

India or Sialkot for Boxing Gloves and Combat Gear?



Yash Khatri

Founder, SourcingFrom

Updated 18 Oct 2026 5 min read

If your range is only boxing, MMA and BJJ gear, start in Sialkot. That is where practitioners place it, and India is almost never named. India makes sense when the range mixes cricket and combat gear, when you sell into Australia, where India supplied slightly more leather sports gloves than Pakistan in 2025, or when you want a second country. Either way, test bulk against sample, because Sialkot's own failure modes are the benchmark India gets judged on.

The Short Version

- Practitioners place boxing gloves, shin pads and gis in Sialkot. India is almost never mentioned for this category.
- In 2025 India supplied 10.9% of Australia's leather sports glove imports and Pakistan 10.2%. In New Zealand it was 9.9% against 21.9%.
- That glove line includes cricket batting and keeping gloves, which is where India is strong.
- Uttar Pradesh lists boxing goods among Meerut's official products, so Indian makers exist even though buyers rarely find them.
- Run the same tech pack past both countries and inspect bulk against the approved sample.

For a range that's only boxing gloves, MMA gear and BJJ gis, start in Sialkot. That's where practitioners place this trade, and in our forum logs India is almost never named for it. India becomes a real option when your range mixes cricket and combat gear, when your market is Australia, or when you want a second country so a single town's problems aren't yours.

Here's a detail most buyers don't know. Uttar Pradesh's official list of what Meerut makes includes "boxing" goods alongside bats, balls and protective gear ([UP ODOF, Meerut](#)). So India has makers. What it doesn't have is a reputation with combat-sports buyers. Our [India vs Pakistan comparison](#) sets out the shares by category across textiles and sports goods. This article answers the narrower question a gym brand asks, and adds what we found when we pulled the glove data for Australia and New Zealand. The caveat – the customs line for sports gloves mixes boxing gloves with cricket, golf and other gloves, so it can't isolate combat gear.

SourcingFrom Intelligence

powered by [Kirnova](#) – the intelligence company

- 01 **In Australia, India edges Pakistan on leather sports gloves.** India supplied 10.9% of Australia's 2025 imports of leather sports gloves (HS 4203.21) and Pakistan 10.2%, behind China (33.2%), Indonesia (18.4%) and Thailand (17.1%). In New Zealand, Pakistan led India 21.9% to 9.9%. *(Our analysis of UN Comtrade, importer records, pulled 18 October 2026 · Verified figures, Indicative reading)*
- 02 **Practitioners put combat gear in Sialkot.** "Pakistan makes most leather combat sports gear now. They're good at it and get it done cheap," one wrote, and another noted an Australian brand "Designed in Thailand but is Made in Pakistan". *(r/MuayThai and r/bjj, 2023 to 2024, six-plus voices in our forum log)*
- 03 **The US glove market is a different game.** India held 0.8% of US leather sports glove imports in 2025, with Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Thailand far ahead. *(UN Comtrade, our pull)*

What we don't know yet

- How many Indian makers produce boxing gloves or gis for export, and where. We found the official listing, not a count.

1. Why Does Everyone Say Sialkot?

Because that's where the buyers who've done it went. Gym owners and brand founders in our log describe Sialkot makers who know combat sports, take small runs and answer fast. One jiu-jitsu buyer said "about 5 companies make like 95% of the Gi's we buy that come from Pakistan" ([r/bjj, October 2023](#)). That kind of concentration means the makers have seen every spec a new brand is likely to send.

The customs data backs it in Europe and the UK, where Pakistan supplied about a quarter of sports glove imports in 2025 and India 2.5% to 6.3%, as our comparison page shows. It's an earned position, and it'd be silly to pretend otherwise.

2. Where Does India Actually Compete?

On the evidence we have, in three places.

Mixed cricket and combat ranges. The sports glove line includes cricket batting and wicket-keeping gloves, and cricket is where India is strong. That's the most likely reason India sits just ahead of Pakistan in Australia's glove imports, and it's why the number shouldn't be read as "India makes more boxing gloves for Australia". It does mean an Australian or UK brand selling cricket and boxing can find both in one country, often in one town, and run one supplier programme.

Duty in the UK. On the leather sports glove line, the UK charges India 0% from 15 July 2026 under the UK-India deal, and Pakistan 0% under the developing countries scheme (UK Trade Tariff, commodity 4203210000, read 7 October 2026). In the US both carry the same 10% Section 301 duty on top of the base rate. So for UK and US buyers, duty no longer picks the country for you. The EU is different, because Pakistan has GSP+, which the comparison page covers.

A second source. If your whole range comes from one Sialkot maker, a sampling round in India costs little and protects you against one maker's bad season.

Where India doesn't compete, on what we found, is gis. We found no forum or trade evidence of Indian gi makers serving foreign brands, though India's cotton weaving and knitting base is large. If you want gis from India, expect to brief a general textile maker on a product it may not have made before.

3. What Is the Benchmark India Gets Judged Against?

Sialkot at its best and at its worst. Buyers who use Sialkot are frank about the failure modes - bulk that doesn't match the sample, sizes that drift across a run, and "manufacturers" who are really brokers with "a phone and some connections". The comparison page tells that story through one gym owner's 40 rash guards, so we won't retell it here. What matters for this decision is that those are the same failure modes buyers report in India, as our article on why the sample was perfect but the bulk wasn't explains.

So the question isn't which country is safe. Neither is. It's which supplier, in either country, controls cutting, sizing and stitching in its own building, and which one passes your order to someone else. Both models can work. You just need to know which you're paying for, using the questions on manufacturer or trading company.

4. How Do You Test Both Countries Fairly?

Run the same brief through both, side by side.

1. **One tech pack.** Leather or synthetic, padding layers and density, lining, closure, stitching, sizes in ounces and hand measurements, and the logo

method. For gis, fabric weave and weight, shrinkage allowance and the size chart with tolerances.

2. **Paid samples from two or three makers in each country.** Compare them blind, with someone who trains.
3. **Ask each one who makes what.** Who cuts, who stitches, who does the padding. In India, the export registration and council membership can be checked on public records, which [how to verify Indian suppliers](#) walks through.
4. **A small first bulk order, inspected against the approved sample** before you pay the balance, with sizes measured across cartons, not from one piece.
5. **Leather chemistry for your market.** Chromium VI and dyes matter in the EU and UK, and [leather](#) explains the tests.

If you'd like someone on the ground to run the Indian half of that test, visit the makers and inspect the bulk, [SourcingSync](#) does it.

5. So, India or Sialkot?

For a pure boxing, MMA or BJJ brand, Sialkot first. The makers, the know-how and the buyer references are there. Add India when you also sell cricket, when you sell mostly in Australia or the UK where duty is level, or when you want a second source. And whichever you pick, the order decides more than the country does – written sizes, a tolerance, and a check on the bulk.

Questions Buyers Ask

Does India make boxing gloves?



Yes. Uttar Pradesh lists boxing goods among Meerut's official products. Indian makers just aren't well known among combat-sports buyers.

Is Pakistan cheaper than India for gloves?



Is duty different between the two?



Where do Indian cricket makers sit?

