

EU leaders need to relook at GSP+ trade status for Pakistan

The GSP+, or Generalised System of Preferences, of the European Union was designed as a means of linking trade preferences to specific commitments in the areas of human rights, labour rights, environmental protection, and good governance. However, Pakistan, while reaping rich economic gains from the system, has exploited to persecute minority communities and suppress human rights.

"The GSP+ regime, a European Union tool, created to promote human rights through trade, has been hijacked in Pakistan to cover up and tolerate abuses. Instead of strengthening religious freedom and democracy, it accompanies surveillance, silencing, and persecution of minorities. The irony is that a policy designed to serve human dignity is in practice acting as a silent accomplice to oppression," according to an article by Staikou Dimitra in Eurasia Review.

The article calls for EU

leaders to take a fresh look at the GSP+ status of Pakistan as the country has violated all the principles embodied in the system. "EU leaders can either choose to take a stand for the principles they swore to protect, or risk being accomplices to a tragedy unfolding in Pakistan," the article observes. Despite the trade privileges that Pakistan enjoys from its access to the European market, the government continues to allow attacks on religious communities such as the Ahmadiyya and Christians, and restrict freedom of expression through digital surveillance. Rather than translating into institutional progress, economic cooperation often serves as a safety net for the regime, the article states.

Enforced disappearances, sometimes by state backed militias and in some cases by the state agencies themselves have left scars on vulnerable communities in Pakistan. This practice,

which began during Pervez Musharraf's military dictatorship, continues with the involvement of the military and intelligence services. More than 5,000 people have disappeared, according to humanitarian organisations. In addition, approximately 80 civilians were convicted by military courts for participating in riots in 2023, which is considered incompatible with Pakistan's international obligations.

The trial of civilians by Military Courts was condemned by the EU at multiple times in the last one year, a cause big enough for the EU to seriously reconsider the GSP+ status for Pakistan, the article points out. Pakistan's violation of basic human rights, which GSP+ is designed to promote, is not limited to enforced disappearances and military trials. It extends to the technical domain as well.

According to a report by Amnesty International,

Pakistan has developed one of the most advanced surveillance systems in the world, using technology from China and the West. The findings of its report are based on a 2024 case in the Islamabad High Court, filed by Bushra Bibi, wife of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, after her private phone calls were leaked online.

In court, Pakistan's defence ministries and intelligence agencies denied that they conduct or have the capacity to conduct telephone tapping. However, during questioning, the telecommunications regulatory authority acknowledged that it had already ordered telephone companies to install LIMS for use by "designated services." This system allows intelligence services to monitor at least 4 million mobile phones simultaneously and block 2 million internet sessions, the article observes.

It highlights that the conflict-ridden province of Balochistan in particular

faces frequent internet outages and restrictions on freedom of speech. In a recent report, Paank, the human rights department of the Balochistan National Movement (BNM), in a recent report, strongly called on the European Union to review Pakistan's GSP+ status, stressing that it is unacceptable for Pakistan to enjoy economic advantages while committing severe oppression. The report strongly condemned the Anti-Terrorism Balochistan Amendment Bill 2025, which grants unchecked powers to the military, police, and intelligence agencies to arrest anyone on mere suspicion for up to three months, with the possibility of extension. The report noted that several Baloch leaders, such as Mahrang Baloch, Gulzadi Baloch, Beebow Baloch, Sibghat Ullah Baloch, and Beeberg Baloch, remain in prison even after appearing in court.

Amnesty said it also exam-

ined licensing agreements, commercial data, leaked technical files, and Chinese records linking the firewall supplier to state-owned companies in Beijing. It added that the firewall is provided by Chinese company Geedee Networks.

The implementation of advanced monitoring systems (LIMS, WMS 2.0) with Chinese and Western equipment creates a climate of fear, prevents freedom of expression, and reinforces the repression of opponents. GSP+ does not exercise control over these practices, thus acting as an economic and political safety net for the regime.

Amnesty said the firewall uses equipment from the American company Niagara Networks, software from Thales DIS, a subsidiary of the French company Thales, and servers from a Chinese state-owned IT company. An earlier version was based on Canadian Sandvine.

Toyota Urban Cruiser Taisor Now Available in Bold New Bluish Black Colour with Enhanced Safety Standardized Across All Variants

In line with its customer-first philosophy and focus on delivering ever-better cars, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced two key enhancements to its popular compact SUV, the Urban Cruiser Taisor — the introduction of new Bluish Black exterior colour and the standardization of six airbags across all variants.

A Striking New Look: Introducing Bluish Black

Adding to the Taisor's dynamic and youthful appeal, TKM has intro-

duced a new "Bluish Black" exterior colour, now available on select variants. This striking addition enhances the SUV's road presence, offering customers a refreshing choice that blends elegance with a sporty edge. The new colour underscores Toyota's keen understanding of evolving lifestyle preferences and the increasing demand for personalization among compact SUV buyers.

Safety Elevated: 6 Airbags Standard on Every Variant

The upgrade now equips all variants of the Urban

Cruiser Taisor with six airbags as standard, offering enhanced protection for both the driver and passengers. With this update, TKM has expanded the safety feature across the entire variant lineup — E, S, S+, G, and V, ensuring complete occupant protection.

The newly standard airbag system includes dual front airbags, two side airbags, and two curtain airbags, delivering 360-degree protection in various driving scenarios. This move reflects Toyota's global safety philosophy and responds to evolving



customer expectations for safer mobility options, particularly in the compact SUV segment.

Urban Cruiser Taisor: Designed for the Bold, Built for the Practical

Launched as a compact SUV that blends urban sophistication with Toyota's trusted reliability, the Urban Cruiser Taisor offers a compelling mix of style, performance, and technology. Powered by two efficient engine options — a

1.2L K-Series petrol and a spirited 1.0L turbo petrol, the vehicle delivers exceptional mileage of up to 22.79 km/l and supports multiple transmission choices, including 5MT, 5AMT, and 6AT.

Explained: How India became world leader in smartphone manufacturing

India has surpassed China to emerge as the leading supplier of smartphones to the United States, driven by the government's 'Make in India' initiative, Apple's relocation of its operations to India, and US importers frontloading their inventory amid tariff uncertainties.

Analysts say that the US hiking tariffs on India has led vendors to front-load inventory, which means buying far more inventory than usual and changing their sourcing plans. Further, government support since 2017 through the Make In India program and strategic integration into global value chains (GVCs) due to the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme drove Indian success.

The total volume of "Made-in-India" smartphones grew 240 per cent YoY. Apple has scaled up its production capacity in India over the last several years and has dedicated most of its export capacity in the country to supply the US market so far in 2025.

India's shipments to the US account for approximately 44 per cent of all its smartphone imports, up from 13 per cent last year. Meanwhile, China's share of smartphone exports to the US declined to 25 per cent. China accounted for 61 per cent of smartphones exported to the US in the second quarter of 2024.

India is now the world's third-largest exporter of mobile phones, clocking \$20.5 billion (CY2024) worth of exports. Alongside China and Vietnam, India is now a major player in global electronics manufacturing, with companies shifting production to diversify supply chains.

Trump imposed a 50 per cent tariff on India and a 30 per cent tariff on China, while the two countries negotiated a trade deal, and a 20 per cent tariff on Vietnam. Most of the decline in US smartphone shipments assembled in China has been picked up by India, mainly due to Apple's 'China Plus One' strategy.

A major fraud of around Rs 40 crore has raised serious concerns about the safety of fintech platforms after Gurugram Police arrested six people for exploiting a technical glitch in the MobiKwik app. The incident has triggered calls for a deeper investigation into why such glitches are frequently occurring, putting millions of users at risk.

According to police, the glitch in the MobiKwik app allowed transactions to be recorded as successful even when users had insufficient balances in their bank accounts or wallets, or when incorrect passwords were entered.

The accused allegedly misused this flaw to transfer money to their bank accounts, causing heavy losses of around Rs 40 crore.

Industry experts said the MobiKwik case is not an isolated one. In August, Policybazaar Insurance Brokers Private Limited also lodged a complaint with Gurugram Police after fraudsters impersonated its employees, forged documents, and misused the company's ID cards and email IDs to cheat customers.

In that case, at least 11 customers were duped into paying amounts ranging from Rs 8,510 to Rs 35,000, with the total fraud amounting to Rs 2.08 lakh. Experts warn that repeated cases of such technical flaws and fraudulent activities in fintech platforms could undermine consumer trust.

They have urged regulatory bodies and government agencies like the ED and CBI to carry out a thorough probe into why these vulnerabilities continue to surface and whether there are deeper systemic risks involved.

In Mobikwik case, police officials said that about 2,500 bank accounts were linked to the fraud, all of which have now been

frozen. Nearly Rs 8 crore has already been recovered. The six accused, identified as Rehan, Mohammad

Sakil, Wakar Yunus, Wasim Akram, Mohammad Amir and Mohammad Ansar, were arrested from Gurgaon and sent to judi-

cial custody after being produced in court. The fraud came to light after MobiKwik filed a complaint with Gurugram

Police on September 13. The company had detected suspicious transactions during an internal audit a day earlier.

MobiKwik fraud triggers demand for deeper probe into fintech platforms

Department of Wildlife Protection Office of the Additional Director Jammu Zoo Nagrota, Jammu SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE E-TENDERING						
Tender Notice : e-NIT No.: 30/WLW/JZ of 2025-26 dated: 16-09-2025						
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir UT, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. / Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:						
Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. in lacs)	Estimate Money (₹. in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving / Opening Authority
Sign. Contract Temporary restoration at Jammu Zoo by way of slip drainage and other allied works.	31.60	50,000	A & B	1000	Financial year 2025-26	Tender opening committee
The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B-O-Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website: https://jitenders.gov.in						
Position of funds: CAPEX 2025-26						
Position of AA : As per						
Position of IS : As per						
Publishing Date	16-09-2025					
Download Start Date	16-09-2025					
Bid Submission Start Date	16-09-2025					
Bid Submission End Date (online)	23-09-2025 up to 04:00 PM					
Date of opening of Technical Bid	24-09-2025 at 12:00 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Mandla Hills, Jammu)					
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	25-09-2025 at 03:00 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Mandla Hills, Jammu)					
BID documents can be seen at and download from the website: https://jitenders.gov.in . BID documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.						
Terms & Conditions:						
1. Bid uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (not of tender document) in shape of Treasury Chalan for the amount shown against the work alone to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406-Forest and estimate money in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Additional Wildlife Warden Jammu Zoo. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.						
2. The Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) has to be uploaded at the time of bidding.						
3. The price bids uploaded on the website in time will be opened after the evaluation of the Technical Bid by the Tender Opening Committee of the Department. The dates of opening of price bids as per NIT. The price bids will also be opened in the office of Conservator of Forest/Wildlife (Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Mandla Hills, Jammu).						
4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, then the earnest money shall stand forfeited.						
5. No Employee of Government or other Government Officer employed in Engineering or Administration duties in an Engineering Department of the State Government is allowed to work as the contractor for a period of two years after his retirement from government service without permission of the government. This contract is liable to be cancelled if either the contractor or any of his employees is found any time to be such a person who had not obtained permission from the government as aforesaid before submission of the tender as engagement in the contractor's service.						
6. The interested bidder can download the NIT / Bidding documents from the website: https://jitenders.gov.in .						
DIP/J-5791/25				Anil Kumar Atri (BES) Additional Director Jammu Zoo.		

Check It Daily Horoscopes

Your day today

By Dr C.V.B. Subrahmanyam



Aries: New contacts at the professional front would bring lucrative opportunities. A very demanding approach can create tensions in your love life.



Taurus: A favourable time to start new projects and a happy day of wooing and courtship. Guard against being overly dominating when putting across your views at home.



Gemini: Cultivate a harmonious nature to kill your hatred because it is more powerful than love and deadly affects your body. Romantic influence is strong.



Cancer: The romantic life is becoming interesting. You are observing your love life, as it is blowing hot and cold. Act immediately as tomorrow may be very late.



Leo: You desperately need some activity to keep fit. Festive atmosphere all round keeps everyone in high spirits. On your part develop a harmonious relationship with all and win your opponents by love.



Virgo: Visit those who are less fortunate than yourself and help them with their personal problems. Loved ones will be hard to get along with. Group events will be far too expensive for you to organize.



Libra: Romantically a glittering bait awaits you to be trapped. Your affairs seem to go well on the surface. There are people in the background who don't wish you well in love. Stomach issues may rise.



Scorpio: Some of you will need to keep your temper under control, even under grave provocation. Your childish approach can thwart your romantic aspirations.



Sagittarius: You will have to do something different to make your lover enjoy your company. Your efforts at work get recognized, so cash in on this development.



Capricorn: Good earning will make you splurge on the romantic front. Speculative activities should be avoided. Those burdened with work will have to do something about the resulting fatigue.



Aquarius: Think wisely before loaning money to a friend as early return is not foreseen. Help and assistance will be forthcoming from close ones in getting a matrimonial alliance for the eligible.



Pisces: Monetary gains will keep you in a buoyant mood. This is the day when you can find everything topsy-turvy on the professional front. Those in private companies can face a salary cut.

Printer, Publisher & Owner : Vinod Kumar. Printed at : M/s Karan Offset Printing Press, Jammu. Published at Main Road Shiva Enclave Near Police Station Janipur Jammu,

EDITOR : VINOD KUMAR,

E-mail: vkvinod756@gmail.com

Bureau Chief : Komal

Adv. Manager : Hemanshu Magotra, 7006118131

E-Mail: trulytimes47@rediffmail.com,

trulytimes47@gmail.com

*Responsible for the selection of News under the PRB Act all the disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent Courts and Forums in Jammu only.