



Howdy Modi?



PM Modi's Texas rally with President Trump merges international diplomacy & political entertainment in a crucial state for 2020. Mobilising the overseas community could allow India to promote its interests but it comes with risks. The diaspora could be victims of future geopolitical shifts. Worsening US-China relations led to adverse consequences for Chinese diaspora, as did Germany-Turkey relations for Turkish immigrants.



Gateway to Hell

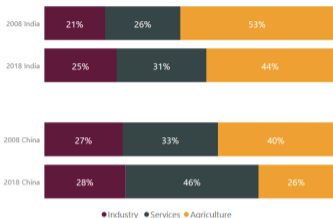
E-cigarettes are not without health risks, but are less harmful than conventional cigarettes. Banning them will put smokers at greater risk by limiting no-tar alternatives. It could lead to the creation of an underground market with higher priced, substandard alternatives, which would be difficult to tax & control.

All's Not Fine

Increasing fines by up to 10x — as the government has proposed — will not improve driver behaviour. Fines don't work when laws aren't uniformly enforced, as offenders will abscond or bribe cops. The burden will be borne by those who follow rules. Consistent, modest fines for bad driver behaviour are more likely to be considered fair & deliver desired results.



% of workforce in economic sectors, 2008 vs 2018



China has been transitioning from agri to the service sector better than India

(Source: World Bank, MOHRSS)

Parting shot:

Air India's operating loss

2018-19: ₹4,600 crores

Per day: ₹12.6 crores

Real losses are likely even higher as they include leasing fees, interest & CapEx.

(Source: Livemint/PTI)

*operating losses mean that operating expense exceeds revenue over a quarter or year

The Very Brief is dispatched by The Takshashila Institution once a week. Read & Share.

WhatsApp +91 7975654650 to subscribe