

Editorial Analysis

22 March 2022



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Renewed uncertainty: On the economy's bleak prospects

The article focuses on the economic Indices that reflect lowered output levels from sectoral constituents that include - mining, manufacturing, and electricity. This has majorly happened due to the second wave of Covid and renewed local lockdowns. Also, the end-use categories have suffered from severe contractions.

The figures have been on the decline since 2019, signaling the need for infusing investment in production capacity and discretionary consumption.

Also, there has been demand destruction that can be analyzed from the decline in consumer non-durables. A similar slide in figures has been observed in new vehicle registrations supporting the pattern.

The trend is the outcome of several factors like job losses, lower savings, and a surge in healthcare costs. To initiate a step towards recovery the government needs to work on demand-creating fiscal measures and fasten the pace of vaccination.

Words to look out for

Prognosis:

- **Synonyms:** prediction, forecast, prophecy
- **Antonyms:** past, certainty
- **Word usage:** Right now, doctors say his prognosis is good.

Bleak:

- **Synonyms:** gloomy, grim, dismal
- **Antonyms:** cheerful, bright, encouraging
- **Word usage:** In the winter the landscape is bleak and the house is drafty.

Rut:

- **Synonyms:** groove, furrow, heat
- **Antonyms:** anestrus, break, closing
- **Word usage:** I've been in a rut for a long time.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/renewed-uncertainty-the-hindu-editorial-on-the-economys-bleak-prospects/article34807118.ece>

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B3W versus BRI: For the US, countering China's infra swagger won't be easy. For New Delhi, Biden's plan not enough

The article talks about the G7 summit, where the countries have come together to combat the growing aggressiveness of China on all fronts. The mission has been named Build Back Better for the World. The idea is to build on the infrastructure in developing countries and reduce dependency on China.

Though the idea is good, it needs joint backing from the other countries too. The push can be majorly observed from America as of now, but other countries too need to join hands on this.

India has refused to join BRI on the grounds of exploitive terms and security downsides. Though India attended the meet as a guest, it does not expect much support from western nations. The author mentions that the fact is pretty known to India, that in case of the outburst of China's aggression, India will have to face it single-handedly.

Words to look out for

Calculus:

- **Synonyms:** concretion, tartar, tophus
- **Antonyms:** decompressing, certainty
- **Word usage:** After studying differential calculus you will be able to solve these mathematical problems.

Grim:

- **Synonyms:** gloomy, bleak, dark
- **Antonyms:** bright, cheerful, happy
- **Word usage:** He held on to the branch like grim death.

Chivalrous:

- **Synonyms:** gallant, courteous, gracious
- **Antonyms:** cowardly, shameful, afraid
- **Word usage:** He was handsome, upright, and chivalrous.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/b3w-versus-bri-for-us-countering-chinas-infra-swagger-wont-be-easy-for-new-delhi-bidens-plan-not-enough/>

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