



Nothing Plastics Forever



Replacing plastics with alternatives will require raw materials, water, & energy - which have an even larger environmental footprint. Besides, the burden of a plastic ban will disproportionately affect the poor. The responsible thing to do would be to conduct a robust scientific study of the impact of replacing billions of plastic items that Indians use daily before announcing a nationwide ban.



Libra-ted

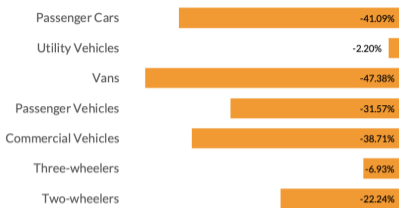
Libra has exacerbated the need for states to have their own digital currencies. A global cryptocurrency run by Facebook goes intrinsically against the notion of state-defined national interest. So even if Facebook (& its partners) were to somehow pass stringent regulatory tests, it is unlikely that any state will allow Libra to operate within its borders.

China hasn't Tai-won

Since 2015, China's Defence White Papers have been less & less concerned about Tibet & Xinjiang - & more concerned with Taiwan. Aggressive posturing in the 2019 White Paper shows that Taiwan still remains a headache for the People's Republic.



Percentage Change in Vehicle Sales by Category in August



Passenger vehicle sales plunged in the worst decline since 1997-98

(Source: Livemint, SIAM)

Parting shot:

Share of every ₹1 planned for defence expenditure in FY19-20:

Defence pensions: 25 paise

Capital investment: 22 paise

Defence pension expenditure has doubled since OROP* started

(Source: Budget documents)

*One Rank, One Pension

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