

CIABC welcomes India-UK trade agreement

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INDIA-UK FTA

CIABC
CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMPANIES

**CIABC WELCOMES INDIA-UK
TRADE AGREEMENT**

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The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) has welcomed the India–UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), formally known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which came into effect on 15th July,

describing it as a landmark step in strengthening bilateral trade and creating a more balanced framework for the alcoholic beverages sector.

CIABC Director General, Anant S. Iyer, said, “Alcoholic beverages are an important component in the India-UK trade. We hope the FTA will lead to enhanced cooperation, sharing of technical know-how and best practices that will help the alcobev industry grow. We also hope the FTA will drive investments into India and help Indian companies looking for investments in the UK.”

He added that the phased reduction in import duty on Scotch whisky over 10 years would help Indian manufacturers manage rising input, logistics and production costs while giving the domestic industry sufficient time to adapt.

CIABC also urged state governments to ensure competitive neutrality between Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL), bottled-in-India products and bottled-in-origin imports. The association said states such as Haryana, Delhi, Assam, Odisha, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala should remove policy distortions that favour imported products, noting that a level playing field would strengthen the domestic value chain and support the objectives of Make in India and Vocal for Local.

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