passion for photography.
- In 1966, he joined The Statesman newspaper as chief photographer.
- Over the next 60 years, he documented India's socio-political evolution through his camera.
- His major works include : 1972 Bangladesh refugee crisis, 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.
- He gained recognition for documenting the 1971 Bangladesh War and its aftermath, for which he was awarded the Padma Shri.
- He has also received numerous national and international awards.