

Hon Todd McClay
Minister for Trade and Investment
Government of New Zealand

27 April 2026

Dear Minister McClay,

In connection with the signing on this date of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (“the Agreement”), I have the honour to confirm the following understandings reached between the Government of the Republic of India (“India”) and the Government of New Zealand (“New Zealand”) (collectively as “the Parties”), which reads as follows:

1. As from the date of your reply confirming these understandings, the respective teams from India and New Zealand will start working towards reviewing Section E (Geographical Indications) of Chapter 11 (Intellectual Property) (“the Section”) of the Agreement with a view to completing the review within 6 months from the date on which the Agreement enters into force.
2. The review shall, without limiting what may otherwise be agreed:
 - (a) consider amendments to the Section to permit and provide a mechanism for the specific geographical indications to be identified and protected under this Agreement;
 - (b) address protection of specific geographical indications nominated by each party including, in the case of India, “BASMATI”;
 - (c) be undertaken with a view to amending the Agreement so that no less favourable treatment is applied under the Section to the geographical indications nominated by India than is provided under the New Zealand – European Union Free Trade Agreement or any other international agreement of New Zealand, including making available such protection to wines, spirits and other goods from India; and
 - (d) in relation to the names nominated by India under subparagraph (b), require New Zealand to promptly initiate any notification, opposition or other process it can demonstrate is required in relation to granting protection to those geographical indications.
3. The Parties recognise that any review will need to be conducted in accordance with each Party’s relevant international obligations, including any notification and process requirements required in relation to any consideration of protection of specific geographical indications.

4. To protect any geographical indications nominated by India as the result of the review, New Zealand shall take all steps necessary to provide that protection, including any legislative changes, as promptly as possible, with the aim to complete those steps within 12 months following the completion of the review.

I have the honour to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares these understandings, which will come into effect on the date on which the Agreement enters into force, shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Shri Piyush Goyal
Minister of Commerce and Industry
Government of the Republic of India

Shri Piyush Goyal
Honourable Minister of Commerce and Industry
Government of the Republic of India
Vanijya Bhawan, 16 Akbar Road
New Delhi -110001

27 April 2026

Dear Minister Goyal,

In connection with the signing on this date of the New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement (“the Agreement”) between the Government of New Zealand (“New Zealand”) and the Government of the Republic of India (“India”) (collectively as “the Parties”), I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, which reads as follows:

“In connection with the signing on this date of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (“the Agreement”), I have the honour to confirm the following understandings reached between the Government of the Republic of India (“India”) and the Government of New Zealand (“New Zealand”) (collectively as “the Parties”), which reads as follows:

1. *As from the date of your reply confirming these understandings, the respective teams from India and New Zealand will start working towards reviewing Section E (Geographical Indications) of Chapter 11 (Intellectual Property) (“the Section”) of the Agreement with a view to completing the review within 6 months from the date on which the Agreement enters into force.*
2. *The review shall, without limiting what may otherwise be agreed:*
 - (a) *consider amendments to the Section to permit and provide a mechanism for the specific geographical indications to be identified and protected under this Agreement;*
 - (b) *address protection of specific geographical indications nominated by each party including, in the case of India, “BASMATI”;*
 - (c) *be undertaken with a view to amending the Agreement so that no less favourable treatment is applied under the Section to the geographical indications nominated by India than is provided under the New Zealand – European Union Free Trade Agreement or any other international agreement of New Zealand, including making available such protection to wines, spirits and other goods from India; and*
 - (d) *in relation to the names nominated by India under subparagraph (b), require New Zealand to promptly initiate any notification, opposition or other process it can demonstrate is*

required in relation to granting protection to those geographical indications.

3. *The Parties recognise that any review will need to be conducted in accordance with each Party's relevant international obligations, including any notification and process requirements required in relation to any consideration of protection of specific geographical indications.*
4. *To protect any geographical indications nominated by India as the result of the review, New Zealand shall take all steps necessary to provide that protection, including any legislative changes, as promptly as possible, with the aim to complete those steps within 12 months following the completion of the review.*

I have the honour to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares these understandings, which will come into effect on the date on which the Agreement enters into force, shall constitute an integral part of the Agreement."

I have the further honour to confirm that the Government of New Zealand shares these understandings, and that your letter and this reply constitute an integral part of the Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Todd McClay
Minister of Trade and Investment
Government of New Zealand