Prashant Mavani, is an expert in current affairs analysis and holds a MSc in Management from University of Surrey (U.K.). Above all he is a passionate teacher.
Buddha was once approached by a man who showered abuses on him. Buddha did not react at all to the man’s rudeness. After the visitor left, Buddha’s disciples asked him why he had not responded to the man’s vile ranting. Buddha replied that whatever the man had given to Buddha had been taken back by him. In other words, since Buddha was indifferent to what had been said the abuses did not touch him at all. The man who had hoped to provoke him went back defeated in his intentions.
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Good and simple tax

A course correction is essential to fix the glitches in the GST regime

India's goods and services tax regime is nearing the end of its first full quarter since roll-out this July. Revenue collections from the first month appear robust, with just 70% of eligible taxpayers bringing in Rs 59,000 crore. At this rate, the total tally could well surge close to Rs 1.2 lakh crore. This would be significantly higher than the Rs 65,000 crore indirect tax target for the Centre and the States on an overall basis. This initial trend will need to be corroborated by inflows for subsequent months, but with many more taxpayers registering in August, the GST appears to have begun well as far as the exchequer is concerned. If revenues remain healthy, the government would, over time, get the necessary fiscal room to rationalise multiple GST rates into fewer slabs and possibly lower levies as a stimulus. However, for businesses the going has been far from smooth, with firms of all sizes across sectors struggling to file their first set of returns under the GST due to significant glitches in the GSTN Network, its information technology backbones, and issues of connectivity. The government has extended the deadline for GST returns for the first month twice, with GSTN now required to be submitted as late as November 10. A group of Central and State ministers has been tasked with resolving the GSTN's challenges. To inspire confidence, this group must act not only expeditiously but also transparently – especially with regard to the GSTN's operational capacity. However, as it stands now the delay in filing returns for the first, and therefore subsequent, months means that taxpayers expecting a refund from the authorities on taxes already paid (for example, by exporters) will end up waiting for almost four months (for the period of July alone). This is bound to crimp their working capital availability and create an unjust burden on their finances, impacting their ability to scale up production ahead of the high-turnover festive season. The problem is most acute for exporters, for whom the Council has now formed a special committee under the Revenue Secretary. Provided there are no further setbacks on these timelines, these procedural problems need to be resolved as soon as possible for industry to be comfortable with this switch-over. Amid this, the GST Council has already changed the announcement rates on over 100 products and services within about 35 days of the roll-out. An ever-changing policy landscape is hardy conducive for attracting investment. The fact that industrial output grew just 1.2% in July may not be a coincidence. Clearly, a lot of things were not thought through or tested enough as the GSTN when the government opted for a July 1 launch for GST instead of the September 16 date that the constitutional changes made last year allowed. Admitting to the errors of judgment so far is essential for a genuine course correction.
• The goods and services tax regime is nearing the end of its first full quarter since roll-out this July.
  • **Quarter** = a period of 3 months. So in 1 year we have 4 quarters.
• Revenue collection for the 1st month = Rs 95,000 crore
  • This is just from **70%** of eligible taxpayers.
  • It may cross Rs 1.2 lakh crore by the time **100%** eligible taxpayers pay their dues.
  • Way more than the **target** of Rs 91,000 crore.
• Many more taxpayers **registering** in August
• The GST appears to have begun well as far as the **exchequer** (treasury) is concerned.
• If revenues remain **healthy**, the government would, over time, get the necessary fiscal room to rationalise multiple GST rates into fewer slabs and possibly lower levies as a stimulus.
• However, for businesses the going has been **far from smooth**.

• With firms of all sizes across sectors struggling to file their first set of returns under the GST due to significant glitches in the GST Network, its information technology backbone, and issues of connectivity.
• The government has extended the deadline for GST returns for the first month twice, with GSTR-3 now required to be submitted as late as November 10.
• A group of Central and State ministers has been tasked with resolving the GSTN’s challenges.
  • Read Between The Lines: This is how government solves problem/s.
  • What you would have done if you were IAS officer in-charge of sorting things out.
• To inspire confidence, this group must act not only expeditiously but also transparently — especially with regard to the GSTN’s operational capacity.
Issues

• However, as it stands now the delay in filing returns for the first, and therefore subsequent, months means that taxpayers expecting a refund from the authorities on taxes already paid (for example, by exporters) will end up waiting for almost four months (for the period of July alone).

• This is bound to crimp their working capital availability and create an unjust burden on their finances, impacting their ability to scale up production ahead of the high-turnover festive season.

• The problem is most acute for exporters, for whom the Council has now formed a special committee under the Revenue Secretary.

• Amid all this, the GST Council has already changed the announced tax rates on over 100 products and services within about 75 days of the roll-out.

• An ever-changing policy landscape is hardly conducive for attracting investment.

• Clearly, a lot of things were not thought through or tested (such as the GSTN) when the government opted for a July 1 launch for GST instead of the September 16 date that the constitutional changes made last year allowed.

  • Agree or Disagree?
  • The world over have GST, why we should fear its early implementation?
Fourth time lucky?
Angela Merkel's re-election as German Chancellor seems all but certain

The elections to the German Bundestag on September 24 come down to a simple question: will Angela Merkel, Europe's most influential politician, win her bid for a fourth term as Chancellor? The question appears to be a non-starter. Except for leads in opinion polls early in the campaign, her challenger from the Social Democratic Party (SPD), Martin Schulz, has never looked a serious contender. Conversely, Mrs. Merkel, of the Christian Democratic Union, has received much of the political ground she lost in the wake of her policy to open the doors to over a million, mostly Syrian, migrants in 2015. When the SPD announced its candidate in January, there was an element of novelty about Mr. Schulz, who had been out of German politics for long. His relatively clean record from the coalition compromises between the SPD and the CDU also may have worked to his advantage. But whatever advantages may have accrued to this former president of the European Parliament were lost when the SPD was defeated in May in regional elections in North-Rhine Westphalia, its traditional stronghold. Moreover, there are few areas of major political divergence between the rival candidates. Not only do both leaders share a common vision for a closer Europe, they even advocate a multi-speed process of eurozone integration. Blurring whatever political divisions that remain, in her 12 years as Chancellor Mrs. Merkel has successfully incorporated into her political planks several of the SPD's welfare policies. Her leadership of Europe and the broader Western alliance has become a critical factor after Britain's vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump's pursuit of an isolationist course. Given this scenario, Germany's cautious electorate is more likely to stay with experience rather than go in for an experiment. Thus, another grand coalition between Germany's two largest parties is not an unlikely prospect, should the CDU and its Bavarian partner, the Christian Social Union, fail to win a majority. In the event an alliance between them does not materialise, the Greens and the much-anaemic Free Democratic Party would be in the reckoning.

There has been considerable anxiety about the euro-sceptic, far-right Alternative for Germany party (AfD) making significant inroads, which would put the country's aymodne post-war centrist politics on notice. The AfD's rise bears close similarities to the increase in the popular vote of anti-immigrant xenophobic parties in other European countries. Although Ms. Merkel and the CDU have mustered consistently impressive leads in recent months, opinion polls point to a sizeable proportion of undecided voters. The coming week will see the contest move to a decisive phase, although it may be hard to speculate on who would gain from a strong turnout. Nonetheless, there appears to be little danger of erosion of the political centre in Germany yet, and the verdict could finally set off the populist upsurge that has threatened Europe this year.
• Elections to the German **Bundestag** on September 24.
• Will Angela Merkel, Europe’s most **influential politician**, win her bid for a fourth term as Chancellor?
• Ms. Merkel, of the Christian Democratic Union, has recovered much of the political ground she lost in the wake of her policy to open the doors to over a million, mostly **Syrian, migrants** in 2015.
• Both leaders (rivals in this election) share a **common vision** for a closer Europe, they even advocate a multi-speed process of Eurozone integration.
• Her leadership of Europe and the broader Western alliance has become a **critical factor** after Britain’s vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump’s pursuit of an isolationist course.
• Given this scenario, Germany’s ever-cautious electorate is more likely to stay with experience rather than go in for an experiment.
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• Nonetheless, there appears to be little danger of erosion of the political centre in Germany yet, and the verdict could finally see off the populist upsurge that has threatened Europe this year.
Deporting refugees would run counter to India’s obligations under domestic and international law

At home and in the world

The principle of non-refoulement is enshrined in Article 33 of the 1951 Refugee Convention. It mandates that no state shall expel or return a refugee to places where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. However, it allows for an exception in cases where there are "reasonable grounds" for regarding a refugee as a "danger to the security of the country." What’s more, the Convention also excludes generally from refugee status individuals guilty of, among other things, committing war crimes or crimes against peace and humanity.

Now, India is not a party to the 1951 Convention, but we need to heed the existence of sources of law that stretch beyond treaty obligations. These include sources of customary international law, where binding rules have been crystallised as a result of the practice of states. The principle of non-refoulement is widely regarded as such a rule. In fact, some scholars argue that the principle is so well entrenched that it constitutes a peremptory norm from which no derogation whatsoever is permitted. But even if one were to dissent from such arguments, there is no denying that non-refoulement is now universally accepted as a fundamental rule of international law.

Ultimately, the petitions filed by the Rohingya refugees are an important test of both the Supreme Court and the Indian state’s moral courage. In an interview on World Refugee Day, Mr. Rijiju urged an end to the "chronic branding India as a 'villain,'" for its apparent stand seeking to return the Rohingyas, a "calculated design," in his view, to "tarnish India’s image."

However, the present crisis goes beyond matters of mere perception. It is part of a larger trend of collective blame that is, in a sense, a "rebrooding" of the past. It is a "chronic branding" that continues to stigmatize those who are "other." It is a "calculated design" that seeks to "tarnish India’s image." But it is also a "calculated design" that seeks to protect the rights of all individuals, regardless of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.

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• Nurul Islam, a 30-year-old farmer, who had fled to Bangladesh by boat, told *The Economist* that he left his home in Myanmar after the military blasted bullets on villagers and set their houses on fire.

• They separated the women and men, the magazine reported, and raped Islam’s 13-year-old sister Khadiza, proceeding to then mutilate her body.

• In February, a *United Nations* report had documented numerous instances of gang rape and killings, including of babies and young children, by Myanmar’s security forces.

• Now, the army’s viciousness, already unimaginably ghastly, has escalated even further.

• Despite living for centuries in Myanmar, the Rohingya, who are mostly Muslim, have been denied citizenship and have been rendered stateless.
• By any account, the Rohingya are at the centre of a **humanitarian catastrophe** of terrifying proportions.

• On Monday, the U.N. human rights chief, Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein, called on Myanmar to put an end to this “**brutal security operation**”.
  - He termed the state’s actions against the Rohingya as “**a textbook example of ethnic cleansing**”. Some would go further.

• In October, 2015, a Yale Law School study warned that efforts were being made not merely to forcibly displace the Rohingya but towards committing the crime of genocide through the complete annihilation of the ethnic group.

• As far as we are concerned they are all illegal immigrants. They have no basis to live here. Anybody who is [an] illegal migrant will be deported.” said **India**

• These threats are not only chilling on a humanitarian level, if translated into action, they would also constitute a contravention of India’s obligations under both **domestic** and **international** law.
The case in court

* Petition filed by 2 Rohangiya refugees in the Supreme Court.
* Their submissions rest on two broad planks:
   * **one**, that any deportation would violate their fundamental rights to equality and to life, under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.
   * **two**, that any action by India in returning them to Myanmar would infringe international law, particularly the principle of **non-refoulement**.

*What is principle of non-refoulement?*

*Ans: The principle of non-refoulement is articulated in Article 33 of the 1951 Convention.*

It mandates that no state shall expel or return a refugee to “the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion”.

However, it allows for an exception in cases where there are “reasonable grounds” for regarding a refugee as a “danger to the security of the country.”

* When the case comes up for hearing next, on September 18, in response, the government may be
  * that India is not bound to follow the principle of non-refoulement, since it is not a signatory to the 1951 U.N. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.
  * In any event, any deportation would be saved by the exceptions to the principle, in that the Rohingya are guilty of committing crimes against peace and are a threat to India’s national security.
• At present non-refoulement is nearly **universally** accepted as constituting a fundamental rule of international law.

• At least two **high courts** in India have expressly held that the country is bound to follow the principle. In their judgments respectively in Ktaer Abbas Habib Al Qutaifi v. Union of India (1998) and Dongh Lian Kham v. Union of India (2015) the **Gujarat** and **Delhi High Courts** have virtually incorporated non-refoulement into the guarantees of Article 21 of the Constitution.

• The **Supreme Court** in **different cases** has **incorporated other principles of customary international law into municipal law**, where there’s no local statute embodying rules to the contrary.

• Ultimately, the petitions filed by the Rohingya refugees are an important test of both the Supreme Court and the Indian state’s moral calibre.

• However, the present crisis goes beyond matters of mere perception. It goes to the root of what it means to be a civilised state, of treating every person, irrespective of constructs of citizenship, with equal care, compassion and respect.
Creating corridors of certainty

The effort to link tiger reserves needs many more stakeholders and political will

Neha Sinha

Ranthambore in Rajasthan is arguably India’s most well-known tiger reserve, aglow with bold tigers posing for the camera. It has a fierce conservation ethic, a success story with few parallels. It is estimated that there are over 60 tigers in this relatively small tiger reserve. But what about the future? A genetic study suggests that Ranthambore’s tigers suffer from low genetic diversity and isolation.

While the reserve itself is doing well in terms of tiger numbers, it is cut off from other forests. This is a microcosm for many other tiger reserves in India. Several are admirably run with healthy tiger numbers, but simultaneously they are also witness to fast-paced disturbance in the landscape around them. While numbers of tigers are stable inside reserves, connectivity between them is getting cut off.

Based on a study of samples from tiger post-mortems and collection from live tigers, a new study, which had inputs from laboratories at the Wildlife Institute of India, the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, and IARI, has found that India has three distinct and genetically connected tiger populations. These are in: south India; central India; the ‘goral’ and north-east India; and in Ranthambore. The Ranthambore population has the least genetic diversity and may suffer from isolation. There are two issues here: populations require genetic flow to remain robust; securing healthy tiger numbers are not enough for tiger health. Second, we are in an age of active management. When tigers go extinct in an area, they are found in or carried in from other areas - as was done in the case of Panna (Madhya Pradesh) and Sariska (Rajasthan). But, it appears, prima facie, that the problem is solved. But are these management devices a suitable proxy for genetic flow through actual habitat corridors?

Wild, but stranded
India has more than 60% of the global wild tiger population. Thus, the question is not just today but also of tomorrow.

Several studies suggest that tigers do well in remote and dense forest. But tigers also need new forest to colonise, dispersing from their natal areas as they reach adulthood. Natural history has viewed the tiger to be the epitome of the ‘wild’ animal – doing well in areas with less human disturbance, taking down large prey, keeping a distance from people, and being fiercely territorial of space. Modern surveillance technology has pointed to the problem that tigers will traverse long, difficult distances to establish territories. As examples, we have had tigers moving from Ranthambhore to Bharatpur (Rajasthan), from Pilibhit to Lucknow (both Uttar Pradesh), and from Pench (Madhya Pradesh) to Umred (Maharashtra).

Genetically isolated or stranded populations can suffer from genetic depression, and subsequently, mutations and ailments. This has already happened to species which have had stranded populations such as the Florida panther and possibly the Great Indian Bustard. While the tiger is undoubtedly the epitome of wildness, its wildness is not restricted to being a fierce obligate carnivore which hunts to survive, dying when weakened. Wildness and wildlife conservation also include preserving ecological processes which hold their own evolutionary potential. A robust forest or habitat corridor between tiger reserves is an important means of maintaining these ecological processes and may hold the key to the survival and adaptation of the species.

Yet today there is a hard disregard for conservation outside protected areas. Even the core of reserves are on the chopping block. Is this because there is contentment that tiger numbers are stable overall? In Madhya Pradesh, the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project will submerge a large part of the Panna tiger reserve and landscape. A new proposed irrigation project will submerge more than three lakh trees in the Palamu tiger reserve (Jharkhand). New highway proposals which will make tiger cuts through Sariska, Kaziranga (Assam) and between the Kanha and Pench reserves are being considered or implemented. Clearly, a wildlife corridor or habitat is a bad word in the lexicon of planning and development.

Not just numbers
The tiger story is built around a narrative of numbers. Undoubtedly, numbers are important. They indicate a continuous protection effort and that the habitat is doing well. But numbers are the beginning of the tiger story, and not the end.

The fact that the forest department carries out conservation but does not own land outside of the forest is an important factor. Thus an effort to link reserves would need more stakeholders and political will. This is not easily done, but needs to be attempted as a conservation priority. Rajasthan recently created the Mukundra tiger reserve for Ranthambore’s ‘spillover’ tigers. Apart from moving tigers with human intervention, the corridor between the two reserves should be strengthened too. Other States need to start restoring corridors or stepping stones between forests.

With mounting human pressure, to ask for more acres of protected forests may be utopian. But conserving workable corridors is doable – and as science shows us, also necessary.

Neha Sinha is a wildlife conservationist
• India has more than 60% of the global wild tiger population.
• Ranthambore in Rajasthan is arguably India’s most well-known tiger reserve, aglow with bold tigers posing for the camera. It has a fierce conservation ethic, a success story with few parallels.
• A genetic study suggests that Ranthambore’s tigers suffer from low genetic diversity and isolation.
• While the reserve itself is doing well in terms of tiger numbers, it is cut off from other forests.
• There are two issues here:
  1. Populations require genetic flow to remain robust; securing healthy tiger numbers are not enough for tiger health.
  2. We are in an age of active management. When tigers go extinct in an area, they are flown in or carried in from other areas — as was done in the case of Panna (Madhya Pradesh) and Sariska (Rajasthan). It appears, prima facie, that the problem is solved. But are these management devices a suitable proxy for genetic flow through actual habitat corridors?
• Genetically isolated or stranded populations can suffer from **genetic depression**, and subsequently, **mutations** and **ailments**.
  • This has already happened to species which have had stranded populations such as the **Florida panther** and possibly the **Great Indian Bustard**.

• A robust forest or habitat **corridor** between tiger reserves is an important means of maintaining these ecological processes and may hold the key to the survival and adaptation of the species.
  • In Madhya Pradesh, the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project will submerge a large part of the Panna tiger reserve and landscape. A new proposed irrigation project will submerge more than three lakh trees in the Palamau tiger reserve (Jharkhand). New highway proposals which will make wider cuts through Sariska, Kaziranga (Assam) and between the Kanha and Pench reserves are being considered or implemented. Clearly, a wildlife corridor or habitat is a bad word in the lexicon of planning and development.

• The fact that the forest department carries out conservation but does not own land outside of the forest is an important factor.

• Thus an effort to link reserves would need many more stakeholders and political will.
Can India ignore the Rohingya crisis?

Since the refugees have no home to return to right now, New Delhi has no choice but to act. The questions should not be why India is helping these people, but rather, how to help them. There are thousands of refugees choosing to live in Cox’s Bazar. However, the humanitarian crises are severe in Bangladesh, and thousands of Rohingya refugees have appealed for help. The government has taken some initial steps to help them, but much more needs to be done.

India’s decision to provide aid is a positive step, but more must be done. The government should provide long-term solutions, such as repatriation and integration into the local community. The crisis is complex and multifaceted, and requires a comprehensive approach to address the root causes of the conflict. India has a responsibility to help alleviate the suffering of the Rohingya people and contribute to a lasting solution.
**India-Japan: A summery**

- Since last 3 years the ties have shot up
  - 10 years prior to that it was steadily growing
- Both nations are two major economies, two democracies of Asia.
- Both together can counter China’s high handedness
  - South China Sea
  - Nine Dash Line
  - Territorial disputes with neighbours
- On topics or subjects pertaining to region or globe, both nation have no disagreement whatsoever.
  - Such a frame is good for taking things forward.
  - You can built anything you like when you have such solid base.
• Strategically speaking
  • Trilateral exercises are on: India-Japan-USA
  India-Japan-Australia
  • BrahMos, Amphibian aircraft, ground surveillance system

• Trade: It's not up to its potential
  • We have presence of Japanese giants in India like Suzuki, Honda etc
  • But challenge is to attract small and medium companies of Japan to India.
  • Food park for Japanese people in India
  • Special desk in PMO for Japan
  • Cleaning Ganga
  • Alang Ship Building Yard

• Bullet train will send signal to Japanese investors
  • Government is trying to highlight that if we are investing then you too can invest in India.
  • It is a safe and good place for your investment.

• People to people contact: Hindu-Buddhist religious tours, Tourism, Students
  • Visit to Dandi Kutir
  • Sabarmati Ashram
• Both nations are supporting ASEAN
  • China has managed to divide ASEAN to some extent
  • Undertone of China was there in joint statement
  • Freedom of navigation, UNCLOS, respecting sovereignty etc. was part of the speech

• Civil Nuclear Pact

• Science and Technology

• Open Sky agreement: airlines can operate unlimited flights between these two countries.

• Asia-Africa Growth Corridor
  • Marriage: Indian Human resources with Japanese Technology
  • Alternative vision of development
  • Respecting sovereignty
  • Owned and decisions of the countries
  • Not a debt trap
LeT man who plotted hit on Amarnath yatris killed

• The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)’s recently-anointed operational commander Abu Ismail, said to be responsible for the July 10 attack on Amarnath pilgrims that left eight dead, was killed along with his associate in an encounter on the outskirts of Srinagar on Thursday afternoon.

• J&K Director General of Police S.P. Vaid said Ismail was the main accused in the Amarnath yatra attack. “We had prior information about the presence of two foreign terrorists,” said Mr. Vaid.

• Ismail and his associate, Chota Qasim, were killed in a brief encounter at Aarigam area near Nowgam on the outskirts of Srinagar.

• The militant has been the prime target of the security agencies since the July attack.
HC bars floor test in T.N. Assembly till Sept. 20

• The Madras High Court on Thursday restrained the Tamil Nadu Governor, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary from holding a floor test in the House till September 20.

• Justice M. Duraiswamy passed the interim order after senior counsel Kapil Sibal, representing DMK working president M.K. Stalin, voiced apprehensions that by Wednesday next, the Speaker might disqualify 19 dissident AIADMK MLAs and hold the trust vote immediately thereafter in an attempt to convert the existing “minority government” into a one that enjoys an “artificial majority” in the House.

• When the judge wanted to know whether the Advocate General (AG) would be willing to give an undertaking that the floor test shall not be conducted till the next date of hearing, Mr. Narayan replied in the negative. He further said even the court could not pass an interim order contrary to the petitioner’s prayer to conduct the floor test at the earliest.
19 die as boat capsizes in U.P.

• At least 19 people, including 13 women, have died after a boat that was carrying around 62 people capsized in the Yamuna in Katha village of Baghpat district early Thursday morning.

• Rohit, an eyewitness, told The Hindu that the tragedy occurred as a result of too many people pressuring Rizwan, the boatman, to ferry them in the same trip.

• Due to his greed, Rizwan must have agreed, he said, adding that overloading of the boat was a daily phenomenon.

• Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced a compensation of Rs. 2 lakh to the kin of the deceased from the Chief Minister’s relief fund.

• The State government has ordered a magisterial probe into the accident.
Historic Darjeeling villa ransacked

• Miscreants ransacked Darjeeling’s historic Roy Villa, where Sister Nivedita breathed her last on October 13, 1911, police said on Thursday.
• Caretakers of the four-storied building found the donation box in the house broken and photographs thrown on the floor.
• The heritage house, located on Lebong Cart Road, was handed over to the West Bengal government by the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) in 2013.
• It was later handed over to the Ramakrishna Mission for renovation and restoration.
• Born Margaret Elizabeth Noble in 1867 in Ireland, Sister Nivedita was one of Swami Vivekananda’s important disciples.
• She played a prominent role in the freedom struggle and for the education of girl children.
• “This is a historical heritage building. We are celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Sister Nivedita. I do not have words to condemn such an act,” the State’s Tourism Minister Gautam Deb said.
NGT refuses to lift ban on diesel cars

• A decade-old diesel vehicles will now have to go off the roads with the National Green Tribunal on Thursday declining to lift its ban on them in Delhi-NCR, noting that emissions from diesel vehicles were carcinogenic.

• The NGT dismissed the Centre's plea seeking modification of its ban order on diesel vehicles.

• The tribunal said, one diesel vehicle causes pollution equal to 24 petrol vehicles and 40 CNG vehicles.
Suzuki to invest Rs. 3,900 crore in Gujarat for third car plant

• Japanese auto giant Suzuki Motor Corp. on Thursday announced fresh investments of about $0.6 billion or almost Rs. 3,900 crore in Gujarat to add a third car production plant at the Hansalpur facility.

• The company, along with its partners Toshiba and Denso, will also invest $180 million (about Rs. 1,150 crore) in a separate unit to manufacture lithium ion batteries.
  • The **lithium ion batteries** plant is expected to go operational by 2020.
  • The batteries will be used for “hybrid vehicles manufactured in India and [the company would] export these genuinely manufactured-in-India vehicles to international market,” it said. Last year, Suzuki Motor Corp. had joined hands with Toshiba Corporation and Denso to set up a plant in India to produce lithium ion batteries.
• GST
  • What are different rates of tax or slabs under GST?

• Germany
  • One river is famous and important in this part of the world. Name it
  • Name a famous mountain range of Europe.

• Japan
  • What is the name of Japanese Parliament?
  • Most famous mountain of Japan?
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The End