

Editorial Analysis

15 March 2022



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Digital tax tussles: On preventing a tariff war

The article concentrates on the import tariffs imposition on digital goods and services by the US, which has now been called off. A tariff rate of 25% was imposed on over \$2 billion of imports from 6 countries that included India.

This imposition was re-reviewed where USTR found them discriminatory especially observing that the economies are limping due to the ill effects of the pandemic. It announced that the tariffs applicable as per section 301, if necessary, can be initiated later in the future.

A similar case happened where the Biden administration first approved and then suspended tariffs on France after they retaliated on the same. The author believes that if the Biden administration had shunned implementing a high tariff policy, it could have avoided political fallouts. With this move, it is evident that the US is all set to play hard on the tech side and push towards the expansion of American tech firms.

It even seems to be ready for a tariff war outbreak that could even increase the already existing tensions between the US and Beijing. In all this, the cost for India could be high as an amount of \$118 million would fall under the proposal, impacting a gamut of sectors.

Given the situation, India and not even the world is in a state to go through a tariff war, and that too for a sector that has been enjoying low-tax or tax-free operations across the globe for ages.

Words to look out for

Punitively:

- **Synonyms:** punishingly, severely, harshly
- **Antonyms:** leniently
- **Word usage:** Import taxes are punitively high in many markets.

Grouse:

- **Synonyms:** grumble, complain, gripe
- **Antonyms:** acclaim, compliment, laud
- **Word usage:** She's been grouching to her boss about the working conditions.

Feeble:

- **Synonyms:** weak, frail, faint
- **Antonyms:** strong, powerful, healthy
- **Word usage:** She's still feeble from her long illness.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/digital-tax-tussles-the-hindu-editorial-on-preventing-a-tariff-war/article34721344.ece>

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Baby economics: China's worried about falling population. India thinks it has a demographic dividend. It isn't so simple

The article revolves around the various angles to see the decline in population and fertility rates. The global population registered a dramatic rise in the years after 1960.

In 1979 China introduced the harsh 'one-child policy. Then in 2016, they resorted to a two-child policy and now they have announced a three-child policy. China imposed it after identifying the problem of a growing ageing population with very few youngsters left in the demography.

Though China implemented it coercively, other countries have witnessed a sharp decline in fertility rates. In the past, the population decline had always been involuntary, which was mostly caused by natural or medical calamities, but the case is just the opposite now.

Conclusively, a large population is not always a blessing. Though the ageing population indeed is more of a burden on the working-age population.

But given the scenario where robotics and technology are replacing human labour, less population is always better. Having a young but poorly educated lot would also impose a similar burden on the economy.

Words to look out for

Preordained:

- **Synonyms:** predestined, fated, inevitable
- **Antonyms:** elidable, irrelevant
- **Word usage:** Fate had pre-ordained their meeting/that they should meet.

Trajectory:

- **Synonyms:** course, track, path
- **Antonyms:** off-track, distraction, different direction
- **Word usage:** The missile deflected from its trajectory.

Draconian:

- **Synonyms:** harsh, severe, oppressive
- **Antonyms:** bendable, malleable
- **Word usage:** He criticized the draconian measures taken by the police in controlling the demonstrators.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/baby-economics-chinas-worried-about-falling-population-india-thinks-it-has-a-demographic-dividend-it-isnt-so-simple/>

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