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WTO panel rules against India in IT tariffs dispute with EU, others

A World Trade Organization (WTO) panel said on Monday that India had violated global trading rules in a dispute with the European Union (EU), Japan and Taiwan over import duties on IT products

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A logo is pictured outside the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland, September 28, 2021. | Photo Credit: Reuters



duties on IT products.

"We recommend that India bring such measures into conformity with its obligations," the WTO panel's report said.

In 2019, the EU challenged India's introduction of import duties of between 7.5% and 20% for a wide range of IT products, such as mobile phones and components, as well as integrated circuits, saying they exceeded the maximum rate. Japan and Taiwan filed similar complaints that same year.

The EU is India's third largest trading partner, accounting for 10.8% of total Indian trade in 2021, according to the European Commission.

India's diplomatic mission in Geneva did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether it would appeal against the ruling. If it does, the case will sit in legal purgatory since the WTO's top appeals bench is no longer functioning due to U.S. opposition to judge appointments.

The WTO panel said that India had already brought some of the challenged tariffs into line with global trading rules since last year. While the panel broadly backed the complaints against India, it rejected one of Japan's claims that New Delhi's customs notification lacked "predictability".



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