

# India to counter US protectionism with e-commerce, data security bills

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After retaliating against the US withdrawal of preferential treatment for its exports, New Delhi plans to counter Washington's growing protectionism with two pieces of legislation that can have wide-ranging impact on American firms, according to officials familiar with the matter. Trade relations between India and the US deteriorated after Washington on June 5 withdrew benefits for Indian exporters under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme. India imposed retaliatory tariffs on 28 American products from June 16 — a decision it had put off for almost a year. While the India-US strategic partnership and cooperation on key issues such as counterterrorism continue to be robust, the Indian side is looking to the visit by secretary of state Mike Pompeo on June 25-26 to clear the air on several trade matters that have become irritants, such as US sanctions on Iranian oil imports, the ending of GSP benefits, and tariffs.

Of the two proposed laws, the e-commerce policy is aimed at streamlining online trade, currently dominated by American companies such as Google, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon and Flipkart. The proposed Personal Data Protection Bill calls for firms to protect personal data of Indians, such as health and financial data, religious or political affiliation, caste, sexual orientation and biometrics, by storing all data in India, government and industry officials said on condition of anonymity. Multinational companies (MNCs), particularly American ones, are lobbying for a liberal e-commerce policy with virtual autonomy in possession and use of private data, which the proposed legislation aims to

regulate, officials said. The proposed laws assume significance as the two countries are expected to negotiate crucial trade-related issues when Pompeo holds meetings in New Delhi on June 26. Besides discussions with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar, Pompeo will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and national security adviser Ajit Doval, people familiar with the developments said. These meetings will also prepare the grounds for Modi's meeting with US President Donald Trump — his first since his re-election — on the margins of the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan, on June 28-29, the people said. The people said some work is already being done by the two sides behind the scenes to narrow differences before Pompeo's arrival. "A lot will depend on how much work is done before the visit," said an official who declined to be named.

"It's unlikely that all issues will be thrashed out when the US secretary of state meets the external affairs minister, and we are not focussing only on these issues. It's also about a balanced set of things, taking a look at where the ties are going and fine-tuning the domains where we are working together," the official added. The people cited above noted that the strategic partnership and counterterrorism cooperation have progressed well and there are more areas where the two sides are collaborating. Pompeo's visit will help in sharing of perspectives to create more convergence, they said. "The overall relationship is forward-looking and there's no doubt that it is moving in a positive direction, but it's also important to resolve issues that crop up," the official cited above said. "Both sides are committed to this relationship and have a similar vision, but the nuts and bolts need to be

tightened." Against the backdrop of these developments, India will not relent to US pressure as it provides a vast market and cheaper resources to American MNCs, officials said. "In the digital world, data is wealth. There are, however, two crucial issues — who owns the data and how MNCs share revenues earned by using the data. The revenue generated online often goes directly overseas, which is nothing but flight of wealth from India," said a second official, who also didn't want to be named. While referring to differences caused by Washington's threats of action under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) in response to India's deal to acquire the S-400 missile defence system from Russia and US efforts to wean India away from Russian military hardware, the people cited above said New Delhi will not scuttle the S-400 deal.

"It appears the US has misread the signals from New Delhi or isn't getting the right communication from its mission on India's position on these issues," a third official said. [Draft] MNCs are hauled by India's decision of December 26, 2018, that modified foreign direct investment guidelines and barred foreign e-commerce platforms from selling products of firms in which they have equity stakes. It also restricted foreign platforms from forging exclusive deals with online sellers. The US is the oldest democracy and India the largest, and there is immense potential for cooperation but it is possible only on the equity principle, as both sides have to protect their interests, the officials said. According to the officials, the draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill is ready after legal vetting, and can be introduced in Parliament at any time, and this legislation will pave the way

for the e-commerce policy, the draft of which too is ready, the officials said.

At a meeting chaired by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Monday, e-commerce industry representatives raised concerns about the draft e-commerce policy, which they felt was not "adequately consultative", an official statement said. Goyal held extensive consultations with the tech industry and e-commerce companies to understand their concerns and to include their suggestions for building a robust data protection framework, the officials added. Agneshwar Sen, associate partner, tax and economic policy group at EY India, said: "By gracefully refusing to request the US for extension of GSP benefits, India has clearly indicated it would prefer to trade on the competitiveness of its products rather than through preferential treatment... This is an assertion of India's self-confidence, which is manifest in its imposing retaliatory tariffs on 28 US tariff lines. The unilateral action of the US imposing tariffs on Indian steel and aluminium exports needed a response."

"The e-commerce policy and the [draft] Personal Data Protection Act cover two very important elements of future trade and security regime in any country, particularly of the size, complexity and security concerns as of India." Ajay Sahai, director general and CEO of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), said, "Countries like Germany, Russia and China have a data localisation policy covering different aspects of data. Data localisation will help regulatory supervision and check business jurisdiction issues exploited by large multinational entities. However, we should have strong norms covering data sharing and privacy of data to assure overseas entities working in India."

# Sport News

## Steve Waugh names the best batsman, picks four semi-finalists

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Former Australia World Cup winning captain Steve Waugh has picked the best batsman of ICC World Cup 2019 based on performances so far. While there has been some notable knocks from Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan and India's Rohit Sharma — both of them playing crucial roles in their respective sides victories — Waugh has gone in with Australia captain Aaron Finch as his pick for the best player of the tournament so far. Finch, who was not at the top of his game in the led-up to the World Cup after going through a disastrous India tour, is currently the third highest run-getter of the tournament with 343 runs to his name at an average of 68.60. Finch has two half-centuries and one century to his credit and at an astonishing strike rate of 110.64.

"He has remained calm and composed off the field in dealing with the media and has unquestionably been the premier batsman of the tournament," Waugh was quoted as saying by ICC. Hailed as one of the greatest captains to have ever played the game, Waugh rated Finch's 153 against Sri Lanka as one of the best innings of the tournament so far. His innings against Sri Lanka looked destined for a big number from ball one. On a good quality surface against a modest attack his balance, placement, and power overwhelmed the opposition to the point where he was hitting to wherever, whenever he wanted," Waugh said. Known to surprise the opposition with his tactics, Waugh also named his choice of semi-finalists. Waugh picked hosts England, defending champions Australia, last World Cup runner-ups New Zealand and

India. Almost halfway through the group stages of the ICC World Cup 2019, the top four teams — England, Australia, New Zealand and India — have not only created a gap from the rest of the teams in terms of points but have also shown the difference of class with power-packed performances on the cricket field. "Whilst Sri Lanka didn't really threaten Australia with perhaps the exception of their first 15 overs of batting it was another positive step for a team that seems destined to be joined in the semis with England, New Zealand and India. "Each of these teams will be fine tuning and gathering impetus and knowledge before a final week where they only need to win two games to stand aloft. It could come down to one individual who leaves his mark and creates a legacy for himself and his team, Waugh added.

## ICC World Cup 2019: Meet the man behind Kuldeep Yadav's 'turn' around

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With groggy eyes Kuldeep Yadav points towards the recording button and hands over his phone. His role of being the instructor ends then and there. It was now time for him to follow orders. Kuldeep starts his five-set shadow drill with the person holding his phone giving a count 1,2,3... each time he completes his bowling action without a ball in his hand. "Now load-up!" Kuldeep repeats the same drill but now without completing his action. He loads up, stops, loads again, he does this five times. The recording stops but the training continues. Kuldeep finally gets a ball in his hand but doesn't get to bowl from his favourite side. He is asked to bowl from round the wicket, something he rarely does and hates it to a certain extent too. Reluctantly Kuldeep starts bowling round the wicket and continues for the rest of the day.

four finish minus their front-line spinner, Kapil asked his favourite ward Kuldeep to get back to basics. "Some errors had crept into his bowling action. International tours had forced him to get away from his basic drills, I just had to bring him back," said Kapil Pandey in an exclusive chat with Hindustan Times. "He was mentally down for not getting tum. I asked him to bowl round the wicket. I knew, with his action he will naturally turn the ball more from the other side and as soon as he got his confidence back, I told him to switch to over the wicket," said Kapil. Kuldeep bowled more than 20 overs a day from round the stumps before going to England just to get his confidence back and get his arm position right. And when he again started to turn the ball, he just had to repeat the same from over the wicket. It wasn't easy but both Kapil and Kuldeep were adamant. The outcome was staggering. Kuldeep showed glimpses of returning back to old rhythm in the warm-up match against Bangladesh and gradually blossomed to full potential against Pakistan.

flat. If you don't flight the ball, it won't turn," Kapil added. But Kuldeep had a legitimate concern. He was getting away with his slow turners on Indian pitches but there was no hiding away from the subcontinent. During India's last tour to England, Joe Root took advantage of Kuldeep's slowness, and almost provided a module on how to tackle the chinaman by parking on the backfoot. India could ill-afford the same in World Cup. Kapil once again came up with a solution. While bowling round the stumps, Kapil also asked Kuldeep to get his left-arm higher and use more shoulder than wrists when he wanted to bowl fast without compromising on flight and spin. "He did not have a firm grip on the ball. He needed to lock his wrists and use more shoulder. That way he could generate pace even while fighting the ball," said Kapil. The delivery which induced the top-edge from Fakhar Zaman's bat was not only tossed-up above the eye-level but also bowled at more than 80 km/h — higher than Kuldeep's average speed. Kuldeep did not get wickets in the match against Australia but his pace on flighted deliveries did not allow David Warner to jump onto the backfoot and cut or pull him behind square. Kuldeep Yadav is certainly back doing what he does best, pick wickets for Team India, and the man behind his resurgence is sitting thousands of miles away hoping that his ward does the basics right and comes back home a world champion.

# Sushma Swaraj, Sumitra Mahajan apply for ex-MP cards, signal end of legislative innings

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Two veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) woman stalwarts, former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and former Lok Sabha speaker Sumitra Mahajan, signalled the end of their legislative career on Tuesday when the former applied for and the latter secured ex-member of Parliament identity cards, effectively ruling out the chances of them winning party nominations to the Rajya Sabha. Swaraj, 67, and Mahajan, 76, represented Vidisha and Indore, both in Madhya Pradesh, respectively, in the 16th Lok Sabha. Swaraj announced last year that she wouldn't contest the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, citing health grounds, although she said she wasn't retiring from politics. Mahajan, an eight-term parliamentarian, in April wrote an open letter questioning the BJP's hesitation in announcing its Indore candidate and declared that she would not contest the Lok Sabha polls. Tuesday's move indicates that there will be no space in the upper house for the two

veterans. Mahajan was the first one to approach the Parliamentary Notice Office (PNO) on Monday. Her application was approved on the day the government said Om Birla, the MP from Rajasthan's Kota, was its pick for the post of speaker in the 17th Lok Sabha. Mahajan held farewell meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Rajnath Singh and greeted the BJP's newly appointed working president, JP Nadda. She tweeted, "You gave me the opportunity to be Lok Sabha speaker. Thank you, Prime Minister Modi." Her spokesperson Pankaj Kshirsagar confirmed to Hindustan Times that the ex-MP card was issued to her on Tuesday. In contrast, Swaraj kept a low profile. There were no tweets, and her aides neither confirmed nor denied that her seven-term Parliamentary career was ending. The Lok Sabha secretary confirmed to HT that her application had been received on Tuesday and would be processed soon. "The member needs to surrender their existing card, and file an application along

with three passport size photos," said an official in the secretariat. Besides spending three decades in Parliament, Swaraj was also Delhi chief minister in 1998 for a short stint. "Parliament will miss Sushmaji

and her eloquence," said BJP's Vani Tripathi Tickoo. "It's rare that you've a woman leader who for decades held fort (forth) on every possible issue from a foreign policy matter to information and broadcasting to education, etcetera."

## Kumaraswamy on alliance with Congress

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The differences in the ruling Congress-JD(S) alliance in Karnataka were exposed once again on Wednesday with chief minister HD Kumaraswamy saying that he is "going through pain everyday". "I promise I will fulfil your expectations. I can't express pain I am going through everyday. I want to express it with you, but cannot, but I need to solve pain of people of state. I have responsibility of running government smoothly," Kumaraswamy was quoted as saying by news agency. Reacting to Kumaraswamy's comments, senior Congress leader and former CM Siddaramaiah said there is no

threat to the Karnataka government and "they (BJP) are trying desperately but they will not succeed". The alliance between the Congress and the JD(S) has been an uneasy one. Leaders from both the parties are often found engaging in war of words. Kumaraswamy had earlier broken down saying that he was unhappy being the CM. He talked about the "pain" of running a coalition government. The Janata Dal (Secular) or JD and the Congress joined hands after the May 12 assembly polls in Karnataka. The Bharatiya Janata Party emerged as the single largest party in the elections but its government fell in less than a week.

## New Zealand take on South Africa at Birmingham

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In the ICC Cricket World Cup, England beat Afghanistan by 150 runs in a league match in Manchester last night. The result was an exclusion from Kolkata Knight Riders' playing XI. That's when Kuldeep gave an SOS call to "Kapil sir". When KKR were making a desperate attempt for a final

Root 88. England's innings was about Eoin Morgan and also about records. Sixes outnumbered fours as England hit 25 sixes and 21 fours. Jofra Archer and Adil Rashid scalped three wickets for England as Afghanistan could only muster 247 for 8 in 50 overs. Earlier, England set a 398 run victory target for Afghanistan after losing 6 wickets.