



Free trade with China



Despite the possibility of Chinese firms flooding India's market, India cannot afford to remain aloof from the RCEP indefinitely. Many of India's key economic partners are part of the programme & joining it could kickstart reforms needed to address the slowdown. One solution could be to create a middle path, as hinted during the Mamallapuram summit: India could join the RCEP but with special provisions regarding China.



Data, what is it good for?

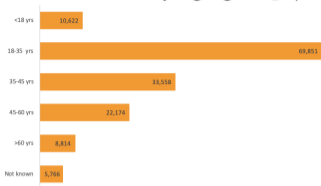
The lack of a data-sharing framework since refusing to sign the Osaka Track is a step not taken towards data-driven development. If data is being phrased as national wealth, India needs to come up with ways to use that wealth for economic progress, with or without participation in international agreements.

Rethinking Lithium-ion

While China has an advantage in lithium battery production, India can remain competitive by investing in urban mining, securing intellectual property in battery management systems & developing deeper ties with Australia - another key supplier.



Road deaths by age group (2016)



60% of people who lost their lives in road accidents were aged b/w 18-35, majority being sole breadwinners

(Source: Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Times of India)

Parting shot:

Food related greenhouse gas emissions (as percentage of total)

2019 : ~25%

2050 (projected) : ~50%

The global food system is a major contributor to climate change.

(Source: The Economist)

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