

Editorial Analysis

4 March 2022



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A homecoming: On Air India and the Tatas

The article highlights the recent change in the Air India ownership that, though started by Ratan Tata, was with the government for 68 years. This marks the end of the government's search to privatize this debt-laden airline.

Tatas already own a substantial share of the country's airline services through Air Asia India and Vistara. This acquisition surely opens up avenues for further growth. The wide reach of Air India in terms of parking slots, plane bodies etc., has placed the Tata group in a good position.

On the flip side, the centre's exit from this loss-making entity is a sigh of relief for as now the tax-payer's money can be expected to be put to more strategic use. Also, the pandemic's impact on public finances and airline operations has been quite devastating, leading the government to sell it.

Besides, the bid ensures the job security of their staff for at least a year. The bid and purchase will surely not be a bed of roses of the Tata group, and the time will put their managerial skills to the test.

Words to look out for

Adrift:

- **Synonyms:** afloat, aimless, rudderless
- **Antonyms:** purposeful, stable, anchored
- **Word usage:** The car's body went adrift in the heavy rain.

Mettle:

- **Synonyms:** nerve, courage, fortitude
- **Antonyms:** cowardice, timidity, fear
- **Word usage:** It was team India's mettle that got them the win at the Brisbane test.

Spur:

- **Synonyms:** goad, prod, urge
- **Antonyms:** discourage, block, disincentivize
- **Word usage:** The mob was spurred by the tyrant.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-homecoming-the-hindu-editorial-on-air-india-and-the-tatas/article36933282.ece>

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Please plan better: Low coal stocks are thanks to stakeholders not responding to fairly predictable events

The article at hand takes into account the raging issue of the coal shortage in India's thermal power plants as the author highlights the inadequacy of the stakeholders that led to this issue.

Coal storage at Indian thermal power plants is even below the buffer that should exist in the ideal case. This has occurred in the wake of supply disruptions in other industries. However, while the other industries are down due to global reasons, low coal reserve is down to the stakeholders' mismanagement.

The Union Government has listed out possible reasons for the coal shortage. However, the author does not think the reasons are valid enough, and it sounds more like an excuse than a legit explanation. Issues such as rebound of economic activity, pricier coal import, and rains should have been anticipated way before the problem resurfaced.

Even the data regarding an increase in demand suggests that nothing couldn't have been managed had the stakeholders were prepared. With the government expecting shortage to ease in the coming days, there is a case to make sure such disruptions do not come into the picture again.

Words to look out for

Constrain:

- **Synonyms:** restrict, restrain, force
- **Antonyms:** encourage, free, allow
- **Word usage:** The project had many constraints to overcome.

Proffer:

- **Synonyms:** offer, tender, present
- **Antonyms:** discourage, dissuade, withdraw
- **Word usage:** The company proffered the candidate a great package even during the pandemic.

Disruption:

- **Synonyms:** disturbance, interruption, disorder
- **Antonyms:** order, structure, harmony
- **Word usage:** The disruption in the signal was caused by the heavy rains.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/please-plan-better-low-coal-stocks-are-thanks-to-stakeholders-not-responding-to-fairly-predictable-events/>

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