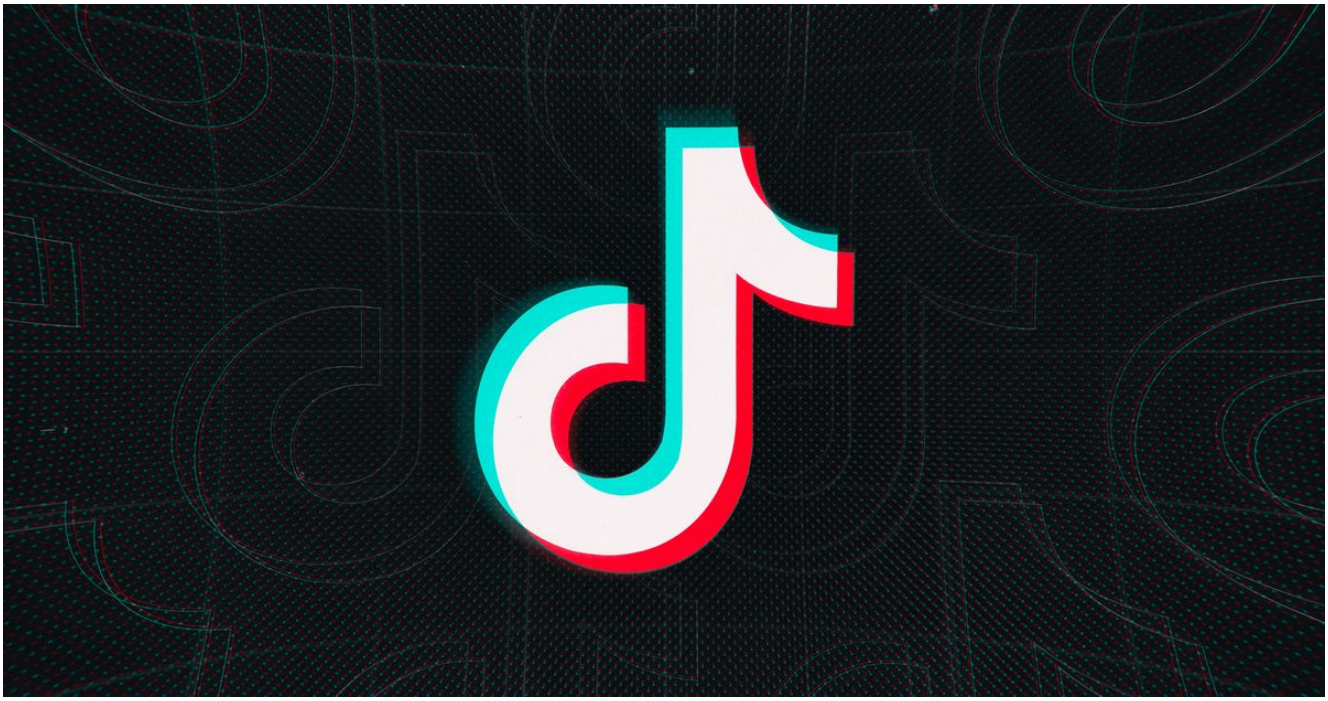
India has banned TikTok, WeChat, and other China-based apps



India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has banned TikTok, WeChat, and several dozen other China-based apps it views as "engaged in activities … prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India," according to *India Today*. A total of 59 apps are on the banned list.

India is a huge market for TikTok, which is owned by Chinese company ByteDance. According to SensorTower data from April, 30 percent of TikTok's 2 billion downloads came from India. Messaging app WeChat, owned by Chinese internet company Tencent, has more than 1 billion users worldwide.

TikTok and WeChat did not immediately reply to requests for comment Monday.

It's not the first time India has banned TikTok. Last year, the government instructed Google and Apple to remove the app from their respective app stores over concerns about

pornography on the platform. Indian lawmakers said TikTok was encouraging the spread of explicit content and “cultural degradation.” The ban was lifted after about a week.

Tensions between China and India are high, following an incident earlier this month at the border that left 20 Indian soldiers dead. It’s not clear how big a role the geopolitical situation had in India’s decision to ban TikTok. However, the platform has seen widespread criticism for ongoing security concerns; in February 2019, TikTok paid $5.7 million to the Federal Trade Commission over alleged violations of COPPA, a children’s privacy law. It had been allowing children under 13 years old to sign up for the app without parental consent. It’s since made changes to the app that increased parental controls.

Several US government agencies, including the Transportation Security Administration, the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security, the Navy, and the Army, have banned the use of the app on government-issued devices, citing security concerns over ByteDance’s connections to the Chinese government.

https://www.theverge.com/2020/6/29/21307014/india-ban-tiktok-wechat-china-apps