



May 19, 2025

Good morning my Dear Friend

We are happy to share our “weekly” research paper being published on “every Monday”

35 FAQs on Foreign Trade Agreements (FTAs) executed by India

This research paper is relevant because govt of India has recently executed FTA with United Kingdom (UK) on May 06, 2025

Through knowing about FTAs via our “21” pilot points

1.

India has executed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

2.

India has executed Other Trade Agreements (OTAs) with several countries/ trade blocs

3.

India is under negotiation with “other” several countries

4.

India is cautious in executing

For

Comprehensive Preferential Tariff Agreements (CPTAs)

Covering substantial trades with trading partners specified under statement as issued by:

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

5.

India has completed negotiations for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

With United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 88 day “only”

Where shortest time is taken by India.

6.

4 type of trade agreements are in practice around the world

For

Preferential Market Access (PMA) between 2 signatory countries/ trade blocs like:

- (i) Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)
- (ii) Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)
- (iii) Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements (CECAs)
- (iv) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs)

7.

Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) are to include agreements

Where minimum 2 signatory countries are agreed

For

Reducing custom duties based on agreed number of products

Through introducing "positive list" of products

8.

Positive list is to include list of products

Where minimum 2 signatory countries / trade blocs are agreed

For

Reducing custom duties based on agreed number of products

9.

Normally PTAs are not covering 100% products

For

Importing / exporting between 2 signatory countries/trade blocs

10.

Presently India has executed 6 PTAs with certain countries / trade blocs like:

- (i) Bangladesh
- (ii) Bhutan
- (iii) Maldives
- (iv) Nepal
- (v) Pakistan
- (vi) Sri Lanka

11.

Presently India has executed 14 Trade agreements with certain countries / trade blocs like:

- (i) FTA with ASEAN
- (ii) CECA with Singapore

- (iii) *CECA with Malaysia*
- (iv) *FTA with Thailand*
- (v) *CEPA with Japan*
- (vi) *CEPA with South Korea*
- (vii) *Agreement with SAFTA*
- (viii) *FTA with Sri Lanka*
- (ix) *Treaty of Trade with Nepal*
- (x) *Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit with Bhutan*
- (xi) *CECPA with Mauritius*
- (xii) *CEPA with UAE*
- (xiii) *ECTA with Australia*
- (xiv) *FTA with UK*

For

Reducing / eliminating custom duties

12.

India + also signatory countries “both” are permitted

For

Maintaining Individual + also separate “both” custom duties for “non” signatory countries / trade blocks

13.

(i)

PTAs are to include “positive list” of products

For

Reducing / eliminating custom duties

(ii)

FTAs are to include “negative list” of products

For

Non-reducing / non-eliminating custom duties.

14.

Generally, FTAs are ambitious

For

Covering maximum products for reducing / eliminating custom duties.

15.

CECA + also CEPA “both” are integrated packages for:

- (i) Goods
- (ii) Services
- (iii) Investments
- (iv) Trade facilitations
- (v) Making rules

For
Intellectual Properties (IP)

- (i) Govt.
- (ii) Procurement
- (iii) Technical standards
- (iv) Sanitary
- (v) Phytosanitary issues

16.
CECA + also CEPAs “both” are *more comprehensive* & more ambitious *comparative to FTAs*:

- (i) *For* Covering of areas
- (ii) *For* Type of commitments

17.
Generally, FTAs are *focused on goods “only”*

18.
CECA + also CEPA “both” are *providing extensively* holistic *coverage for* several areas like:

- (i) Services
- (ii) Investments
- (iii) Competitions
- (iv) Govt’s procurements
- (v) Govt’s disputes

19.
CECA + also CEPA “both” are *looking deeply* for regulatory aspects *comparatively to FTAs*.

20.
CECA + also CEPA “both” are *equalising with* Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for covering regulatory regime by signatory countries.

21.
MRAs are *recognizing* different regulatory *regime*

For
Signatory countries based on presumption that be achieved end objectives.

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Darshan Mala Series

For
Knowing about legal provisions + also workings "both" under

Different Indian Acts like:

Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, 1988 + Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)
2002 + also etc. "all"

+

Different Indian Enforcement agencies like:

ED + DRI + CBI + NIA + SFIO + DGITCI + DGGI + also etc. "all"

+

Different Indian Regulatory Authorities like:

IFSCA + RBI + SEBI + NCB + R&AW + EOW + IB + CVC + NCLT + FIU-IND + also etc. "all"

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