

### Assessment on Latest Growth Revival

#### What is the issue?

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- The latest economic data from the Central Statistics Office revealed a 7.2% growth in India's GDP in the last quarter.
- Click <u>here</u> to know more.
- ullet The numbers call for an assessment of the real picture of economic revival.

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## What are the positives?

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- $\bullet$  Importantly, the gross fixed capital formation, a key measure of investment demand, has shown a healthy improvement. \n
- Sectoral gross value added (GVA) figures also reflect a broad-based pickup in activity.

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### What are the concerns?

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-  $\bf Slowdown$  - The only three slowdowns in the last quarter are: \n

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i. mining

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ii. utility services (including electricity, gas, and water supply)

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iii. trade, hotels, transport and communication services  $\n$ 

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 $\bullet$  The contraction in mining is of particular concern.

• Base effect - The October-December quarter in 2016 was the period of implementation of the demonetisation drive.

• So the latest third-quarter data largely bears the base effect of this period.

• This indicates that the growth trends are to be understood more in comparative terms.

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• Full financial year - The sectoral GVA data at a quarterly level appeared to give promise of a more enduring recovery.

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 However, the same GVA data for full-year projections show decelerating momentum in 5 of the 8 core sectors.

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• Of particular concern is the farm sector, where growth is set to slow to 3% from 6.3% in the previous fiscal.

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• Also, in manufacturing, the pace is expected to come to 5.1% from 7.9% in the revised estimate for 2016-17.

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• The latest subdued Index of Industrial Production numbers further add to the concerns.

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 $\bullet$  The CSO's second advance estimates of national income for the full financial year are also a lot more worrying.  $\$ 

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# What do all these imply?

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• The private final consumption expenditure, a crucial driver of economic

momentum, is yet to gain traction over the full financial year.

• Clearly, it is increased government spending that has driven the recent economic expansion.

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- Moreover, the space for more capital pumping is also restricted.
- $\bullet$  This is because the fiscal deficit at the end of January has already exceeded 113% of the revised estimate for the full year. \n
- $\bullet$  Any more government spending has the risk of affecting price stability. It possesses the risks of leading to inflation. \n
- Added to these are the concerns of bad loans in the banking sector and the recent wake of bank frauds.

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• Also, the exporters are still to make the most of the revival in global trade demand.

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• Given all these, the economy has still not got to a healthy status and thus calls for concerted action.

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**Source: The Hindu** 

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