

# Duty concessions under New Zealand FTA to help boost exports of single malt whisky: CIABC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

■ New Delhi

Duty concessions on Indian liquor under the free trade agreement with New Zealand will boost exports of single malt whisky and enhance price competitiveness for other items in the island nation, industry body CIABC said on Tuesday.

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) also said that given the current low export base, the agreement

is likely to support market entry and brand building, particularly in segments such as whisky, rum and premium Indian spirits.

"The FTA is expected to provide duty-free access for Indian alcoholic beverage exports into New Zealand, improving price competitiveness for Indian products in that market," the body's Director General Anant S Iyer said. India's exports of spirits is just around \$1 million per annum to New Zealand. Currently, some premium



liquors, particularly Indian single malts, are being exported to New Zealand.

Hopefully with the free trade agreement in place,

Indian alcobev companies will increase their focus and develop the market, he said, adding that wines and beer have more consumption

share in New Zealand. "With duty concessions on Indian liquor, we see exports of Indian single malts, which have earned laurels globally, getting a boost in New Zealand," he said.

India's alcobev exports to New Zealand are currently modest. In 2024-25, beer exports stood at around \$0.34 million, followed by whisky (\$0.13 million) and rum (\$0.04 million).

Other categories such as vodka and gin remain negligible, while wine exports

are minimal, keeping overall trade at a low base.

At present, alcoholic beverages in New Zealand are subject primarily to excise duties, typically applied either per litre of product in the case of wine, or per litre of alcohol in the case of spirits.

"Import tariffs are already low, but the FTA is expected to provide duty-free access and greater certainty, while domestic taxes and regulatory requirements will continue to apply," Iyer said.