

Editorial Analysis

31 March 2022



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The rise of Raisi: On Iran's new President

The article is about Iran's Presidential election where Ebrahim Raisi emerged as a winner. In Iran's political system, the presidents have a vital role to play. Previously the country saw tensions between reformist presidents and supreme leader.

Reformists have always pushed gradual reforms. On the flip side, the conservatives have always held them back. Raisi contested elections in 2017 but lost and was appointed the Chief Justice in 2019. Iranians opine that the election of Raisi was planned as the Guardian Council made sure that no potential reformist stood as an opponent. He has a controversial personality.

The US has always accused him of the 'death commission of 1989. Also, the corruption campaign initiated by him is being criticized as it seems to target political rivals. Owing to Iran's tense political situation, the reforms in the system doesn't seem to have made much progress.

With Raisi in power and growing discontent in society, there is high demand for liberty and reforms. He needs to understand that repression would not help in the long run, and he must use his power to push the situation towards gradual economic and political reforms.

Words to look out for

Clout:

- **Synonyms:** smack, thump, whack
- **Antonyms:** weakness, impotence, feebleness
- **Word usage:** The politician holds impeccable clout in this region.

Echelon:

- **Synonyms:** level, stratum, tier
- **Word usage:** He was no at the same echelon as that of his peers.

Decree:

- **Synonyms:** ruling, verdict, announcement
- **Antonyms:** plea, appeal, bid
- **Word usage:** Some protestant groups tend not to follow any ruling.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-rise-of-raisi-the-hindu-editorial-on-irans-new-president/article34873997.ece>

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Health of the nation: Covid has shown what medical expenses can do to poor & even middle class. Govts must act at micro, macro levels

Given the pandemic situation, the article talks about the nation's health on the grounds of high medical expenses basis the data received from the General Insurance Council. With Covid cases rising to 3 crores in India, the figures reveal that 15-lakh people filed for insurance claims in the previous year.

However, the number of people who sought medical aid must have been way more than this, as most of them either did not have insurance coverage or could not claim it. Quoting an incident, the author conveys that even the insured middle class faces challenges with claims being disallowed. These out-of-pocket expenditures have surpassed government spending. This has been a challenge for most other developing economies too.

India needs to improve upon public health and insurance coverage. For a long, the government has underspent on public health. The latest survey warns the government that healthcare costs might drive people to poverty shortly if the pattern continues.

Given the prevalent unemployment crisis, a boost in healthcare can help increase job opportunities in healthcare jobs. While the Centre has rejected the plea for compensation to the families losing their earning members to Covid, the government must spend appropriately on healthcare.

Words to look out for

Saddle:

- **Synonyms:** burden, encumber, charge
- **Antonyms:** relieve, disintegrate, release
- **Word usage:** He found it difficult to climb on the saddle.

Trumped:

- **Synonyms:** surmounted, defeated, excelled
- **Antonyms:** fail, botch, unsuccessful
- **Word usage:** India trumped South Africa to win the series.

Plight:

- **Synonyms:** predicament, quandary, dilemma
- **Antonyms:** solution, key, explanation
- **Word usage:** He was in a plight, and he wanted some help from his senior.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/health-of-the-nation-covid-has-shown-what-medical-expenses-can-do-to-poor-even-middle-class-govts-must-act-at-micro-macro-levels/>

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