India's Economic Trajectory: Navigating Growth Challenges

India's economic journey shows a mixed picture with Q3FY25 registering 6.2% real GDP growth, up from the revised 5.6% in the previous quarter. While this represents recovery, it remains the second slowest growth rate since Q4FY23, making the government's full-year target of 6.5% nearly impossible to achieve.

Global headwinds including potential tariffs threaten to bring imported inflation, while domestic manufacturing and services sectors show tepid performance. The primary sector has been the main growth driver with a value-add of 5.2%, while secondary and tertiary sectors have slowed considerably compared to last year.







Sectoral Performance Analysis

Primary Sector

The primary sector showed remarkable improvement with a value-add of 5.2%, significantly up from 1.8% in the same quarter last year. This sector has been the backbone of Q3FY25 growth, providing stability amid challenges in other areas.

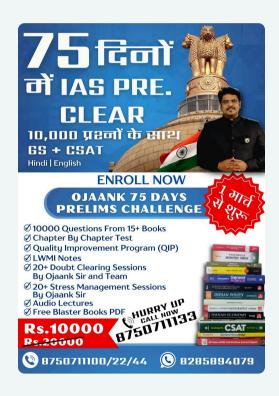
Secondary Sector

Manufacturing growth slowed dramatically to 4.8%, down from 12.4% last year. This significant deceleration reflects domestic challenges and vulnerability to global trade uncertainties.

Tertiary Sector

The services sector, while still growing at 7.4%, has slowed from 8.3% last year. As the largest component of India's economy, this slowdown has substantial impact on overall economic performance.





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Growth Projections and Challenges

Current Status

1

Q3FY25 growth at 6.2% represents recovery from previous quarter's 5.6%, but remains below expectations and historical performance. The government's full-year target of 6.5% appears increasingly unattainable.

Q4 Projections

7

Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran acknowledges that achieving 7.6% growth in the current quarter is ambitious amid global economic uncertainties, though he maintains it's possible.

Potential Boost

3

The Maha Kumbh festival might provide a consumption spike that could potentially buttress the current quarter's growth numbers, though this remains speculative.



Global Trade Uncertainties

India's manufacturing and services sectors remain vulnerable to global trade uncertainties, particularly the U.S.'s 25% import tariff on steel and an equal percentage proposed on pharmaceuticals.

Pharmaceutical Exports at Risk

About a third (31%) of India's pharma exports totalling \$8.7 billion were to the U.S. in FY24.

The proposed tariffs have sent shock waves through the industry.

3 Production Relocation Threat

Some firms are suggesting a pivot to producing in the U.S., which could potentially lead to a significant trade revenue loss for India if implemented widely.







Positive Economic Indicators

Government Spending

There has been a significant uptick of 8.3% in government spending, compared to just 2.3% previously. This increased public expenditure is helping to stimulate economic activity across sectors.

Private Consumption

Private consumption expenditure has grown by 6.9%, up from 5.7%. This improvement in consumer spending indicates increasing confidence and purchasing power among the population.

Inflation Moderation

Both government spending and private consumption have been bolstered by a moderation in inflation, making goods and services more affordable for consumers and businesses alike.





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Inflation Outlook

Current Situation

Inflation has moderated, contributing positively to both government spending and private consumption growth. This has provided some relief to consumers and businesses after periods of higher price increases.

FY26 Forecast

in FY26, indicating a possible alignment with the RBI's medium-term target of 4%, which would be a significant achievement for monetary policy.

2 FY25 Projection

The Reserve Bank of India has projected inflation to average 4.8% in FY25. This represents a manageable level that should not significantly impede economic growth if achieved.



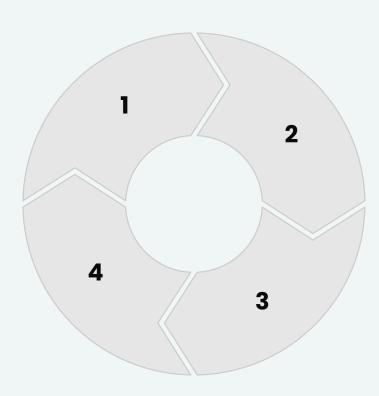
Methodological Changes in Economic Data

NSO's New Approach

The National Statistical
Office has attempted a
tweaking of its methodology
for economic data collection
and analysis.

Transparency Concerns

The NSO has not elaborated on what material influence these changes have had on data quality and quantity.



Industry-Wise Information

The new approach factors in "industry-wise/institution-wise detailed information" according to the NSO.

Benchmark Revisions

Variations in advanced estimates are attributed to "revision of benchmark estimates and additional or updated data."

These methodological changes raise questions about data comparability with previous periods and the need for greater transparency in how economic statistics are compiled and presented.



Need for Statistical Transparency



Clarity Required

The NSO must clarify its revision in methodology to enable a more informed analysis of the economic data it provides. Without this transparency, the reliability and comparability of the data come into question.



Impact Assessment

Stakeholders need to understand what material influence the methodological changes have had on both the quality and quantity of the data collected to make accurate economic assessments.



Policy Implications

Clear statistical methods are essential for effective policy-making. Ambiguity in data collection and analysis can lead to misguided economic policies with far-reaching consequences.





Balancing Growth Factors



India's economic growth requires a balanced approach that addresses both domestic and international factors. While the primary sector has shown resilience, manufacturing and services need strengthening to withstand global uncertainties. Increased government spending and private consumption provide a foundation, but must be sustained alongside inflation management.

Building resilience against external shocks like U.S. tariffs while enhancing domestic production capabilities will be crucial for maintaining growth momentum in coming quarters.

The Path Forward: Strategic Priorities

Data Transparency

The NSO must provide clear explanations of methodological changes to ensure accurate economic analysis and policy formulation. Transparent statistical processes build confidence in economic projections.

Manufacturing Resilience

Strengthening the secondary sector against global trade uncertainties through diversification of markets and enhanced domestic value chains will be critical for sustainable growth.

Consumption Support

Maintaining the positive momentum in government spending and private consumption while managing inflation will help sustain economic growth even amid external challenges.

Global Trade Strategy

Developing strategic responses to potential tariffs, particularly in key sectors like pharmaceuticals and steel, to minimize revenue losses and maintain export competitiveness.







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