

Daily Editorial Analysis

24 June 2021



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Engage Iran: On U.S. blocking Iran-linked websites

The article highlights the U.S.'s move to block Iran-linked websites amidst the negotiations to revive the nuclear deal is no less than a deliberative incitement. It has accused the websites of spreading disinformation.

The move follows the election of Mr Raisi as the new president, blamed for the execution of political prisoners, which has already increased the tensions between the two nations. The author condemns the move arguing that the U.S. moves must not be that stringent. Instead, to curb the spread of misinformation should be to promote information and strengthen journalism.

The Biden administration attempted to revive the nuclear deal before the Iranian election, where all parties showed faith in the diplomatic talks. But the bottlenecks to the pact include Trump's sanctions post the pullout of the U.S. from the deal.

As the U.S. wishes Iran to return to its original terms, they want the U.S. to lift the sanctions first. Biden wanted to discuss Iran's regional activities too, but Raisi rejected the demands. The best would be to reach an agreement before Raisi assumes office in August, concentrating on walking the diplomatic path and addressing critical issues.

Words to look out for

Despotic:

- **Synonyms:** dictatorial, tyrannical, authoritarian
- **Antonyms:** democratic, popular, amenable
- **Word usage:** The country was ruled by a despotic tyrant.

Hitch:

- **Synonyms:** snag, hindrance, difficulty
- **Antonyms:** solution, opportunity
- **Word usage:** He plans to hitch right around the coast of Ireland.

Overture:

- **Synonyms:** prelude, feeler, advance
- **Antonyms:** conclusion, ending, finish
- **Word usage:** They played the overture at a reasonably slow tempo.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/engage-iran-the-hindu-editorial-on-us-blocking-iran-linked-websites/article34939705.ece>



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A policy mess: Proposed changes in online commerce encourage micro managing, may result in a new set of problems

The article focuses on the recently proposed amendments to e-commerce rules that aim to end discounts for promoting Indian merchandise. According to this, Amazon and Flipkart have been put under investigation where CCI is to investigate them.

The right way to do this would be to regulate the retail e-commerce platforms that provide the market and compete with other sellers. Ideally, E-commerce firms must only offer a technology platform and have no commercial interests anyhow. However, the CCI and Government of India seem to be disturbed with the discounts offered on such platforms, which are not generally based on efficiency gains.

But the approach seems problematic as it has increased micromanagement and confusions on flash sales. Ultimately the consumer will be at a loss. CCI and GOI want e-commerce platforms to suggest domestic brands as alternatives to imported goods. However, this cannot be done fairly. Such proposals will increase inefficient competitors and not help consumers in any way.

Words to look out for

Ostensibly:

- **Synonyms:** apparently, seemingly, outwardly
- **Antonyms:** honestly, deep down, really
- **Word usage:** She stayed behind at the office, ostensibly to work.

Asymmetry:

- **Synonyms:** imbalance, irregularity, crookedness
- **Antonyms:** symmetry, balance, harmony
- **Word usage:** In any event, the asymmetry is clear enough.

Prop up:

- **Synonyms:** support, shore-up, underpin
- **Antonyms:** discourage, suppress, abandon
- **Word usage:** We had to prop up the roof with a wooden post.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/a-policy-mess-proposed-changes-in-online-commerce-encourage-micro-managing-may-result-in-a-new-set-of-problems/>

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