

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 and the Government of New Zealand (“the Parties”) in relation to “working holiday visas”, which reads as follows:

1. The Parties undertake to promote youth mobility and strengthen people-to-people ties for young New Zealand and Indian citizens who wish to visit New Zealand or India to broaden their professional and cultural horizons.
2. To this end, New Zealand will implement a working holiday arrangement for Indian citizens within 2 years of entry into force of the Agreement. If India implements a similar youth mobility program in the future with any country, it will extend the opportunity to participate in such a program to New Zealand’s citizens.
3. Reflecting the understandings in paragraphs 1 and 2, New Zealand will implement arrangements to grant annually, according to its laws and procedures, up to 1,000 multiple entry “working holiday visas” for temporary stay for a period of 12 calendar months to Indian citizens who meet the eligibility requirements under New Zealand’s legislation who:
  - (i) hold a valid Indian passport;
  - (ii) agree to hold comprehensive medical and hospitalisation insurance for the duration of stay in New Zealand;
  - (iii) are outside New Zealand at the time of application for, and grant of the visa;
  - (iv) lodge a visa application in the prescribed manner;
  - (v) pay the appropriate fee, including any associated levies;
  - (vi) satisfies New Zealand that their primary intention is to holiday in New Zealand, with employment being an incidental rather than a primary reason for the visit;
  - (vii) is between 18 and 30 years of age, both inclusive, at the time of their application;

- (viii) will not be accompanied by dependents;
  - (ix) hold an onward travel ticket or sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket;
  - (x) possess sufficient funds for personal support for the purposes of work and holiday in New Zealand, and to depart New Zealand;
  - (xi) meet health and character requirements as specified by New Zealand's law;
  - (xii) have not previously taken part in New Zealand's "work and holiday" or "working holiday" programme;
  - (xiii) have a tertiary qualification granted in respect of a minimum of 3 years full time study; and
  - (xiv) have a level of proficiency in English which is assessed as at least functional.
4. Under New Zealand legislation, holders of a "working holiday visa" are currently permitted to:
- (i) make their first entry into New Zealand within 12 months of the date of grant of the visa;
  - (ii) remain in New Zealand for up to 12 months from the date of first entry;
  - (iii) leave and re-enter New Zealand as many times as they like during the 12 month stay period;
  - (iv) undertake paid or unpaid employment for the duration of their stay in New Zealand, but may only be employed for up to 6 months with any one employer; and
  - (v) undertake study or training for up to 4 months (17 weeks).
5. Amendments to these understandings may be made at any time and notified in writing through diplomatic channels. The date of effect of any such amendment will be stipulated in the diplomatic correspondence.
6. If required, the Parties will meet to review the operation of these understandings. As part of this review, the Parties will consider amendments to allow for a reciprocal "working holiday" arrangement.
7. Either Party may temporarily suspend the Arrangement, in whole or in part, for reasons of public security, public order, public health or

immigration risk. Any such suspension, and the date of its effect, will be notified to the other Party through diplomatic channels.

I have the further honour of proposing that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares these understandings will come into effect on the date of entry into force of the Agreement. I look forward to your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares these understandings.

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”), I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, 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 and the Government of New Zealand (“the Parties”) in relation to “working holiday visas”, which reads as follows:*

1. *The Parties undertake to promote youth mobility and strengthen people-to-people ties for young New Zealand and Indian citizens who wish to visit New Zealand or India to broaden their professional and cultural horizons.*
2. *To this end, New Zealand will implement a working holiday arrangement for Indian citizens within 2 years of entry into force of the Agreement. If India implements a similar youth mobility program in the future with any country, it will extend the opportunity to participate in such a program to New Zealand’s citizens.*
3. *Reflecting the understandings in paragraphs 1 and 2, New Zealand will implement arrangements to grant annually, according to its laws and procedures, up to 1,000 multiple entry “working holiday visas” for temporary stay for a period of 12 calendar months to Indian citizens who meet the eligibility requirements under New Zealand’s legislation who:*
  - (i) hold a valid Indian passport;*
  - (ii) agree to hold comprehensive medical and hospitalisation insurance for the duration of stay in New Zealand;*
  - (iii) are outside New Zealand at the time of application for, and grant of the visa;*
  - (iv) lodge a visa application in the prescribed manner;*

- (v) *pay the appropriate fee, including any associated levies;*
  - (vi) *satisfies New Zealand that their primary intention is to holiday in New Zealand, with employment being an incidental rather than a primary reason for the visit;*
  - (vii) *is between 18 and 30 years of age, both inclusive, at the time of their application;*
  - (viii) *will not be accompanied by dependents;*
  - (ix) *hold an onward travel ticket or sufficient funds to purchase such a ticket;*
  - (x) *possess sufficient funds for personal support for the purposes of work and holiday in New Zealand, and to depart New Zealand;*
  - (xi) *meet health and character requirements as specified by New Zealand's law;*
  - (xii) *have not previously taken part in New Zealand's "work and holiday" or "working holiday" programme;*
  - (xiii) *have a tertiary qualification granted in respect of a minimum of 3 years full time study; and*
  - (xiv) *have a level of proficiency in English which is assessed as at least functional.*
4. *Under New Zealand legislation, holders of a "working holiday visa" are currently permitted to:*
- (i) *make their first entry into New Zealand within 12 months of the date of grant of the visa;*
  - (ii) *remain in New Zealand for up to 12 months from the date of first entry;*
  - (iii) *leave and re-enter New Zealand as many times as they like during the 12 month stay period;*
  - (iv) *undertake paid or unpaid employment for the duration of their stay in New Zealand, but may only be employed for up to 6 months with any one employer; and*
  - (v) *undertake study or training for up to 4 months (17 weeks).*
5. *Amendments to these understandings may be made at any time and notified in writing through diplomatic channels. The date of*

*effect of any such amendment will be stipulated in the diplomatic correspondence.*

6. *If required, the Parties will meet to review the operation of these understandings. As part of this review, the Parties will consider amendments to allow for a reciprocal “working holiday” arrangement.*
7. *Either Party may temporarily suspend the Arrangement, in whole or in part, for reasons of public security, public order, public health or immigration risk. Any such suspension, and the date of its effect, will be notified to the other Party through diplomatic channels.*

*I have the further honour of proposing that this letter and your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares these understandings will come into effect on the date of entry into force of the Agreement. I look forward to your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares these understandings.”*

I have the further honour to confirm that the Government of New Zealand shares these understandings.

Yours sincerely,

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