



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

[www.vajiraoinstitute.com](http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com)



[info@vajiraoinstitute.com](mailto:info@vajiraoinstitute.com)

# TODAY'S ANALYSIS

## (19 March 2025)

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- INDIA NEW ZEALAND FTA NEGOTIATIONS
- MUDUMAL MEGALITHIC MENHIRS
- MCQs



#### ADDRESS:

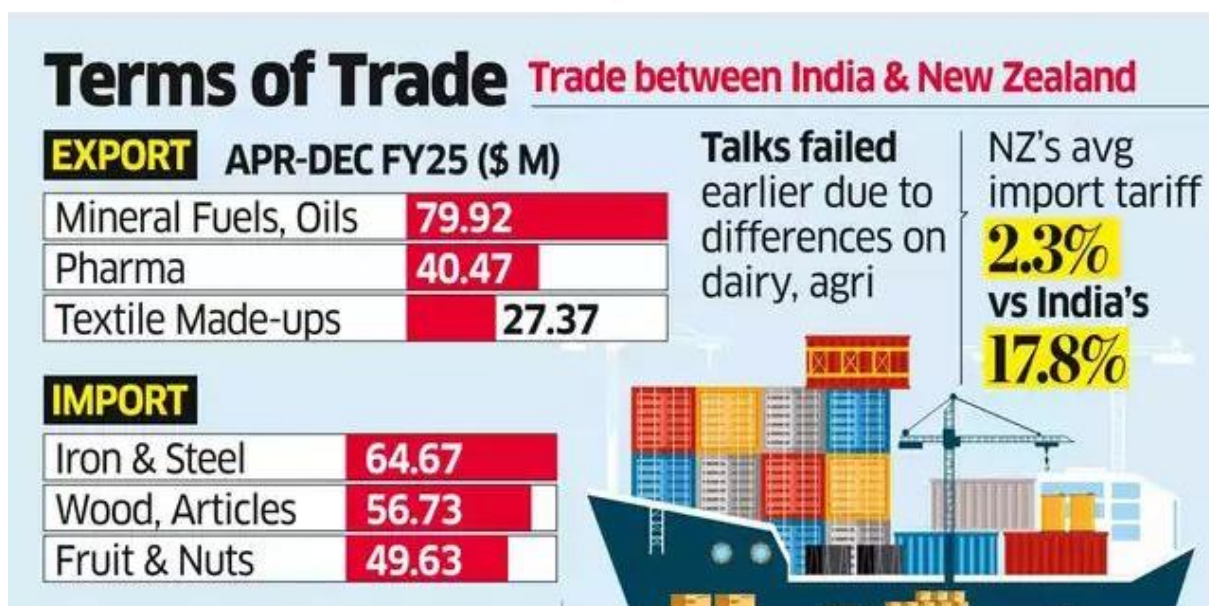
19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



# INDIA NEW ZEALAND FTA NEGOTIATIONS

## Background:

- India and New Zealand have officially announced the resumption of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), nearly ten years after the discussions stalled.
- This decision comes after a meeting between **Piyush Goyal**, India's Commerce and Industry Minister, and **Todd McClay**, New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment.
- The announcement aligns with the visit of New Zealand's Prime Minister **Christopher Luxon** to India from March 16, 2025.



ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

www.vajiraoinstitute.com

info@vajiraoinstitute.com



## KEY DETAILS

- **Initial Talks (2010-2015):** India and New Zealand had started negotiations in 2010, aiming to create a **Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)**.
- The goal was to enhance trade in goods, services, and investment. However, after nine rounds of discussions, these talks were stalled in 2015.
- **Resumption of Talks:** In March 2025, the two countries declared the launch of renewed FTA negotiations. The FTA aims to:
  - Promote **supply chain integration**.
  - Improve **market access** for both nations.
  - Promote balanced economic outcomes that benefit both sides.
- **Current Bilateral Trade:** Bilateral trade between India and New Zealand has been growing steadily, surpassing **\$1 billion** during the period of April-January 2025.
- In 2023-24, trade between the two nations stood at **\$873.4 million**, with **exports** amounting to **\$538.33 million** and **imports** totaling **\$335 million**.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

[www.vajiraoinstitute.com](http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com)

[info@vajiraoinstitute.com](mailto:info@vajiraoinstitute.com)



## POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- **India's Export Opportunities:** India exports various goods to New Zealand, including:
  - **Clothing, home textiles, and fabrics.**
  - **Medicines and medical supplies.**
  - **Refined petrol, auto parts, and electronics.**
  - **Iron and steel, agricultural machinery.**
  - **Shrimps, basmati rice, and diamonds.**
- **New Zealand's Export Opportunities:** New Zealand primarily exports to India:
  - **Agricultural products like apples, kiwifruit, and dairy products.**
  - **Meat products** such as **lamb** and **mutton**.
  - **Coking coal, logs, timber, wool, and scrap metals.**
- **Cultural Link:** The large **Indian diaspora** in New Zealand, with over **250,000 people** of Indian origin, offers a strong cultural connection, which could further enhance trade ties.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



## CHALLENGES

- **Tariff Concerns:**
  - New Zealand already offers **duty-free access** to a significant number of Indian goods (58.3% of New Zealand's tariff lines are duty-free).
  - **India's tariff rates** are comparatively higher, with an average tariff of **17.8%**, unlike New Zealand's much lower average of **2.3%**.
- **Agricultural Concessions:** One of the key areas of negotiation will be **agricultural products** like **apples, kiwi, dairy, and wine**.
- India has been cautious in offering significant **duty concessions** in agricultural products in its previous FTAs, including with **Singapore, Japan, South Korea**, and the **ASEAN** countries.
- Hence, reaching a consensus on agricultural tariffs could be a tricky issue in the talks.

## CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS

- According to the **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)**, the **FTA might not have significant benefits for India's domestic industries** as they already have considerable access to the New Zealand market.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)





- This is due to the fact that **New Zealand already offers duty-free access to many Indian products.**

- **Trade Growth:** Despite the challenges, both nations are optimistic that the FTA will unlock new business opportunities, helping businesses and consumers in both countries by enhancing trade and market access.

## ABOUT INDIA NEW ZEALAND RELATIONS

- Diplomatic ties between **India** and **New Zealand** were established in **1952**.
- Both are part of the **Commonwealth of Nations** and share common law practices.
- Strong cultural and sporting ties, especially in **cricket, hockey, and mountaineering**.

### Key Policies and Strategies:

#### 1. Opening Doors to India (2011):

- New Zealand made India a **priority** in foreign policy, renewed in **2015**.

#### 2. NZ Inc. India Strategy (2011):

- Strategy to make India a **key partner** in trade, politics, and economy.

#### 3. India-NZ 2025 Strategy (2020):

- Focused on **long-term, strategic** ties.

#### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



## BILATERAL VISITS & HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS

### Prime Ministerial Meetings:

- **PM Modi** and **PM Luxon** met during **East Asia Summit** (October 2024) and had phone discussions in **July 2024**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** visited New Zealand in **August 2024**.

### Ministerial Meetings:

- **Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal** and **NZ Trade Minister Todd McClay** met in **December 2024**.
- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** and **NZ DPM Winston Peters** met in **November 2024**.

### Institutional Dialogue Mechanisms:

- **India-NZ Foreign Ministry Consultations (FMC):**
  - 5th FMC held in **August 2023**, covering **trade, defense, education, and cultural exchanges**.
- **Joint Trade Committee (JTC):**
  - Latest meeting in **April 2024**, focused on **trade growth** and **pharmaceutical cooperation**.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

[www.vajiraoinstitute.com](http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com)



[info@vajiraoinstitute.com](mailto:info@vajiraoinstitute.com)

## Bilateral Trade:

- **Total Trade (2023-24): US\$ 1.75 billion.**
  - **India's Imports from NZ: US\$ 0.91 billion.**
  - **India's Exports to NZ: US\$ 0.84 billion.**
- **Key Imports to India: Wool, Iron & Steel, Fruit & Nuts, Aluminium.**
- **Key Exports from India: Pharmaceuticals, Mechanical Machinery, Made-Up Textiles, Pearls & Precious Stones.**

## Trade Growth (Last Five Years):

- Total trade has been growing, with a peak in 2023 at **US\$ 1.75 billion.**

## DEFENCE COOPERATION

- **Naval Visits:**
  - **Rear Admiral David Proctor**, Chief of the **Royal New Zealand Navy**, visited India in **February 2024.**
  - Indian Navy ships **INS Sahyadri** and **INS Kolkata** visited New Zealand in **September 2023.**

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)





**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

[www.vajiraoinstitute.com](http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com)



[info@vajiraoinstitute.com](mailto:info@vajiraoinstitute.com)

- **Combined Naval Task Force:**

- New Zealand led the **Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150)** in **January 2025**,  
with Indian Navy personnel.

- **Customs Cooperation:**

- **India and New Zealand** signed a **Customs Cooperation Agreement** in **August 2024** to increase trade and fight crime.

### **Education and Cultural Ties:**

- **Indian Students in New Zealand:** India is the **second-largest** source of international students in New Zealand with **8,000 students**.
- **IIT Delhi-NZ Collaboration:** Agreement in **2020** to set up a **NZ Centre** at IIT Delhi for research in **cybersecurity, robotics, and medical technology**.

### **People-to-People Ties:**

- The **Indian community** in New Zealand (around **292,092**) plays a significant role in strengthening bilateral ties.

### **ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

[www.vajiraoinstitute.com](http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com)



[info@vajiraoinstitute.com](mailto:info@vajiraoinstitute.com)

## New Indian Consulate in Auckland:

- A new **Indian Consulate** opened in **September 2024**, further enhancing **cultural and diplomatic relations**.

## CONCLUSION

India and New Zealand have a **strong and growing relationship** in many areas, including **trade, defence, education, and cultural exchanges**.

Both countries are **committed to working closely** on a range of issues, such as trade agreements, educational cooperation, and shared defence interests.

With more high-level visits, expanding trade, and deeper people-to-people connections, the future of their relationship looks promising.

## ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050

+918988886060



www.vajiraoinstitute.com

info@vajiraoinstitute.com



# MUDUMAL MEGALITHIC MENHIRS

## Context :

- The **Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs**, or standing stones, located in the Narayanpet district of Telangana, have recently been included in the tentative list of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites from India**.
- These stones are believed to be between 3,500 to 4,000 years old and are significant both for their historical value and their connection to astronomy.
- In March 2025, India added **6 new properties** to its **UNESCO Tentative List**, increasing the total count of tentative sites in the country to **62**.
- This announcement was made official on **March 7**, through the **Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO**.

## WHAT IS UNESCO TENTATIVE LIST?

- The **tentative list** is a crucial step in the nomination process for a site to be inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- According to **UNESCO**, each country must first include a property in its **tentative list** before it can be formally nominated for World Heritage status.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- Being included in the tentative list is a way for countries to express their intention to recognize and protect their cultural and natural heritage for future generations.
- This inclusion reflects **India's ongoing commitment** to the **preservation** and **promotion** of its vast and diverse cultural and natural heritage.
- By adding these 6 new properties to the list, India continues to expand the scope of its potential World Heritage Sites.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- The **Mudumal Menhirs** are among the largest and most well-preserved megalithic sites in India, making it an important discovery in terms of **pre-historic archaeology**.
- The site consists of **large standing stones**, arranged in specific patterns, which are believed to have served two key functions:
  - **Burial sites:** They are likely associated with ancient **burial practices**, marking the graves of early communities.
  - **Astronomical observatories:** The stones were possibly used to track celestial events like the **sun** and **stars**, suggesting a high level of **astronomical knowledge**.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050

+918988886060



[www.vajiraoinstitute.com](http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com)

[info@vajiraoinstitute.com](mailto:info@vajiraoinstitute.com)



## KEY FEATURES OF THE SITE

### Archaeological Importance:

- The site comprises around **80 large standing stones**, each ranging from **10 to 14 feet** tall, scattered over an **80-acre area**.
- The stones are carefully **arranged in specific alignments**, which suggests they were used to mark important events such as the **equinoxes** and **solstices**, key events in the **solar calendar**.
- In addition to the large menhirs, there are **nearly 3,000 smaller stones**, adding to the site's complexity and significance.

### Astronomical Significance:

- The menhirs offer evidence of **astronomical knowledge** from ancient times. One of the stones is believed to represent the **Ursa Major constellation** (Saptarshi Mandal), which was crucial for navigation.
- Some of the stones have **cup marks**, which align with the **North Star** (Polaris), helping ancient people determine direction at night and marking the **change of seasons**.

### Cultural Significance:

- The site is an important part of local folklore. Villagers consider the stones sacred, with one stone believed to be **Goddess Yellamma**. This reflects the deep **spiritual connection** the local community has with the site.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)





**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050

+918988886060



www.vajiraoinstitute.com

info@vajiraoinstitute.com



- The menhirs are referred to as 'Niluralla Thimmappa', highlighting their cultural and religious importance to the locals.

## OTHER SITES ADDED TO THE TENTATIVE LIST

### India adds six sites to UNESCO's tentative list

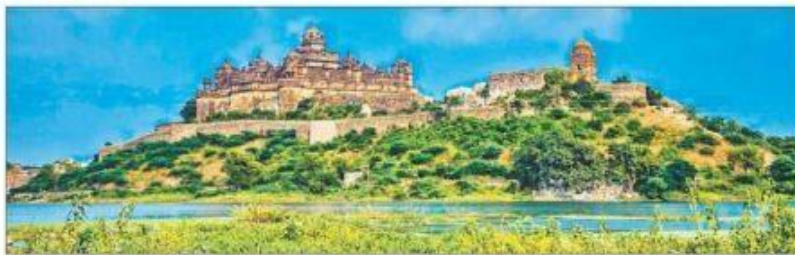
Six properties, including serial sites like Ashokan Edict Sites and Chausath Yogini Temples, have been added to India's tentative UNESCO World Heritage list this week. This step is mandatory for future nominations. Here's a look at the newly listed sites seeking UNESCO recognition.



Chausath Yogini Temple, MP

These shrines are dedicated to 64 Shakti goddesses and are found in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha. The Yogini Temple of Mitaoli (in picture) is known for its circular architecture.

PICS: SHUTTERSTOCK



**Bundela Palaces**

Datia Palace, part of the Bundelkhand heritage near Gwalior city, has never been inhabited by the royal family.



**Kanger Valley National Park, CH**

This park in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region is home to many species of animals and also houses caves made of limestones.



**Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs, Telangana**

Dating back to 4,000 yrs, these are a remnant of India's megalithic tradition.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE



**Gupta Temples**

Twenty temples of the Gupta period are listed. They feature Buddhist and Hindu heritage.



**Edicts of Ashoka, multiple sites**

These are the collection of more than 30 inscriptions dedicated to Emperor Ashoka.

#### 1. Kanger Valley National Park (Chhattisgarh)

- **Location:** Bastar district, Chhattisgarh

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



- **Significance:** Known for biodiversity and unique geological features.
- **Key Features:**
  - Home to **Bastar Hill Myna**, the state bird of Chhattisgarh.
  - Habitat for a variety of flora and fauna of national and international importance.
  - Offers **ecotourism potential** due to its natural beauty.

## 2. Ashokan Edict Sites along the Mauryan Routes (Multiple States)

- **Location:** Various states (Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, etc.)
- **Significance:** Serial nomination of sites with **Ashoka's edicts**, dating back to the **3rd century BCE**.
- **Key Features:**
  - Reflects **Mauryan governance** and **support for Buddhism**.
  - Inscribed on rocks, caves, and pillars across India.

## 3. Chausath Yogini Temples (Multiple States)

- **Location:** Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
- **Significance:** Ancient temples dedicated to **64 Yoginis**, representing Hindu Tantra and spirituality.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

www.vajiraoinstitute.com

info@vajiraoinstitute.com



- **Key Features:**

- Built between the **9th-12th centuries**.
- Roofless, circular or octagonal temples.
- Contains **64 images of Yoginis**, with intricate stone carvings.
- Many temples located on hilltops with scenic views.

#### 4. Gupta Temples of North India (Multiple States)

- **Location:** Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
- **Significance:** Early examples of **temple architecture** during the **Gupta period** (4th-6th centuries CE).
- **Key Features:**
  - Transition from **cave architecture** to **structural temples**.
  - Temples like **Dashavatara Temple** (Deogarh) and **Bhitargaon Temple** (Uttar Pradesh).
  - **Shikhara towers**, intricate sculptures, and terracotta panels.

#### 5. Palace-Fortresses of the Bundelas (Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh)

- **Location:** Orchha (Madhya Pradesh) and Datia (Uttar Pradesh)

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)





**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050

+918988886060



www.vajiraoinstitute.com

info@vajiraoinstitute.com



- **Significance:** Architectural masterpieces of the **Bundela dynasty** (medieval period).
- **Key Features:**
  - Fusion of **Rajput** and **Mughal** architectural styles.
  - **Jehangir Mahal** (Orchha) and **Govind Mahal** (Datia) as key examples.
  - Represents the cultural context of the Bundela dynasty.

## INDIA'S CURRENT UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- **Total:** 43 World Heritage Sites (2024).
  - **Cultural Sites:** 35
  - **Natural Sites:** 7
  - **Mixed Sites:** 1
- **Notable Addition (2024): Moidams** (Ahom Dynasty burial sites) in Assam, officially inscribed on the World Heritage List.

In conclusion, the Mudumal Menhirs are a remarkable archaeological site that blends both ancient burial practices and advanced knowledge of astronomy. This recognition by UNESCO is an important step toward preserving and studying the site for future generations.

### ADDRESS:

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

www.vajiraoinstitute.com

info@vajiraoinstitute.com



## MCQs

1. Consider the following Assertion & Reasoning statements and mark the correct ones:

**Assertion (A):** India New Zealand trade agreement negotiations have failed in past.

**Reasoning (R):** There were differences on agriculture & dairy trade.

- (A) Both A & R are true and R is the correct explanation on A.  
(B) Both A & R are true & R is not the correct explanation of A.  
(C) A is true R is false.  
(D) A is false R is true.

**Ans. (A)**

2. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:

1. India & NZ established formal diplomatic relations in 1952.  
2. Both India & NZ are part of Commonwealth.

- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 & 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (C)**

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)





3. Consider the following pairs and mark how many of them is/are correctly matched:

**Type of UNESCO Site      No. of sites in India (As of 2024)**

- |             |    |
|-------------|----|
| 1. Natural  | 35 |
| 2. Cultural | 8  |
| 3. Mixed    | 1  |

- (A) Only 1 pair is correctly matched
- (B) Only 2 pairs are correctly matched
- (C) All the pairs are correctly matched
- (D) None of the pairs are correctly matched.

**Ans. (B)**

4. Which of these can be considered the astronomical significance of Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs?

- (A) It helped ancient people to predict astronomical mishappenings.
- (B) It helped ancient people to predict Solar Storms.
- (C) It helped ancient people determine direction at night and marking the change of seasons.
- (D) None of the above

**Ans. (C)**

**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)



**VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE**

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

+918988885050



+918988886060

[www.vajiraoinstitute.com](http://www.vajiraoinstitute.com)



[info@vajiraoinstitute.com](mailto:info@vajiraoinstitute.com)

5. Recently Kanger Valley National Park was in news. In which state of India is it located?

- (A) Chhattisgarh
- (B) Jharkhand
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Bihar

**Ans. (A)**



**ADDRESS:**

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)