

# The Health of the Economy

## Why in news?

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 Recognizing the serious crisis in the economy, Economic Advisory Council to the PM has been reconstituted.

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### What does statistics say?

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- Rural demand fell due to 2 continuous poor monsoon years.
- Debt-strapped industry being unable to undertake investment is also another factor.

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 $\bullet$  Both the rupee and the sensex have fallen off recent highs.  $\mbox{\ensuremath{\upshape h}}$ 

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## How did this crisis come up?

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- Demonetisation ruptured the transactional rhythm of the economy, particularly in the unorganised sector.
- $\bullet$  Teething issues in GST, chiefly delays in realisation of input credit, have further disrupted cash flows, hurting exporters.  $\$

- Inflation is currently around 3.4%.  $\n$
- $\bullet$  Poor implementation of GST, along with rising fuel prices, could push retail inflation ever closer to the 4% target of the RBI. \n

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#### How does the future look?

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- As kharif output has been largely hit by irregular rain, rural demand may not provide the economic stimulus anytime soon.
- With tax revenues trailing below Budget expectations, there's little room for a fiscal stimulus.

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- Therefore, the Centre should continue tapping into overseas soft credit to fund big infrastructure projects.
- The 'Economic Advisory Council' should focus on quality expenditure, which can crowd in private investment.

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#### **Source: Business Line**

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