

Editorial Analysis 19 Oct 2021

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When two is too little: On China's three child policy

The article talks about China's move of introducing the 'three child policy' after 6 years ever since it abandoned the old 'one-child policy. The party argued that this step intends to improve population structure and preserve human resource advantages.

The author states that after the implementation of the 'one-child policy' the fertility went down drastically. The country fears that the aging and gender-imbalanced population would result in getting old faster than becoming rich.

In 2012, China abandoned the 'one-child policy and allowed couples to have two children, but it did not boost the birth rates. It was mainly due to high child-rearing costs that the overall first-child births also declined. The same was observed in other countries.

They argue that policymakers should give importance to the reduction of child-rearing costs than abolishing birth quotas. The author also highlights demographic interventions by the state which should also be checked.

Words to look out for

Exhortation:

- **Synonyms**: incitement, persuasion, encouragement
- Antonyms: dissuasion, abandonment, compulsion
- **Word usage:** The matter of the sermon is a very general exhortation, and there is no definite plan or sequence.

Grapple:

- **Synonyms**: wrestle, struggle, contend
- Antonyms: release, let go, free
- **Word usage**: The police warned the public that it would be dangerous to grapple with the wanted man, as he was armed.

Entrenched:

- **Synonyms**: ingrained, established, rooted
- Antonyms: adjustable, brash, careless
- **Word usage**: Our soldiers have entrenched themselves behind the battle lines.

Article Link: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/when-two-is-too-little-on-chinas-three-child-policy/article34702598.ece

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Booster required: FY21 growth is better than expected, but extra Gol spend needed for FY22

The article is focused on the economic aspects of the country and begins by highlighting the fall in the GDP which was not as severe as expected. The economy was able to withstand the crisis and pulled back in the third quarter and gained momentum.

However, the GDP numbers in the future are going to be shocking with data on smaller firms and informal sectors seep in. A large chunk of GDP constitutes that of private consumption, which has observed a drastic decline. So, unless consumption demand picks up, the recovery is doubtful.

The positive numbers in the last quarter were due to the government's spending, which drove growth in fixed investment. Stepping ahead, the pace of reopening would decide the economic fate. But this time, with high fears, it is not expected to be that smooth.

In such a scenario, the worst struck sector would be 'service' which is contact intensive and the highest job provider. Thus, stronger fiscal support is what the country would need in the future.

Words to look out for

Dire:

- **Synonyms**: dreadful, awful, terrible
- Antonyms: fortunate, good, trivial
- Word usage: His childhood was passed in dire poverty.

Virulence:

- Synonyms: bitterness, acrimony, venom
- **Antonyms**: inner beauty, kindness
- Word usage: The disease is seen to have attained its maximum virulence in 1883.

Conceal:

- **Synonyms**: hide, disguise, mask
- Antonyms: show, reveal, uncover
- **Word usage**: Maybe he was trying to protect her, but more likely he was simply trying to conceal the problem.

Article Link: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/booster-required-fy21-growth-is-better-than-expected-but-extra-goi-spend-needed-for-fy22/

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