



EU Market Access Frameworks: Pakistan's GSP+ and the EU-India FTA

A Comparative Guide to Major Provisions



Background and Scope

The European Union's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) is designed to support developing countries in reducing poverty, promoting good governance, and advancing sustainable development. By granting tariff preferences, the scheme enables beneficiary countries to generate additional revenue through international trade, which can then be reinvested in economic diversification and development. The preferences are specifically targeted at countries with greater development, trade, and financial needs.

The GSP framework consists of a general arrangement and two special arrangements: Standard GSP, GSP+, and Everything But Arms (EBA).

Pakistan has been a beneficiary of the EU's GSP+ arrangement since 2014, allowing complete duty suspension on 66 percent of the tariff lines traded with the EU. Textile and apparel products from Pakistan enter the EU market at zero duty under GSP+.

India, prior to negotiating an FTA, benefited from the Standard GSP scheme, under which some textile and apparel products were subject to duties of up to 12 percent. The country lost its Standard GSP status in January 2026 due to the EU's threshold and graduation criteria and subsequently pursued an FTA with the world's largest trading bloc, under which all tariff lines covering textiles and apparel for India are reduced to zero duty.

This marks a historic change in the export competitiveness of not just India, but also Pakistan.

With annual textile and apparel exports to the EU amounting to approximately USD 7 billion, comparable to Pakistan's exports, India now

stands on similar footing in terms of tariff preferences in the European market.

Against this backdrop, this document presents a comparative analysis of Pakistan's GSP+ framework and the proposed EU-India FTA, examining the major provisions under both EU trading arrangements.

It is important to note that the EU-India FTA has not yet been formally signed, and the final legal text is not publicly available.

Accordingly, this analysis is based on:

- a)** The legal text of the current GSP+ Regulation; and
- b)** Publicly available information on the major provisions of the FTA published on the EU's official website and India's Ministry of Commerce.

Two further considerations are relevant. First, although a new GSP Regulation has been proposed by the EU, it has not yet been adopted. Therefore, this analysis is strictly based on the current legal framework: Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012.

Second, there is a possibility that provisions related to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) may be incorporated into the EU-India FTA. Such provisions would focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in both trading partners and potentially recognizing the carbon price effectively paid in India under CBAM-based calculations. The publication of the final legal text of the FTA will provide a clearer and more comprehensive understanding of the extent to which these provisions are formally incorporated.

Source of Information

Analysis is strictly based on the following sources:

1. Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India
2. Trade and Economic Security Section, European Commission, *EU–India Free Trade Agreement*
3. Trade and Economic Security Section, European Commission, *Generalised Scheme of Preferences*
4. WTO Tariff and Trade Data, Integrated Database and Consolidated Tariff Schedules

Contents

Pakistan’s GSP+ and EU-India FTA at a Glance.....	6
Comparative Analysis by Provisions	8
Section 1: Legal Nature and Framework.....	8
Section 2: Eligibility Criteria	8
Section 3: Tariff Liberalization – Goods	11
Section 4: Safeguards And Sensitive Sectors.....	19
Section 5: Rules Of Origin	21
Section 6: Monitoring, Reporting, and Review	23
Section 7: Withdrawal And Suspension of the GSP Scheme	24
Section 8: Services and Mobility	25
Section 9: Intellectual Property	26
Section 10: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) And Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).....	27
Annex I: Binding UN Conventions and Ratification Status under the GSP Regime	28
Annex II: GSP Eligible Sections and Products	30

Relevant Tables and Boxes

Figure 1: Tariff Structure under GSP+ and EU-India FTA.....	12
Figure 2: Treatment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Products.....	20
Figure 3: Flexibilities under EU GSP+	22

Pakistan's GSP+ and EU-India FTA at a Glance

Feature	Pakistan – GSP+	India–EU FTA
Legal Nature	Conditional, Unilateral EU preference scheme	Bilateral, negotiated Free Trade Agreement
Reciprocity	X No reciprocal commitments	✓ Reciprocal market access commitments
Depth	Tariff focused	Comprehensive (goods + services + Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) + Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) + sustainability)
Eligibility Basis	Vulnerability criteria + 27 UN Conventions	Negotiated agreement; Should not be a GSP beneficiary; no vulnerability test
Sustainability Obligations	Mandatory ratification & implementation of 27 UN conventions	Legally binding Trade & Sustainable Development (TSD) chapter
Monitoring Mechanism	Continuous EU review + biennial reporting	Joint institutional mechanisms + dispute settlement
Tariff Liberalization – Goods	~66% tariff lines on zero duty; ~80% exports duty-free	Tariff elimination; EU: >90% tariff lines; India: 86%; phased liberalization for many sectors
Tariff Reciprocity	X EU grants tariff preferences; Pakistan not expected to liberalize	✓ Both EU & India liberalize
Sensitive Sectors	EU may limit/reduce preferences unilaterally	Negotiated exclusions + Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) + bilateral safeguards
Product level Suspension	EU can suspend preferences based on graduation thresholds	Bilateral safeguard mechanism
Preference Withdrawal	Possible in case of convention violations	Not preference-based; disputes handled via FTA mechanisms

Feature	Pakistan – GSP+	India–EU FTA
Textiles and Apparel (EU import duty)	✓ 0% under GSP+	EU MFN range 0–12%, reduced to 0% under FTA
Rice Sector	Sensitive; EU duties apply at 7.7%	Sensitive; remains 7.7% (TRQ + safeguards planned)
Rules of Origin	Tariff preference based strictly on EU-defined RoO (double transformation for textiles)	Product-Specific Rules (PSRs); negotiated flexibility
Cumulation	Regional & bilateral cumulation allowed	Global value chain flexibility + MSME quotas
Services Coverage	✗ Goods only	✓ 144 EU + 102 India services subsectors
Mobility Provisions	✗ None	✓ Business visitors, Information and Communication Technology (ICTs), professionals
Intellectual Property	✗ No dedicated IP chapter (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) via WTO only)	✓ Dedicated IPR chapter (TRIPS+, enforcement, TKDL recognition)
SPS & TBT	✗ No dedicated chapters; WTO-based	✓ Dedicated TBT chapter + transparency + working group
Trade Remedies	EU retains unilateral powers	Bilateral powers + trade defence instruments confirmed
Dispute Settlement	No equal bilateral dispute mechanism, EU Monitoring mission to monitor compliances	Structured, time-bound dispute settlement
CBAM Linkage	Not embedded	Possible negotiation under FTA (subject to final text)
Duration/Stability	Preference-based; for technically 10 years; can be withdrawn	Treaty-based; higher legal certainty

Comparative Analysis by Provisions

Section 1: Legal Nature and Framework

Pakistan - GSP+: Unilateral agreement

- The “special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance” (GSP+) forms part of the EU’s Generalised Scheme of Preferences.
- GSP+ is a unilateral scheme under which tariff concessions are granted only to Pakistan.
- The EU does not request tariff concessions in return.

EU-India FTA: Bilateral agreement

- The India–EU FTA is a “modern, rules-based trade partnership” and a “Free Trade Agreement” between India and the EU.
- Both parties have liberalised tariffs and reduced non-tariff barriers in trade in goods and services.

Section 2: Eligibility Criteria

Pakistan - GSP+

For a country to qualify and become a GSP beneficiary it is important that:

- It is not party to any other free trade agreement with the EU.
- It is considered “vulnerable” due to a lack of export diversification and insufficient integration into the international trading system.
 - A “vulnerable country” is a country:
 - Where the seven largest GSP product sections of its exports to the EU account for more than 75% of the total value of its exports to the EU, calculated as an average over the last three consecutive years;
 - Where its product-wise exports to the EU represent less than 6% of the total EU imports of those same products from all the GSP

beneficiary countries¹, calculated as an average over the last three consecutive years.

- In addition, the country must:
 - Have ratified the 27 UN conventions on human rights, labour rights, the environment, and good governance as listed in Annex I of this document.
 - Not have any prohibited reservations or reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of these conventions.
 - Not be identified in the latest conclusions of the relevant monitoring bodies as having seriously failed to effectively implement those conventions.
 - Provide binding undertakings to:
 - Maintain ratification of the relevant conventions;
 - Ensure their effective implementation;
 - Accept without reservation the reporting requirements under each convention;
 - Accept regular monitoring and review of its implementation record;
 - Participate in and cooperate with the monitoring procedure led by the EU's monitoring mission referred to in the agreement.

EU-India FTA

For India to be eligible for the FTA with the EU, the initial requirement was to exit the GSP scheme.

Prior to the FTA, India was a beneficiary of the standard GSP. However, as per the GSP threshold requirements (please refer to section 7: Withdrawal And Suspension of the GSP Scheme), Indian exports had already begun graduating out of the standard GSP.

Other key requirements include:

- The FTA is based on reciprocal commitments, requiring both parties to agree to mutually negotiated market access and regulatory obligations.
- In addition, both parties must commit to legally binding provisions under the Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) chapter, including:

¹ GSP beneficiary countries include those benefiting from the Standard GSP arrangement, GSP+, as well as the EBA arrangement.

The 6% threshold level changes as countries withdraw from the GSP scheme or are newly included.

- Respect for internationally recognised labour standards, including core International Labour Organization (ILO) principles such as:
 - Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining
 - Elimination of forced and compulsory labour;
 - Abolition of child labour;
 - Non-discrimination in employment;
 - Ensuring safe and healthy working conditions.
- Commitment to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) ratified by each party, including:
 - The Paris Agreement on climate change;
 - The Convention on Biological Diversity;
 - The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Commitment to environmental protection and sustainable resource management, including:
 - Forest conservation;
 - Sustainable use of biodiversity;
 - Combating illegal wildlife trade and illegal logging;
 - Addressing Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- The agreement also requires both parties to cooperate on sustainability-related issues, including:
 - Climate change mitigation and renewable energy;
 - Promotion of circular and resource-efficient economic practices;
 - Facilitation of trade in low-carbon goods, services, and technologies.

Key Distinction:

GSP+ eligibility is unilateral and conditional, based on vulnerability thresholds and strict compliance with 27 UN conventions, and is subject to continuous EU monitoring. In contrast, the EU–India FTA is a reciprocal, negotiated agreement requiring mutually agreed market access commitments.

While reciprocal in nature, the FTA also incorporates legally binding and mutually negotiated sustainability obligations.




Section 3: Tariff Liberalization – Goods

Pakistan - GSP+

- The scheme provides unilateral tariff cuts, meaning that the Common Customs Tariff on all products listed in Annex II of this document is suspended for Pakistan, except for products for which the Common Customs Tariff includes ad valorem duties.
- As a result, almost 80% of Pakistan's total exports enter the EU duty free.

EU-India FTA




- Once the FTA is formalised, the EU will eliminate tariffs on over 90% of tariff lines (91% in terms of value).
- India will eliminate tariffs on 86% of tariff lines (93% in terms of value).
- Moreover, both sides will partially liberalise a significant additional number of tariff lines, thereby bringing the overall coverage of trade liberalisation to 96.6% for India and 99.3% for the EU.
- There are significant benefits for key economic sectors on each side, such as:
 - **For the EU:** agri-food (including rice), chemical, pharmaceutical, machinery, medical devices, avionics, and automotive industries.
 - **For India:** fisheries, chemicals, textiles, footwear, and pharmaceuticals.
- The following table provides an overview of how tariffs are liberalised for India and the EU under the FTA, and for Pakistan under GSP+:




EU-INDIA FTA ²							PAKISTAN'S GSP+	
For EU Exporters ³ 				For Indian Exporters ⁴ 			For Pakistani Exporters 	
Product	Pre FTA Tariffs	Post FTA Tariffs	Staging	Product	Pre FTA Tariffs	Post FTA Tariffs	Product	Tariffs under GSP+
Textile	Average: 15.9% Max: 255%		-	Textile	Ranging between 0 and 12%	0%	Textile	0%
Clothing	Average: 21.3% Max: 32%		-	Clothing	Ranging between 0 and 12%	0%	Clothing	0%
Machinery and electrical equipment	Average: 10.9% Max: 44%	0% for almost all products	Up to 10 years	Marine	Average: 11.6% Max: 26%	0%	Marine	0%




² Tariffs will be officially announced in the final/legal agreement




³ Tariffs on European exporters by India




⁴ Tariffs on Indian exporters by the EU

EU-INDIA FTA ²							PAKISTAN'S GSP+	
For EU Exporters ³ 				For Indian Exporters ⁴ 			For Pakistani Exporters 	
			(mostly 5-7)					
Aircraft and spacecraft	Up to 11%	0% for almost all products	Up to 10 years (mostly 5)	Leather and footwear	Average: 4.1% Max: 17%	0%	Leather and footwear	0%
Optical, medical and surgical equipment	Up to 27,5%	0% for 90% of the products	Up to 10 years (mostly EIF, 5 or 7)	Chemicals (inorganic, organic, and agrochemicals)	up to 12.8%	0% on 97.5% tariff lines	Chemicals (inorganic, organic, and agrochemicals)	0%
Plastics	Up to 16,5%	0% for almost all products	Up to 10 years (mostly 7)	Plastic	6.50%	0%	Plastic	0%

EU-INDIA FTA ²							PAKISTAN'S GSP+	
For EU Exporters ³				For Indian Exporters ⁴			For Pakistani Exporters	
								
Pearls, precious stones and metals	Up to 22,5%	0% for 20% of the products and tariff reduction for another 36% of the products	Up to 10 years (mostly 5)	Sports goods	0% (Standard GSP)	0%	Sports goods	0%
Chemicals	Average: 9% Max: 100%	0% for almost all products	Up to 10 years (mostly EIF)	Toys	between 0% and 2% (Standard GSP)	0%	Toys	0%
Motor vehicles	110%	10% (quota of 250k)		Gems	Up to 3%	0%	Gems	0%

EU-INDIA FTA ²				PAKISTAN'S GSP+				
For EU Exporters ³ 				For Indian Exporters ⁴ 			For Pakistani Exporters 	
Iron and steel	Up to 22%	0% for almost all products	Up to 10 years (mostly EIF, 5 or 7)	Jewelry	Up to 4%	0%	Jewelry	0%
Pharmaceuticals	11%	0% for almost all products	Up to 10 years (mostly 5 or 7)	Medical Instruments, Appliances, and vital Supplies	Up to 6.7%	0% across 99.1% of tariff lines	Medical Instruments, Appliances, and vital Supplies	
Wine	150%	20% (premium range); 30% (medium range)		Rice	7.7%	7.7%	Rice	7.7%

EU-INDIA FTA ²				PAKISTAN'S GSP+				
For EU Exporters ³ 				For Indian Exporters ⁴ 			For Pakistani Exporters 	
Spirits	Up to 150%	0.4						
Beer	1.1	0.5						
Olive Oil, margarine and other vegetable oils	Up to 45%	0						
Kiwis and pears	0.33	10% in-quota						
Fruit juices and non-alcoholic beer	Up to 55%	0						

EU-INDIA FTA ²				PAKISTAN'S GSP+				
For EU Exporters ³ 				For Indian Exporters ⁴ 			For Pakistani Exporters 	
Processed food (breads, pastries, biscuits, pasta, chocolate, pet food)	Up to 50%	0						
Sheep meat	0.33	0						
Sausages and other meat preparations	Up to 110%	0.5						

Source: EU's official website, Ministry of Commerce India and WTO Tariff & Trade Data
Note: The tariffs and duties are presented at the group level (2-digit HS code) or, where mentioned, as averages. They may vary at the product level.
For textile and apparel products, among many others, the EU has not disclosed the tariff concessions offered to India under the FTA.

Key Distinction:

GSP+ provides unilateral tariff preferences granted by the EU to Pakistan, resulting in duty-free access for most exports without reciprocal commitments.

In contrast, the EU–India FTA is a reciprocal agreement under which both parties eliminate tariffs across the vast majority of tariff lines, while carefully protecting sensitive and vulnerable sectors on each side through negotiated exclusions and phased liberalisation.

Section 4: Safeguards And Sensitive Sectors

Pakistan - GSP+

- Under the GSP+ scheme, a product may become subject to MFN duties (Common Customs Tariff duties) following European Commission investigations where imports cause or threaten serious difficulties for EU producers. For example, Pakistan's ethanol exports to the EU are no longer GSP-eligible and are subject to EU duties due to safeguard measures.

EU-India FTA

- The FTA includes a bilateral safeguard mechanism to address potential market disruption arising directly from the agreement.
- Sensitive sectors are protected on both sides. For India, these include dairy, cereals, poultry, soymeal, and certain fruits and vegetables. For the EU, sensitive agricultural products such as beef, chicken meat, rice, and sugar are excluded from liberalisation.
- The EU has also introduced a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) system to manage potential surges in rice imports, along with the planned introduction of automatic safeguard mechanisms from January 2027.
- The agreement also allows for the reintroduction of duties in cases of sudden and significant increases in imports to protect EU producers.

Key Distinction/Similarity:

Under GSP+, safeguards are unilateral, allowing the EU to suspend preferences where imports harm EU producers, with certain sensitive agricultural products facing reduced or excluded preferences.

In contrast, the EU–India FTA establishes a reciprocal safeguard framework with negotiated exclusions, tariff rate quotas, and the possibility of reintroducing duties.

Rice remains sensitive under both regimes, as Pakistan and India are major exporters and have ongoing concerns, including geographical indication disputes.

Box 1: Treatment of Sensitive and Non-Sensitive Products under EU Trade Regimes



Sensitive products: These are goods for which the EU considers that duty-free access could significantly harm domestic industries. Examples include agricultural products such as poultry, beef, sugar, and citrus. Under GSP, these products receive reduced tariffs rather than full duty elimination.

Textile and apparel are considered sensitive products under the GSP scheme.

Non-sensitive products: These are goods where EU producers are not considered at risk and therefore receive complete duty elimination (zero tariffs).

Safety net: The EU may temporarily suspend tariff preferences for sensitive products if a sudden surge in imports threatens EU producers.

Note: The European Parliament has also approved safeguard measures to protect EU agriculture under the proposed EU–Mercosur trade deal.

Section 5: Rules Of Origin

Pakistan - GSP+

- GSP+ preferences apply only to products originating in the beneficiary country (e.g., Pakistan).
- A product qualifies for GSP+ preferences if it is:
 - **Wholly obtained in Pakistan.** This applies mainly to raw or agricultural products, such as raw cotton grown and harvested in Pakistan or minerals extracted in Pakistan.
 - **Sufficiently worked or processed in Pakistan.** Most textile and apparel products originating from Pakistan for the EU market fall under this category. The EU applies product-specific rules at the HS-code level, which specify the extent of processing required in the GSP+ country.
- Textiles are considered “sensitive” products under the GSP regime, and their rules of origin are strictly monitored.
 - For example: The EU generally applies the double transformation rule for textiles, which involves at least two stages of manufacturing in Pakistan before export to the EU (e.g., spinning and weaving). In other words: Yarn → Fabric → Garment, all within Pakistan.

Box 2: Flexibilities under EU GSP+

Regional cumulation: Pakistan may use inputs from other GSP beneficiary countries listed by the EU (at the time of export), provided the conditions are met.

Bilateral cumulation: Materials originating in the EU may be used in Pakistan and treated as originating in Pakistan, provided the processing carried out in Pakistan goes beyond minimal operations. For example, Pakistan must perform substantial processing (e.g., converting EU-origin yarn into fabric and/or garments) for the product to qualify under the rules of origin.

Therefore, for Pakistan, the minimum value addition required to retain origin status under GSP+ is to:

- a) Achieve two stages of production (double transformation rule);
- b) Import raw materials or intermediates from regional GSP beneficiary countries and convert them into garments within Pakistan;
- c) Import raw materials or fabric from the EU and perform substantial processing in Pakistan before exporting the finished product to the EU.

Preferences may be withdrawn in cases of fraud, irregularities, or systematic failure to comply with rules of origin or administrative cooperation requirements.



EU-India FTA

- Preferential access is granted only if goods undergo sufficient processing to qualify as originating.
- Product-specific rules (PSRs) ensure substantial processing within the Parties while remaining aligned with existing supply chains and allowing flexibility in sourcing from global value chains.
- The FTA simplifies compliance through self-certification via a Statement on Origin.
- Special provisions support MSMEs by permitting quotas for non-originating inputs in sectors such as shrimps, prawns, and downstream aluminium products.
- Transition periods in sectors such as machinery and aerospace incentivise domestic value addition under “Make in India.”

Key Distinction/Similarity:

Both regimes strictly enforce rules of origin. Under GSP+, preferences are withdrawn if products are not wholly obtained or fail to meet the double transformation requirement. Similarly, the India–EU FTA applies product-specific rules requiring sufficient processing to qualify for tariff preferences.

Section 6: Monitoring, Reporting, and Review

Pakistan - GSP+

- GSP+ is conditional upon the effective ratification, monitoring, and reporting of compliance with the conventions listed in Annex I.
- The European Commission keeps under continuous review the ratification status and effective implementation of these conventions.
- Pakistan is required to cooperate with the Commission and provide all necessary information to assess compliance with its binding undertakings, as outlined in Section 2 on Eligibility Criteria.
- The European Commission submits biennial reports to the European Parliament and the Council on ratification and implementation, taking stakeholder inputs into account.
- The biennial report includes:
 - Conclusions and recommendations of relevant monitoring bodies for Pakistan and all other GSP+ beneficiary countries.

- An assessment of Pakistan’s compliance with its binding undertakings, including reporting obligations, cooperation with monitoring bodies, and effective implementation of the conventions.
- Any additional information the Commission considers appropriate.
- In its assessment, the Commission relies on findings of monitoring bodies and may also consider inputs from third parties such as civil society, social partners, the European Parliament, and the Council.
- **The report due in June 2026 will be the final biennial report under the existing GSP scheme.**

EU-India FTA

- The FTA provides for institutional mechanisms to ensure implementation, including:
 - Dialogue and cooperation platforms between the parties;
 - Participation of civil society organisations in monitoring implementation;
 - A dedicated consultation mechanism for addressing disputes related to labour, environmental, and sustainability commitments.
- Commitments under the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter are legally binding and enforceable through a structured, time-bound consultation and review process involving technical experts and political decision-makers.

Key Distinction/Similarity:

Both frameworks include legally binding sustainability commitments, GSP+ relies on conditional and strict oversight by the EU, whereas the FTA operates through reciprocal and jointly managed review processes.

Section 7: Withdrawal And Suspension of the GSP Scheme

- **Temporary Withdrawal:**
 - Temporary withdrawal is possible in cases of serious and systematic violations of the principles laid down in the conventions listed in Annex I, as well as on other specified grounds.
 - The European Commission shall publish a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union and notify Pakistan regarding the existence of grounds for doubt concerning the fulfilment of the binding undertakings discussed in Section 2, as well as inform Pakistan about the initiation of an investigation.

- The European Commission shall provide Pakistan with every opportunity to cooperate during the investigation period (which may or may not exceed six months).
- Within three months after the expiry of the investigation period specified in the notice, the Commission shall decide whether to:
 - terminate the temporary withdrawal procedure
 - or temporarily withdraw GSP+ preferences for Pakistan.
- **Product-Level Suspension of Tariff Preferences:**
 - Under the GSP Regulation, tariff preferences may be suspended for products of a specific GSP section originating in Pakistan when the average value of EU imports of those products over three consecutive years exceeds the prescribed threshold.

Section 8: Services and Mobility

Pakistan - GSP+

- GSP+ tariff preferences apply to goods; no services market access provisions are referenced in the cited Articles.

EU-India FTA

- The EU makes commitments across 144 services subsectors, while India offers commitments in 102 subsectors.
- The agreement covers temporary entry categories, including Business Visitors, Intra-Corporate Transferees, Contractual Service Suppliers, and Independent Professionals, and provides a framework for Social Security Agreements within five years.

Key Distinction:

GSP+ grants unilateral tariff preferences limited to goods only, whereas the EU–India FTA is a comprehensive agreement covering both goods and extensive market access commitments in services, including mobility provisions.

Section 9: Intellectual Property

Pakistan - GSP+

- GSP+ does not contain a dedicated Intellectual Property (IPR) chapter like an FTA. However, it is indirectly linked to certain international conventions that relate to IPR protection. For example, Pakistan must be a member of the WTO, which already requires compliance with the TRIPS Agreement (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights).

EU-India FTA

- The EU and India have agreed on the effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property (IP) rights. The IP chapter promotes innovation and creativity, facilitates trade in innovative and creative goods and services, and reduces trade barriers while encouraging investment in support of a sustainable and inclusive economy.
- The agreement provides a high level of protection in line with Indian and EU laws and reinforces protections under the WTO TRIPS Agreement, while affirming the Doha Declaration. It covers copyright and related rights, trademarks, designs, trade secrets and undisclosed information, plant varieties, and IPR enforcement. It also recognises the importance of digital libraries, including India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).
- The FTA sets out enforcement measures, procedures, and remedies to ensure effective protection, specifies relevant international IP agreements with which both Parties must comply, and provides for the exchange of views and information on laws and practices relating to technology transfer, including measures to facilitate information flows and business partnerships.

Section 10: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) And Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

Pakistan - GSP+

- The GSP+ regulation does not contain dedicated SPS or TBT cooperation chapters. However, it operates within the WTO framework and allows the EU to apply its domestic technical, SPS, and safety regulations.
- Under GSP+, the EU may also impose safeguard measures.

EU-India FTA

- **Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT):**
 - Covers technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures affecting trade in goods.
 - Incorporates commitments under the WTO TBT Agreement and makes them subject to bilateral dispute settlement under the FTA.
 - Upholds core principles such as Most Favoured Nation (MFN) and national treatment.
 - Promotes the use of international standards and enhances information exchange and bilateral consultations.
 - Introduces strengthened transparency requirements, including 60 days of public consultation on new technical regulations and a six-month gap between publication and entry into force.
 - Establishes a dedicated Working Group on Conformity Assessment to address implementation issues, including India's Quality Control Orders.
- **Trade Remedies and Safeguards (Related to Market Protection):**
 - Confirms the continued use of trade defence instruments such as anti-dumping, anti-subsidy, and global safeguards.
 - Includes a bilateral safeguard mechanism allowing temporary measures where a surge in preferential imports under the FTA causes or threatens serious injury to domestic industry.

Key Distinction/Similarities:

Even though both agreements rely on the WTO framework, GSP+ for Pakistan is a weaker framework when it comes to SPS and TBT, as the EU retains unilateral regulatory and safeguard powers to suspend preferences at the product level. In contrast, the EU–India FTA establishes structured bilateral mechanisms, enhanced transparency, and dispute settlement provisions governing SPS, TBT, and trade remedies.

Annex I: Binding UN Conventions and Ratification Status under the GSP Regime

Ratification Status of GSP+ Core Conventions by Pakistan	
Convention	Accession / Ratification
Human Rights Number of Conventions Ratified = 7	
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948)	1957
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1969)	1966
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1976)	2010
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976)	2008
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1981)	1996
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1987)	2010
Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)	1990
Labor Rights Number of Conventions Ratified = 8	
Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)	1951
Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)	1952
Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)	Convention: 1957 / Protocol: not ratified
Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)	1960
Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)	2006
Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)	2001
Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)	2001

Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)	1961
Environmental Rights Number of Conventions Ratified = 8	
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973)	1976
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987)	1992
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989)	1994
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	1994
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	1994
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2000)	2009
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)	2008
Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1998)	2005
Good Governance Number of Conventions Ratified = 4	
United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)	1999
United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)	1977
United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)	1991
United Nations Convention against Corruption	2007
Source: GSP Hub	

Annex II: GSP Eligible Sections and Products

Section	Chapter	Label
S-01a	01	live animals
S-01a	02	meat and edible meat offal
S-01a	04	dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey; edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included
S-01a	05	products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified or included
S-01b	03	fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates
S-02a	06	live trees and other plants; bulbs, roots and the like; cut flowers and ornamental foliage
S-02b	07	edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers
S-02b	08	edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons
S-02c	09	coffee, tea, mate and spices
S-02d	10	cereals
S-02d	11	products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten
S-02d	12	oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder
S-02d	13	lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts
S-02d	14	vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included
S-03	15	animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes
S-04a	16	preparations of meat, of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates
S-04b	17	sugars and sugar confectionery
S-04b	18	cocoa and cocoa preparations
S-04b	19	preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk; pastrycooks' products
S-04b	20	preparations of vegetables, fruit, nuts or other parts of plants
S-04b	21	miscellaneous edible preparations
S-04b	22	beverages, spirits and vinegar
S-04b	23	residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder
S-04c	24	tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes
S-05	25	salt; sulphur; earths and stone; plastering materials, lime and cement
S-05	26	ores, slag and ash
S-05	27	mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes

S-06a	28	inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, of radioactive elements or of isotopes
S-06a	29	organic chemicals
S-06b	30	pharmaceutical products
S-06b	31	fertilisers
S-06b	32	tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other colouring matter; paints and varnishes; putty and other mastics; inks
S-06b	33	essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations
S-06b	34	soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial waxes, prepared waxes, polishing or scouring preparations, candles and similar articles, modelling pastes, 'dental waxes' and dental preparations with a basis of plaster
S-06b	35	albuminoidal substances; modified starches; glues; enzymes
S-06b	36	explosives; pyrotechnic products; matches; pyrophoric alloys; certain combustible preparations
S-06b	37	photographic or cinematographic goods
S-06b	38	miscellaneous chemical products
S-07a	39	plastics and articles thereof
S-07b	40	rubber and articles thereof
S-08a	41	raw hides and skins (other than furskins) and leather
S-08b	42	articles of leather; saddlery and harness; travel goods, handbags and similar containers; articles of animal gut (other than silkworm gut)
S-08b	43	furskins and artificial fur; manufactures thereof
S-09a	44	wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal
S-09b	45	cork and articles of cork
S-09b	46	manufactures of straw, of esparto or of other plaiting materials; basketware and wickerwork
S-10	47	pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard
S-10	48	paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard
S-10	49	printed books, newspapers, pictures and other products of the printing industry; manuscripts, typescripts and plans
S-11a	50	silk
S-11a	51	wool, fine or coarse animal hair; horsehair yarn and woven fabric
S-11a	52	cotton
S-11a	53	other vegetable textile fibres; paper yarn and woven fabrics of paper yarn
S-11a	54	man-made filaments; strip and the like of man-made textile materials
S-11a	55	man-made staple fibres

S-11a	56	wadding, felt and nonwovens; special yarns; twine, cordage, ropes and cables and articles thereof
S-11a	57	carpets and other textile floor coverings
S-11a	58	special woven fabrics; tufted textile fabrics; lace; tapestries; trimmings; embroidery
S-11a	59	impregnated, coated, covered or laminated textile fabrics; textile articles of a kind suitable for industrial use
S-11a	60	knitted or crocheted fabrics
S-11b	61	articles of apparel and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted
S-11b	62	articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted
S-11b	63	other made-up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags
S-12a	64	footwear, gaiters and the like; parts of such articles
S-12b	65	headgear and parts thereof
S-12b	66	umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking sticks, seat-sticks, whips, riding-crops and parts thereof
S-12b	67	prepared feathers and down and articles made of feathers or of down; artificial flowers; articles of human hair
S-13	68	articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials
S-13	69	ceramic products
S-13	70	glass and glassware
S-14	71	natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal, and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coin
S-15a	72	iron and steel
S-15a	73	articles of iron or steel
S-15b	74	copper and articles thereof
S-15b	75	nickel and articles thereof
S-15b	76	aluminium and articles thereof
S-15b	78	lead and articles thereof
S-15b	79	zinc and articles thereof
S-15b	80	tin and articles thereof
S-15b	81	other base metals; cermets; articles thereof
S-15b	82	tools, implements, cutlery, spoons and forks, of base metal; parts thereof of base metal
S-15b	83	miscellaneous articles of base metal
S-16	84	nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof

S-16	85	electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles
S-17a	86	railway or tramway locomotives, rolling stock and parts thereof; railway or tramway track fixtures and fittings and parts thereof; mechanical (including electromechanical) traffic signalling equipment of all kinds
S-17b	87	vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof
S-17b	88	aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof
S-17b	89	ships, boats and floating structures
S-18	90	optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; parts and accessories thereof
S-18	91	clocks and watches and parts thereof
S-18	92	musical instruments; parts and accessories of such articles
S-19	93	arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof
S-20	94	furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings; lamps and lighting fittings, not elsewhere specified or included; illuminated signs, illuminated nameplates and the like; prefabricated buildings
S-20	95	toys, games and sports requisites; parts and accessories thereof
S-20	96	miscellaneous manufactured articles
S-21	97	works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques



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