THE MONTH GONE BY

An insightful roundup of relevant stories in the recent month backed by interesting data points

In October 2007, just a few months before the Beijing Olympics, a **renowned swimmer fractured his wrist – a severe setback to his Olympics preparation.** However, he did not let this weaken his determination – **the swimmer focused on a leg training regimen and mastered the kickboard.**

Fast forward to the 100-meter Butterfly stroke competition, **the athlete clinched the gold medal by a mere 0.01 seconds.** The victory was not a stroke of luck; it was **the result of the explosive leg strength he had developed, which helped him kick rigorously to win the competition.**

The above image is for illustration purpose only.

Like the swimmer, investors may face challenges during their journey, such as global geopolitical tensions. **However, giving up should never be an option!** Investors can invest regularly through the **Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) route to benefit from market opportunities,** which could help grow their investment over a period of time. **Keep Kicking, Stay Invested!**

While we ponder about the course ahead, it is important to connect the dots with key market events of April 2026.

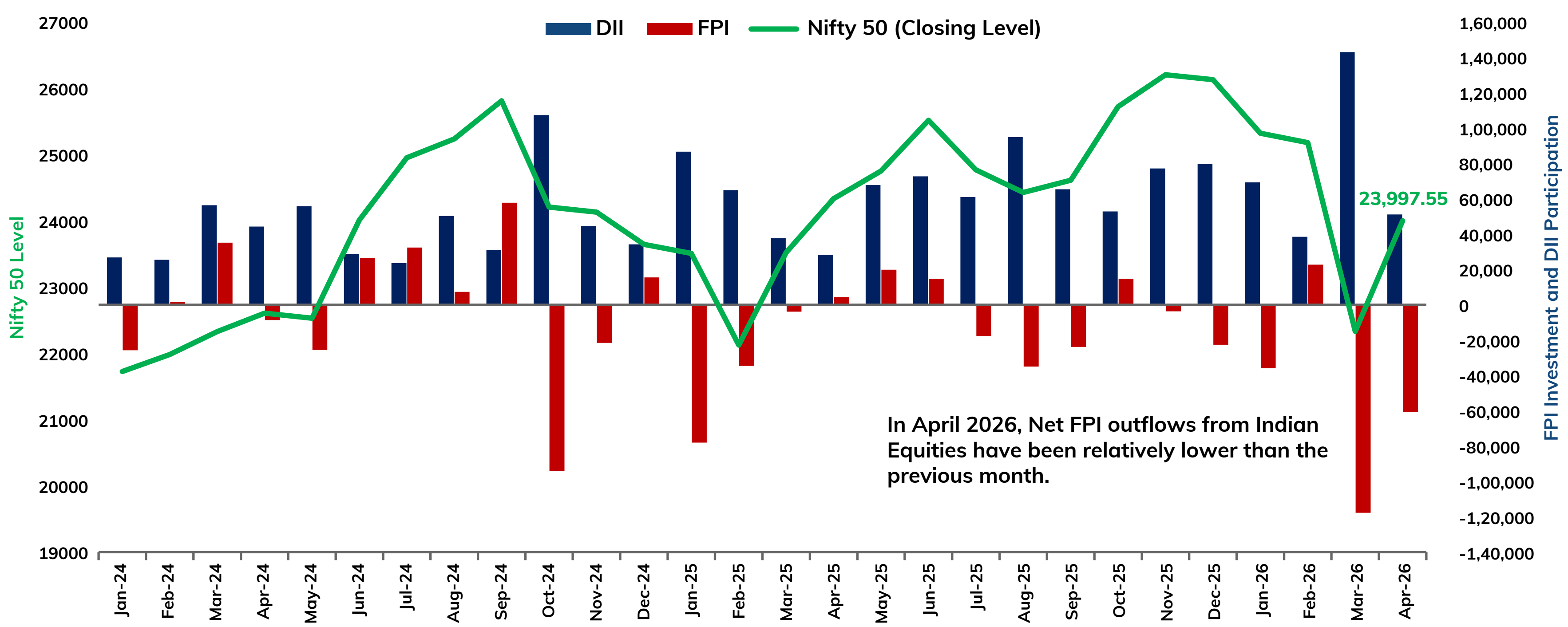
Registration No.: ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund 003/93/6

Equity market sails through choppy waters

In April 2026, the Indian equity market recovered moderately following the announcement of a temporary ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran. The Government of India has implemented swift measures to tackle the supply chain bottlenecks by **prioritizing the distribution of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for domestic needs and increasing refinery production.**

Overall demand conditions remain resilient with greater support from rural areas. **Automobile sales display strong momentum,** aided by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cut. **India's headline inflation remains below the central bank's medium-term target. The flow of financial resources to the commercial sector has increased, supporting the pick-up in bank credit.**

MONTHLY FPI NET INVESTMENTS IN INDIAN EQUITIES, DII PARTICIPATION (₹, CRORE) AND NIFTY 50 CLOSING LEVEL



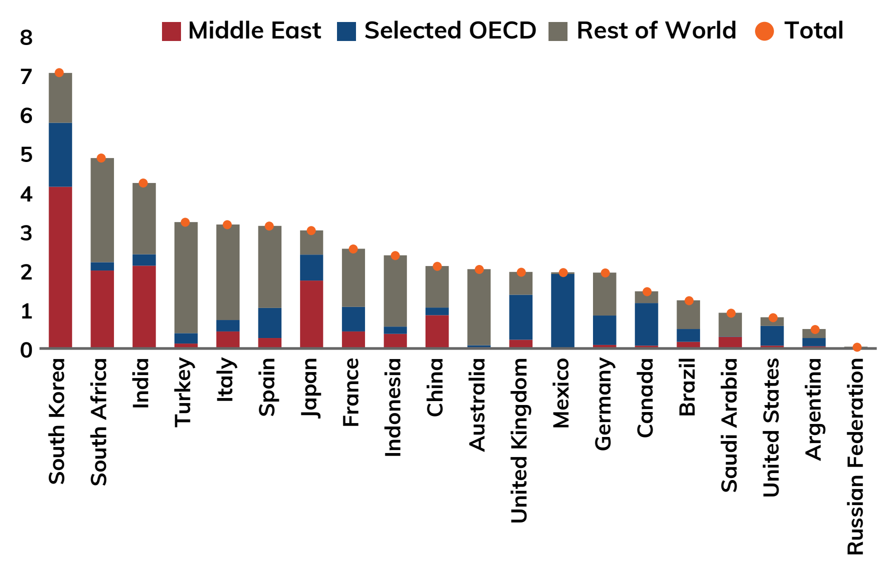
Source: National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL). April 2026 FPI and DII data as on April 30, 2026. FPI: Foreign Portfolio Investment. DII: Domestic Institutional Investment. Past performance may or may not sustain in future.

What could be the fate of the Oil Market?

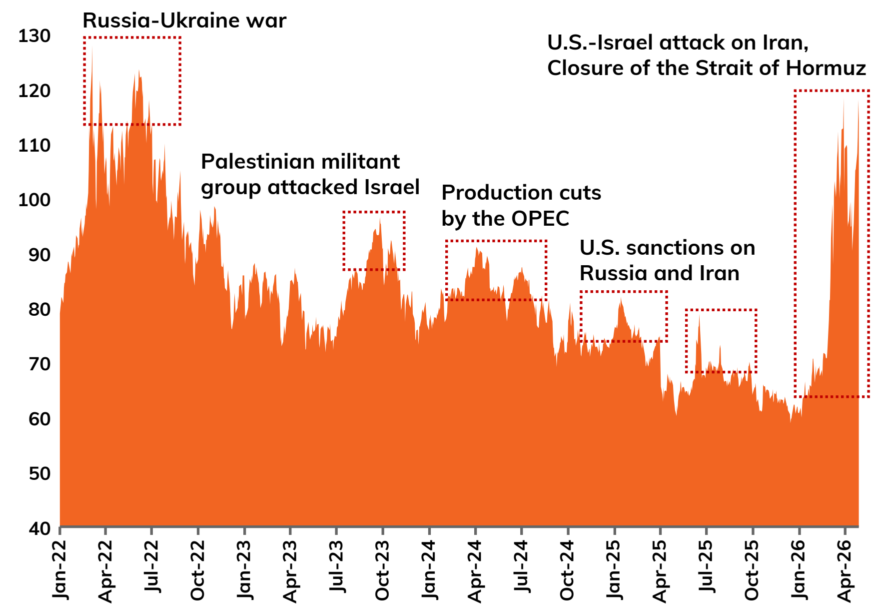
ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

West Asia serves as a key supplier of energy, including natural gas, crude oil and fertilizers. **Disruptions to the key energy shipping routes led to a near standstill in maritime traffic,** intensifying global supply chain pressures. **Brent crude oil prices remained elevated at around $114/barrel on April 30, 2026,** owing to continued disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and the U.S. naval blockade on Iran. **Further, stalled negotiations between the U.S. and Iran have reignited fears of supply constraints.**

SOURCES OF OIL & GAS IMPORTS BY REGION FOR SELECT ECONOMIES (% GDP) - 2024



BRENT CRUDE OIL PRICE ($/BARREL)



Source: Reuters. CareEdge Ratings. Brent crude oil price is as on April 30, 2026. OECD Interim Economic Outlook. In the Oil and Gas Imports chart, Oil and gas is defined as the aggregate of goods covering crude petroleum oils, refined petroleum products and petroleum gases. The Middle East includes Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Selected OECD countries include Australia, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Norway and the United States. OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. OPEC: Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. GDP: Gross Domestic Product. U.S.: United States.

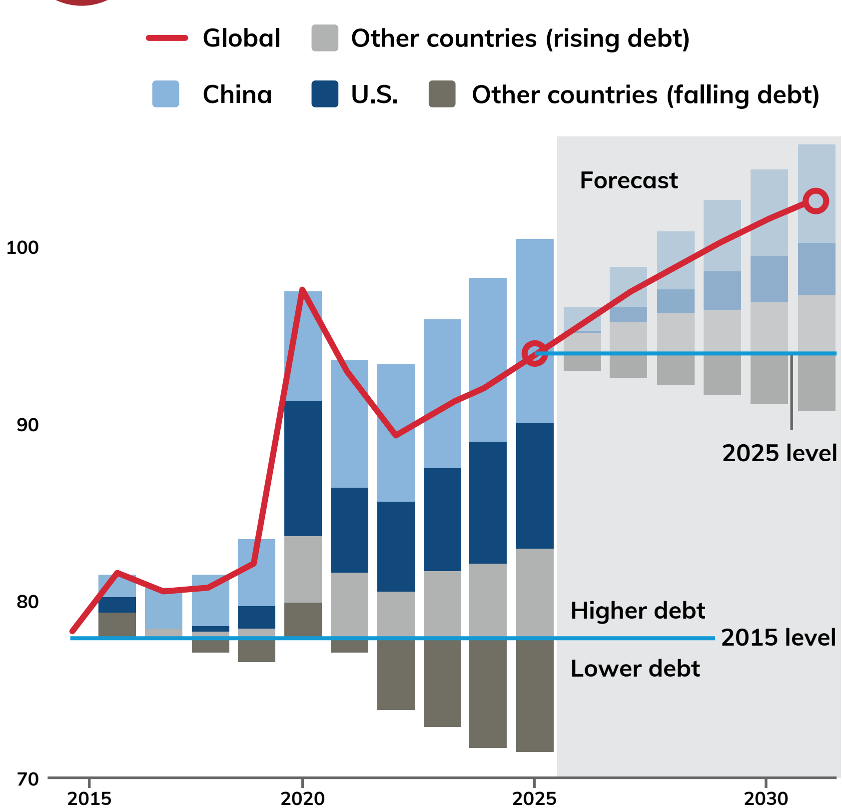
The OPEC cartel decided to increase oil output by 206,000 barrels per day in May 2026 in a quest to stabilize the oil market amid attacks on energy infrastructure. **Further, the United Arab Emirates decided to quit the OPEC cartel** to focus on national interests, leading to stress at a time when economies are rattling with a historic energy shock.

A prolonged West Asia conflict could strain public finances

Governments across the globe have been managing the fiscal consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and now the West Asia conflict.

As per the International Monetary Fund, the Global gross public debt rose to 94% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2025 and is projected to reach 100% by 2029. This could be due to the **aftermath of the global geopolitical turmoil, rising interest bills, increased spending on security coupled with higher costs related to climate and energy transition.**

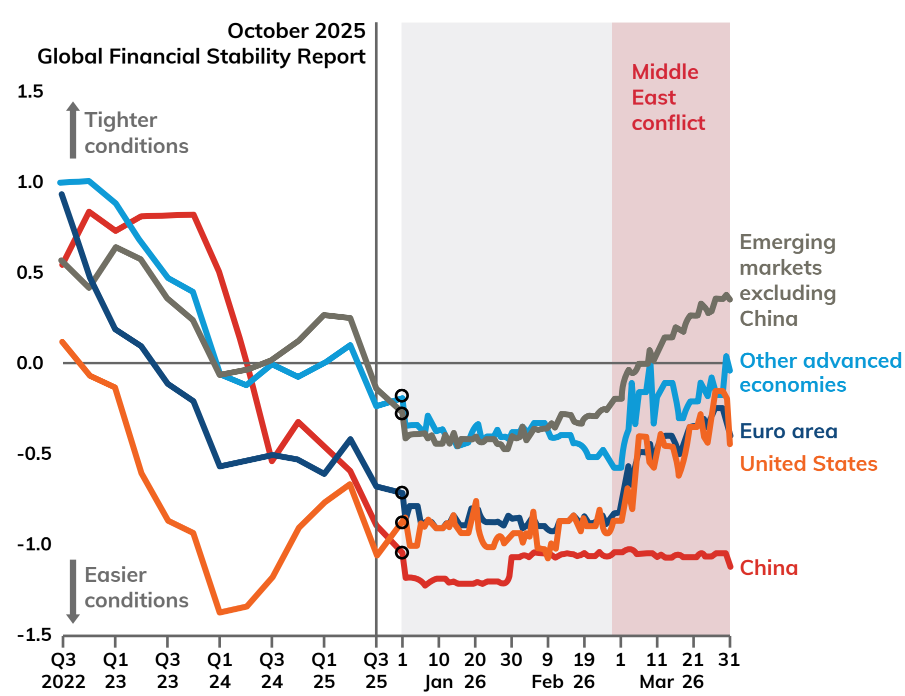
GLOBAL PUBLIC DEBT (% OF GDP)



Sources: World Economic Outlook April 2026, IMF staff calculations. Note: Bars show countries' and country groups' contributions to the change in global public debt relative to 2015 and 2025 levels. U.S.: United States. GDP: Gross Domestic Product.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS HAVE TIGHTENED FROM EASIER LEVELS

Financial conditions indices (number of standard deviations over long-term averages)



Sources: Bloomberg L.P., Dealogic, Haver Analytics; National data sources, IMF staff calculations. IMF: International Monetary Fund. Q: Quarter.

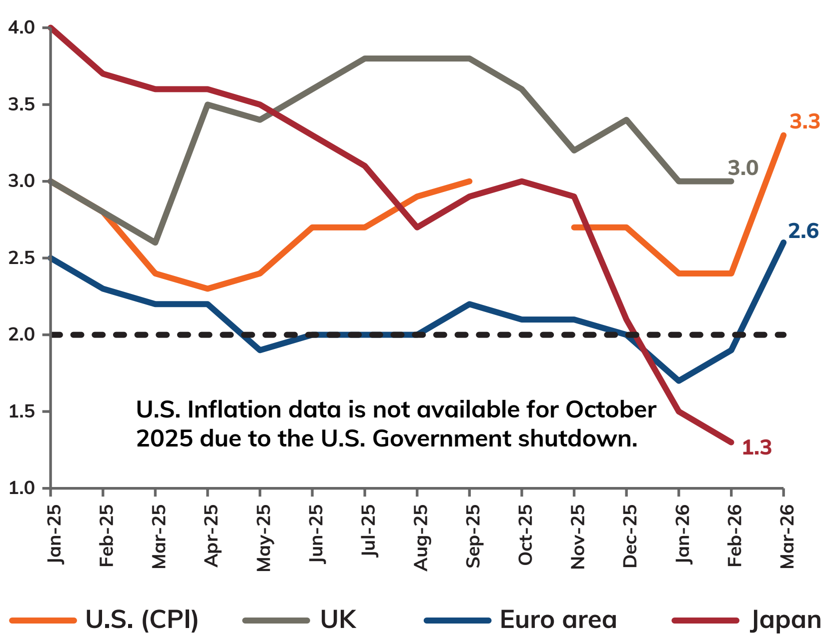
U.S. Consumer prices rise with a surge in energy costs

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Decision of the U.S. Federal Reserve: In April 2026, the U.S. Federal Reserve kept the benchmark interest rate unchanged at the 3.50%-3.75% range, while maintaining a wait-and-watch stance amid developments in West Asia that have raised uncertainty about the economic outlook.

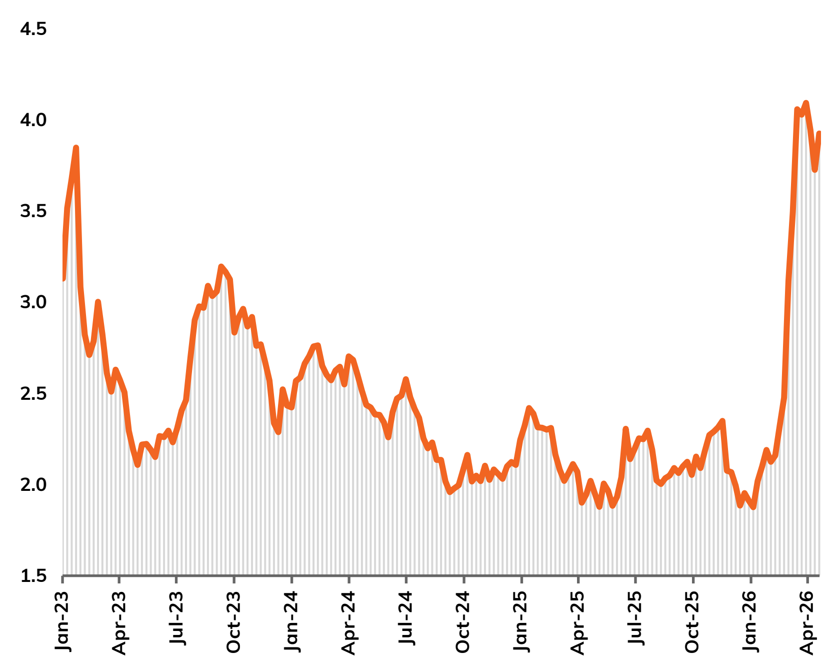
U.S. consumer prices: In March 2026, the U.S. Consumer Price Index rose 3.3% on an annual basis from 2.4% in February 2026, driven by a rise in the energy index. A prolonged conflict in West Asia could result in increased prices of jet fuel, gasoline and other products refined from crude oil.

HEADLINE INFLATION ACROSS MAJOR ADVANCED ECONOMIES (%)



Source: Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, April 2026. U.S.: United States. UK: United Kingdom. CPI: Consumer Price Index.

KEROSENE-TYPE JET FUEL PRICES: U.S. GULF COAST ($/GALLON)



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration. Data as on April 24, 2026.

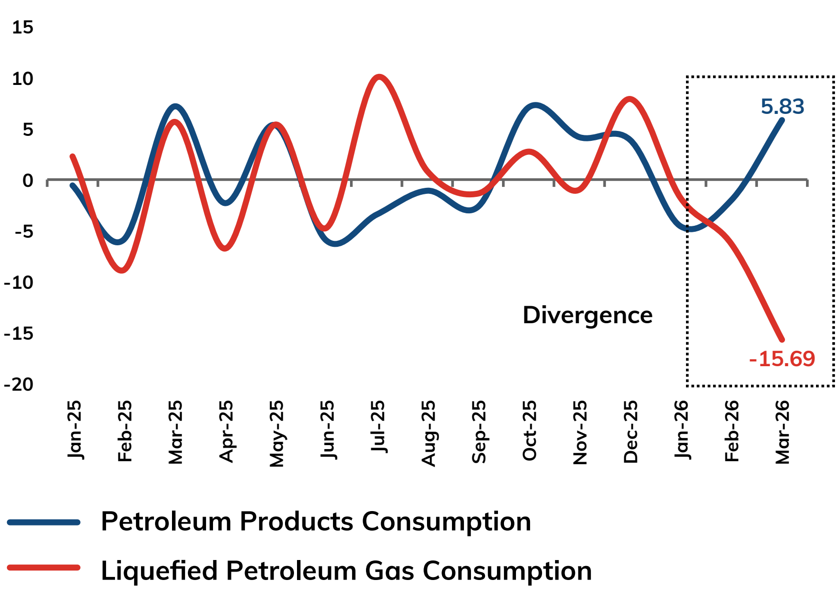
Unemployment rate: In March 2026, the U.S. unemployment rate stood at 4.3%. While Federal government employment declined, job gains occurred across health care, construction, transportation and warehousing. Consumer spending has been resilient and business fixed investment continues to expand. In contrast, housing sector activity remains weak.

India's Petroleum Product consumption rises

In March 2026, India's total petroleum product consumption expanded by 5.83% month-on-month, marking a reversal from the contraction observed in the preceding months of the year. High-speed diesel (HSD) and motor spirit (petrol) together account for about 60% of the petroleum product consumption basket.

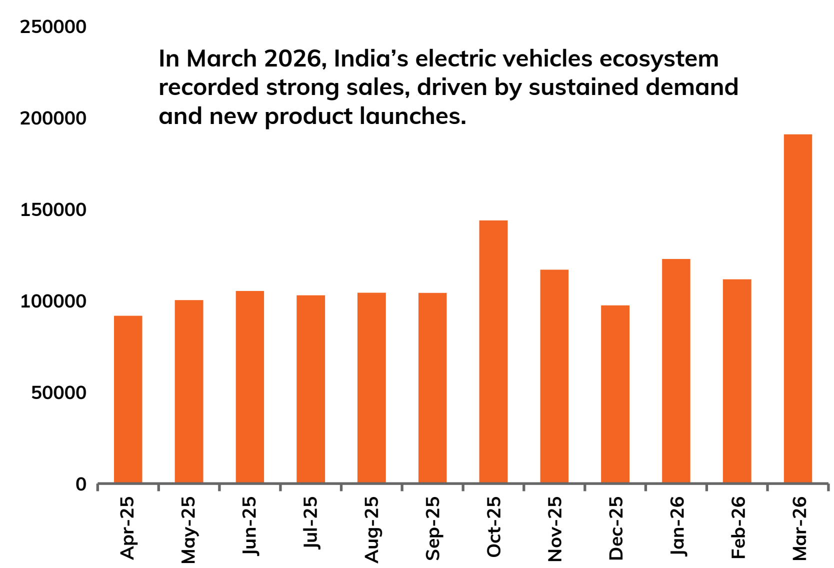
While India's fuel consumption increased in March 2026, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) consumption contracted sharply by 15.69% month-on-month amid the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Some supply management measures by the Government of India include **facilitating new Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections for both domestic and commercial consumers coupled with enhancing refinery production.**

DIVERGENCE IN PETRO-PRODUCT CONSUMPTION (MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGE, %)



Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

SALES OF ELECTRIC TWO-WHEELERS (UNITS)

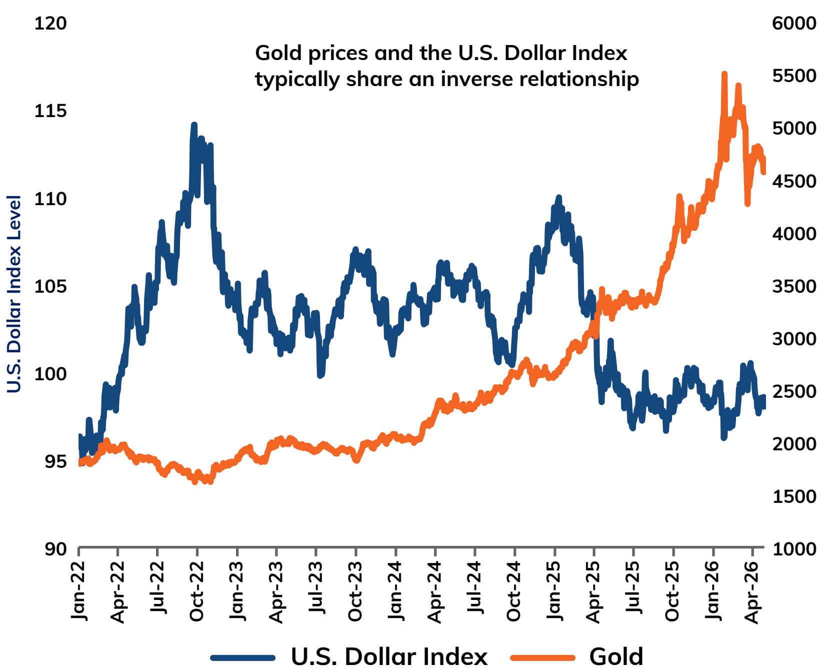


Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Data as on March 2026.

Gold prices rebound partially

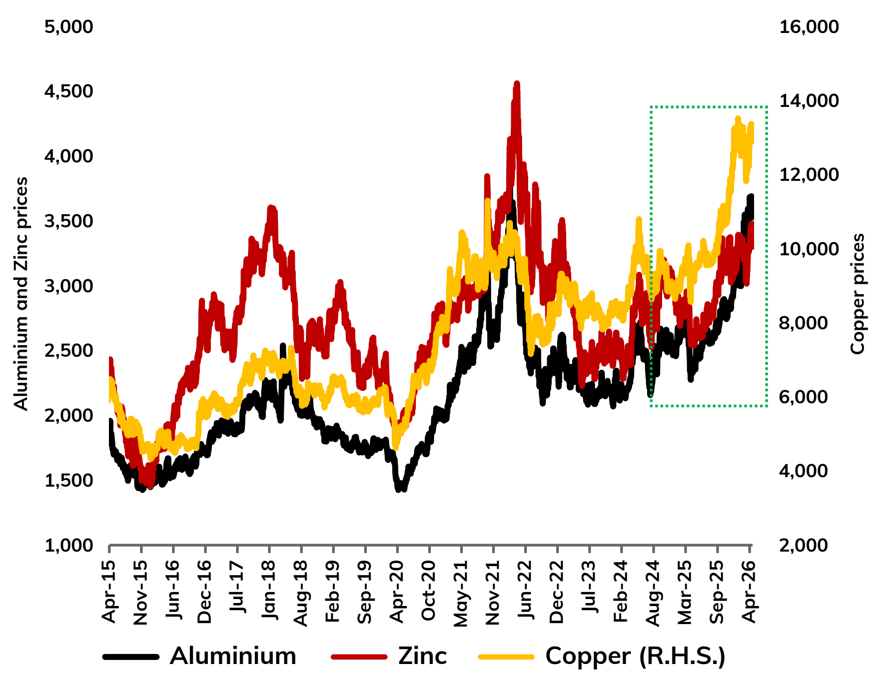
Gold prices recouped to $4,625/ounce on April 30, 2026, supported by persistent geopolitical risk premium and a pickup in inflows into global Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). Effective April 2026, the Government of India imposed broader restrictions on imports of gold, silver and platinum jewellery, aimed at monitoring the misuse of free trade agreements. **Prices of precious metals could display volatility in the near term amid unresolved geopolitical tensions and shifting expectations on policy rates.**

GOLD PRICES (LBMA, $/OUNCE) AND U.S. DOLLAR INDEX LEVEL



Source: LBMA: London Bullion Market Association. Reuters. Data as on April 30, 2026. U.S.: United States.

ALUMINIUM, ZINC AND COPPER PRICES ($/TON)



Source: LME (London Metal Exchange). Data as on April 30, 2026. R.H.S: Right-hand side.

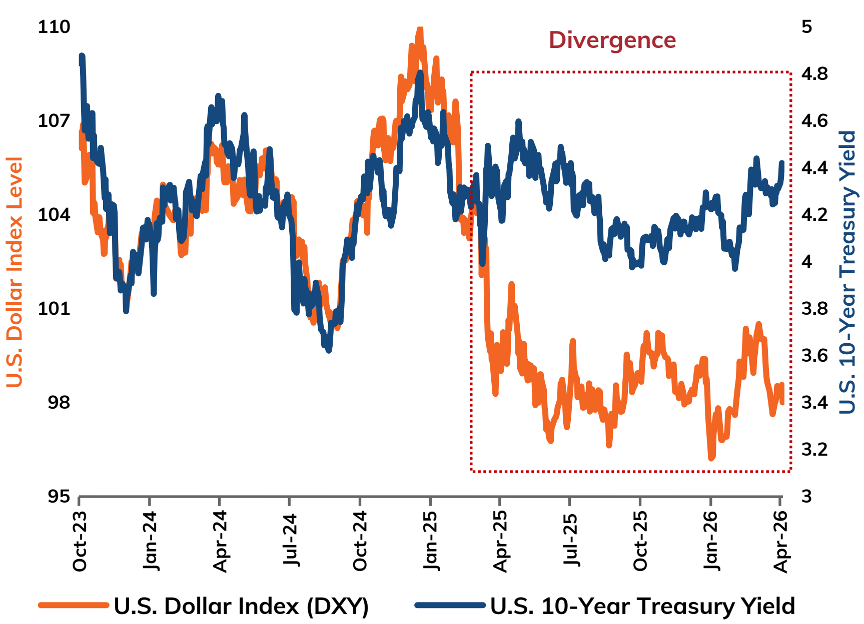
Aluminium prices surged amidst supply concerns, owing to force majeure declarations by producers in the Middle East and smelter closures. Copper prices also surged to higher levels during the month, driven by supply disruptions at several major mines.

The Trajectory of Bond yields

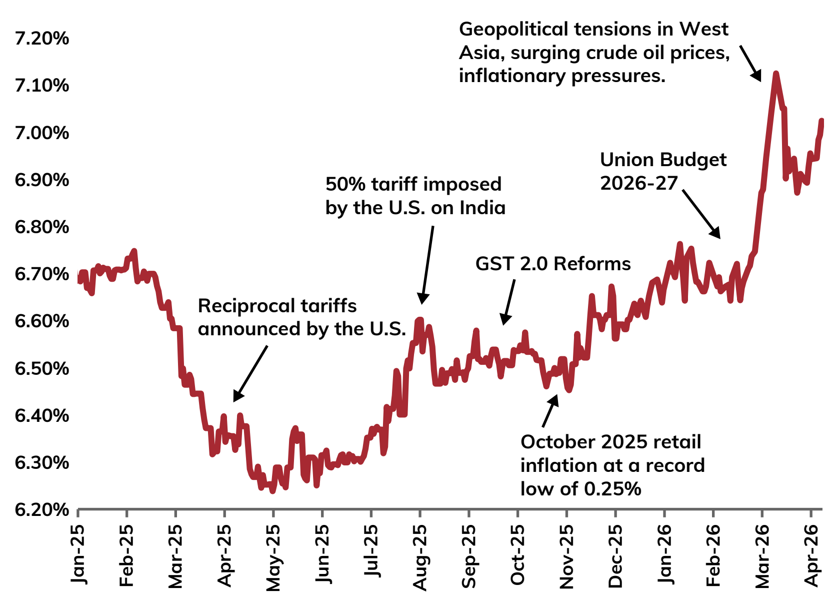
ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

India 10-Year G-sec yield traded around 7.02% towards the end of April 2026, influenced by various factors: **Restrictions of oil vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz and attacks on oil infrastructure in the Gulf pushed up oil prices.** India relies heavily on imports for its oil requirements, raising **concerns of higher import inflation and a wider current account deficit.** In an environment inflicted with supply chain dislocations, **the Government of India cut the excise duty on both petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre on March 27, 2026, which could impact Government revenue.**

U.S. 10-YEAR TREASURY YIELD (%) AND U.S. DOLLAR INDEX



INDIA 10-YEAR G-SEC YIELD (%)



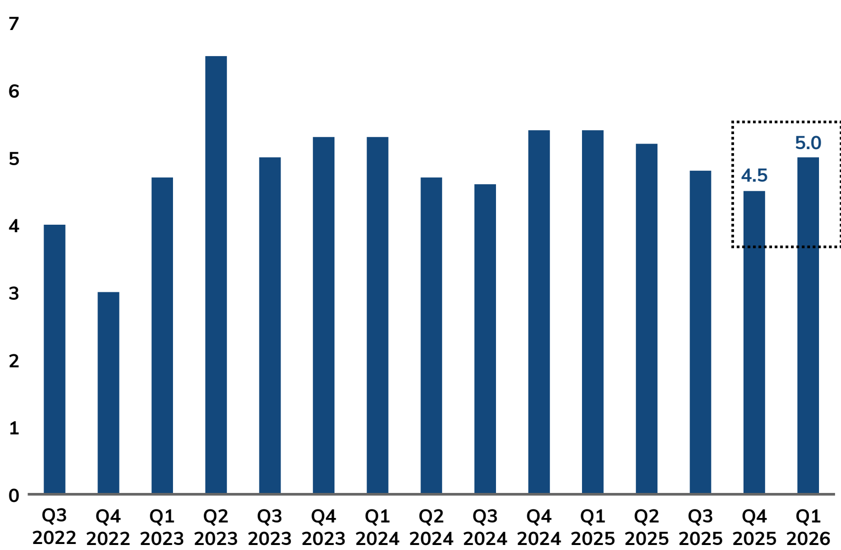
Source: Reuters. Data as on April 30, 2026. RBI: Reserve Bank of India. Moody's, Press Information Bureau news, G-sec: Government securities. U.S.: United States. GST: Goods and Services Tax.

The U.S. 10-year Treasury yield traded around 4.40% towards the end of April 2026. The Personal consumption expenditure (PCE) price index has witnessed an uptick in the recent month, **reflecting higher energy prices and shelter cost amid persistent services inflation.**

China’s economy grows at a faster pace than the previous quarter

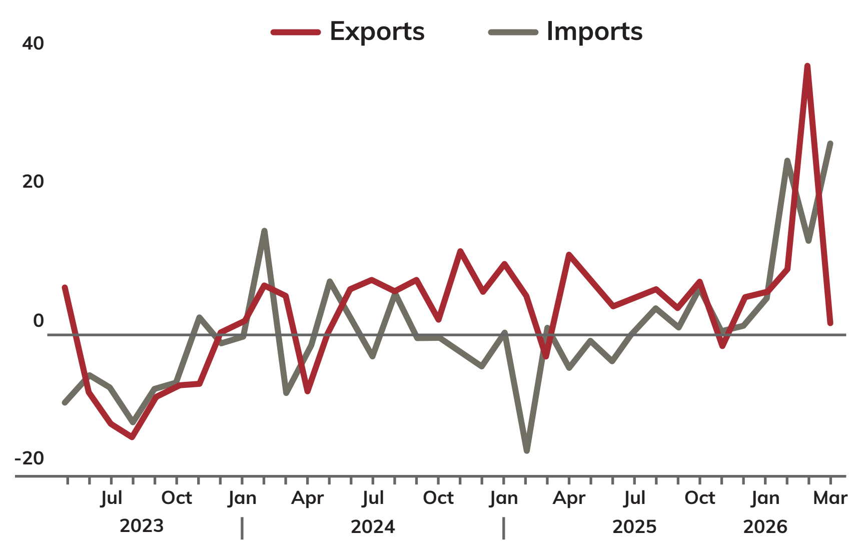
China’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 5% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2026, up from 4.5% in the previous quarter. Retail sales displayed pockets of strength, driven by Lunar New Year demand and government subsidy programs. **China’s value-added industrial output expanded 6.1% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2026, supported by high-tech manufacturing and artificial intelligence (AI) adoption** in electronics as well as consumer goods.

CHINA'S GDP GROWTH (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China. Q: Quarter. GDP: Gross Domestic Product.

CHINA'S EXPORT AND IMPORTS (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



Source: General Administration of Customs, Bloomberg.

China’s trade surplus dropped to $51.13 billion in March 2026 as imports jumped 27.8% year-on-year, exceeding the year-on-year export growth of 2.5%. While China’s export momentum slowed due to geopolitical turmoil, the following could support growth: a) Demand for China’s renewable energy technologies like solar cells and wind turbines. **b) Advancement in Artificial Intelligence (AI)** could spur shipments of semiconductors and integrated circuits.

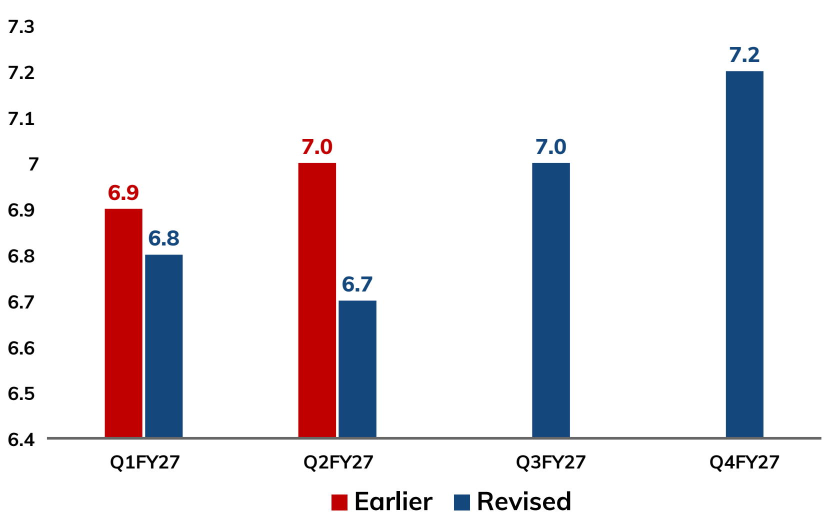
The Reserve Bank of India maintains status quo on repo rate

In April 2026, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% and continue with its Neutral stance. Given the backdrop of geopolitical turmoil, the RBI found it prudent to wait-and-watch the circumstances and evolving growth-inflation outlook.

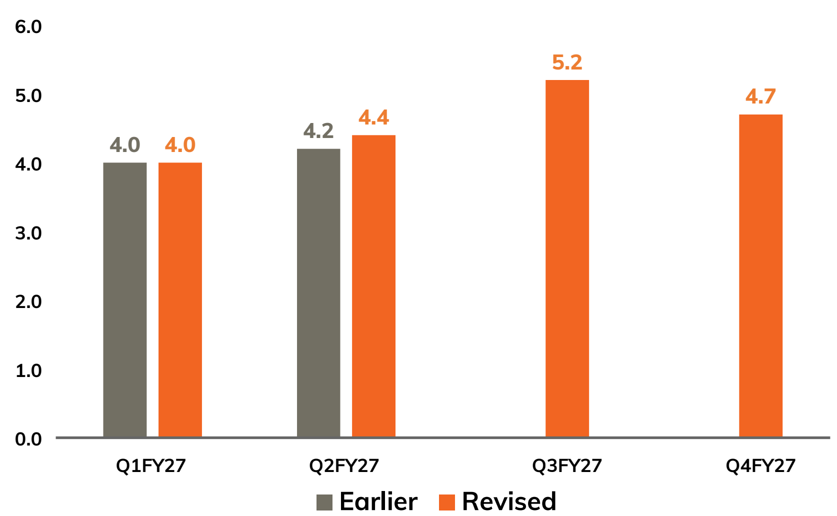
Supportive factors: The fundamentals of the Indian economy are on a stronger footing, providing greater resilience to withstand shocks compared to the past. Sustained momentum in the services sector, Goods and Services Tax (GST) rationalization, rising capacity utilization in manufacturing coupled with healthy balance sheets of financial institutions and corporates should continue to support domestic demand.

Headwinds: Elevated energy prices as well as supply shock due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz could weigh on domestic production and merchandise exports.

RBI'S GDP PROJECTIONS (%)



RBI'S CPI INFLATION PROJECTIONS (%)



Data Source: RBI Monetary Policy Statement 2026-27 dated April 06 to 08, 2026. GDP: Gross Domestic Product, CPI: Consumer Price Index, Q: Quarter. FY: Financial Year. RBI: Reserve Bank of India.

Growth Forecast: The RBI has revised downward its real GDP growth projections for Q1:FY2026-27 and Q2 to 6.8% and 6.7%, respectively, amid oil supply shocks and impact on exports due to the West Asia war. The real GDP growth for FY2026-27 is projected at 6.9%.

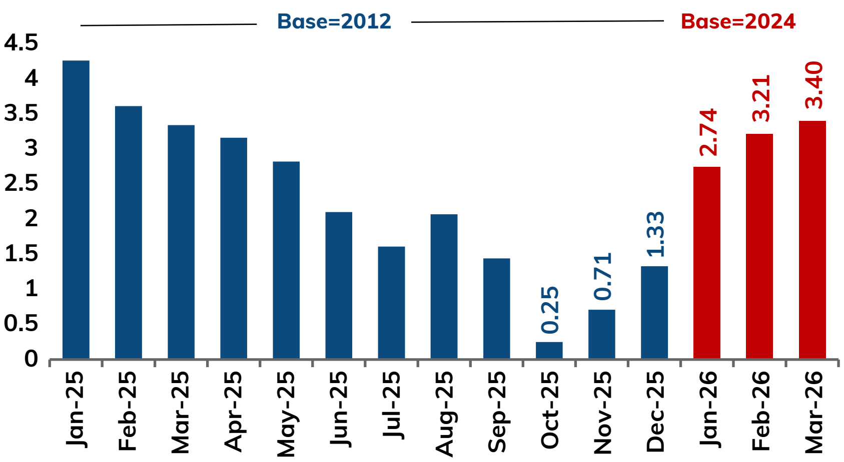
Inflation forecast: CPI inflation projection for Q2:FY2026-27 was revised upwards to 4.4% from 4.2% earlier, due to volatility in the international energy, commodity prices and possible El Nino conditions impacting southwest monsoon. CPI inflation for FY2026-27 is projected to be at 4.6%.

Why did India's Retail Inflation rise?

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

India's headline consumer price index (CPI) inflation, under the new series with 2024 as the base year, **edged up to 3.40% year-on-year in March 2026 from 3.21% in February 2026.** The rise can largely be attributed to an **increase in prices of food and beverages, tobacco and intoxicants, housing, electricity and other fuels as well as restaurants and accommodation services.**

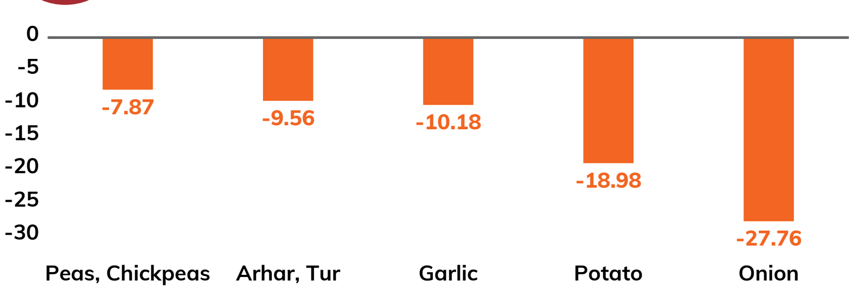
INDIA'S CPI INFLATION (YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH %)



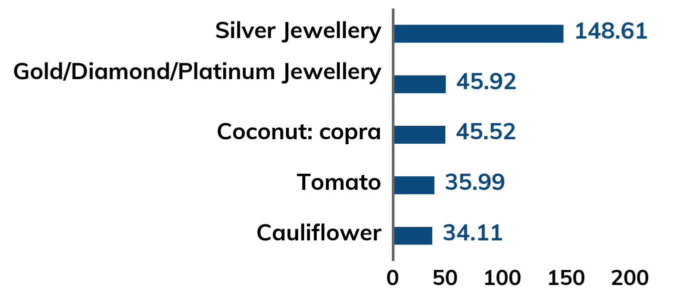
Inflation basis revised base year 2024	Feb 2026 Y-o-Y (%)	Mar 2026 Y-o-Y (%)
Food and beverages	3.35	3.71
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	1.52	1.97
Transport	-0.05	0
Clothing and footwear	2.81	2.75
Health	1.90	1.75
Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	19.64	18.65
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	1.40	1.39
Information and communication	0.25	0.33
Restaurants and accommodation services	2.73	2.88
Education Services	3.33	3.30
Paan, tobacco and intoxicants	3.49	4.23
Recreation, sport and culture	2.21	2.28

Food inflation rose to 3.87% in March 2026, driven by an unfavourable base effect and a rise in prices of some vegetables like tomatoes and cauliflower. Inflation in tobacco and intoxicants rose due to **higher excise duties levied on tobacco products, effective February 01, 2026.** Higher prices of both commercial and domestic gas cylinders pushed up inflation in the gas and fuel category.

TOP 5 ITEMS WITH LOW INFLATION IN MARCH 2026 (%)



TOP 5 ITEMS WITH HIGH INFLATION IN MARCH 2026 (%)



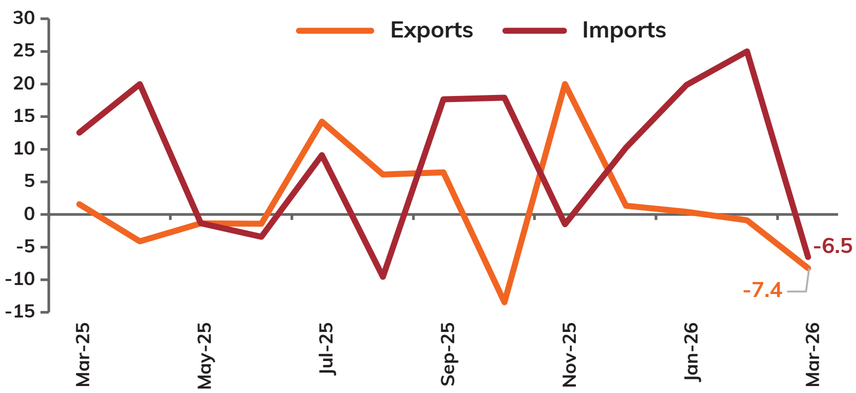
Source: Government of India, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), National Statistics Office. Y-o-Y: Year-on-Year. Data as on March 2026. Based on the New CPI (2024 =100) Series.

India's Merchandise Trade Deficit narrows to a nine-month low

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

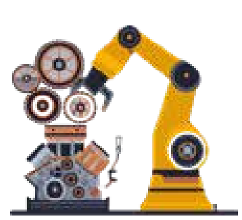
In March 2026, India's merchandise trade deficit narrowed to a nine-month low of $20.7 billion from $27.1 billion in February 2026. During the month, geopolitical tensions impacted India's export trade with Gulf countries **amid increasing freight costs, escalating insurance premiums and delays in shipments. In March 2026, the Government launched the Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) scheme to support exporters struggling with constraints due to the war.**

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS GROWTH (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



In March 2026, India's merchandise exports stood at $38.9 billion, marking a year-on-year decline of 7.4%.

Petroleum products, engineering goods, mica, coal, minerals, other cereals and certain handicrafts supported exports during the month.



MERCHANDISE EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND TRADE DEFICIT ($, BILLION)

In March 2026, India's merchandise imports stood at $59.6 billion, recording a year-on-year decline of 6.5%.

Electronic goods, machinery, silver, coal, coke and briquettes, vegetable oil contributed positively to imports during the month.

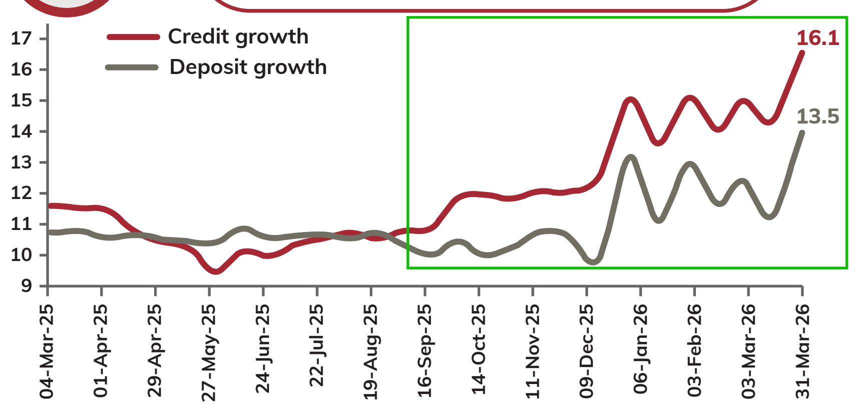
Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, March 2026. DGCI&S: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics. Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The sector(s) /stock(s) mentioned in this presentation do not constitute any recommendation of the same and ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund may or may not have any future position in these sector(s)/stock(s).

India's Bank Credit growth remains strong

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

As on March 31, 2026, India's total bank credit registered a 16.1% year-on-year growth, supported by strong traction in personal loans coupled with steady expansion in services and industrial credit.

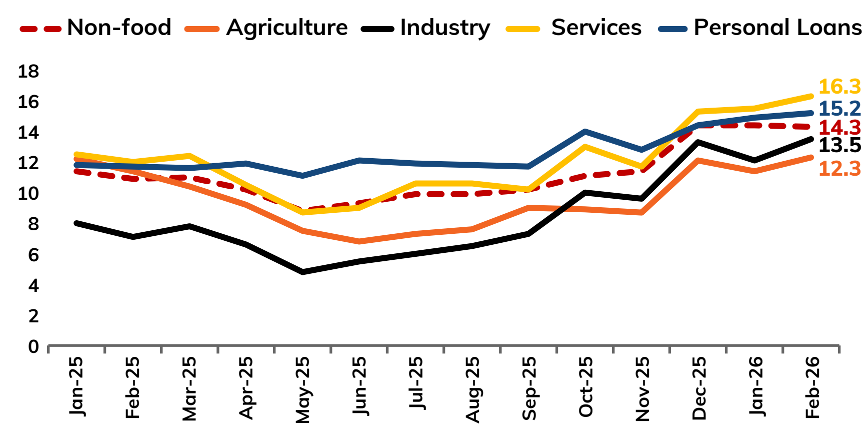
CREDIT AND DEPOSIT GROWTH (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. Scheduled commercial banks' data is inclusive of regional rural banks. Data includes the impact of the merger of a non-bank with a bank.

In February 2026, Agriculture and industrial credit growth witnessed an uptick. Credit flow to the **services sector was underpinned by a strong growth in bank lending to NBFCs and commercial real estate.**

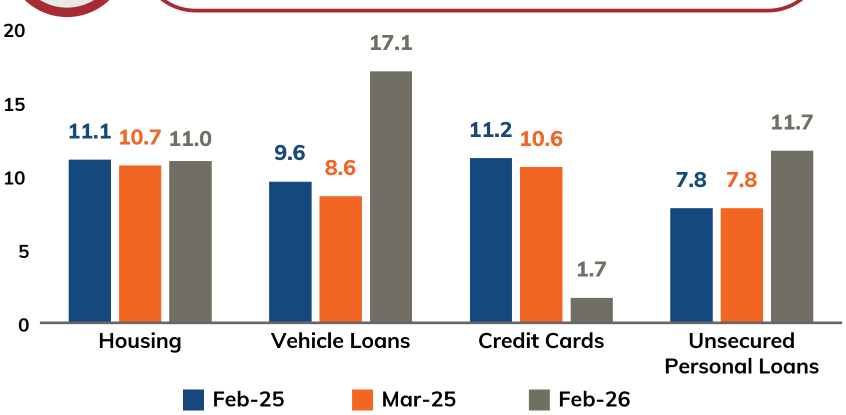
BANK CREDIT GROWTH ACROSS NON-FOOD SEGMENTS (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. CareEdge Ratings. NBFC: Non-Banking Financial Company.

In February 2026, personal loan growth remained broadly stable across key retail categories.

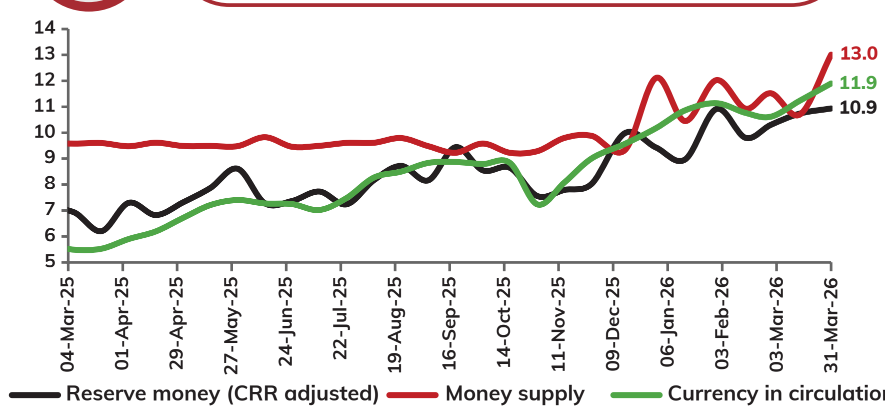
PERSONAL LOANS GROWTH ACROSS BROAD CATEGORIES (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI), CareEdge Ratings. Note: unsecured personal loans include consumer durables and other personal loans.

During March 2026, reserve money (adjusted for CRR) maintained its high growth trajectory.

RESERVE MONEY AND MONEY SUPPLY (M_3) (YEAR-ON-YEAR, GROWTH %)

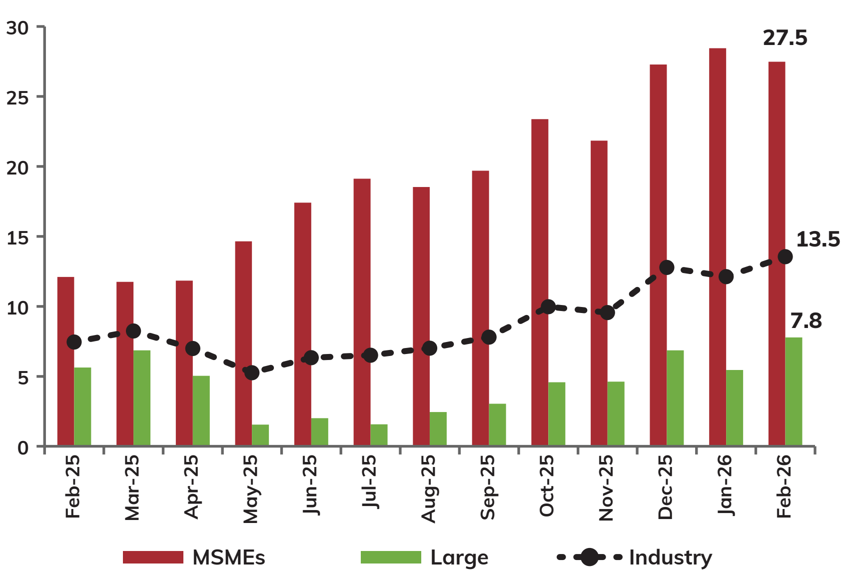


Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. CRR: Cash Reserve Ratio.

India's Bank Credit growth of the Infrastructure sector gains traction

Within the industrial sector, bank credit to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) segment remained buoyant in February 2026. This was bolstered by regulatory measures, including enhanced limit under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises scheme, the introduction of customized credit card scheme for micro enterprises as well as expansion of digital and fintech lending through a co-lending framework with banks.

CREDIT GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL SECTOR: MAJOR SEGMENTS (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. MSME: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

CREDIT GROWTH IN MAJOR SUB-SECTORS OF INDUSTRY (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)

Sector	Feb-25	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26
Infrastructure	1.7	2.8	0.8	5.0	7.2	6.4	7.9
Basic Metal and Metal Product	13.1	12.8	11.0	9.1	14.2	13.8	15.2
Textiles	7.1	8.3	8.6	7.1	11.8	10.0	8.2
Chemicals and Chemical Products	6.8	7.4	6.3	8.3	14.8	15.1	19.1
All Engineering	18.9	22.0	22.1	22.4	30.4	35.9	36.0
Food Processing	9.3	5.1	8.1	7.7	11.7	9.6	10.2

← Low High →

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. Within a row, darker shade of green pertains to acceleration in credit growth, while red indicates deceleration in credit growth.

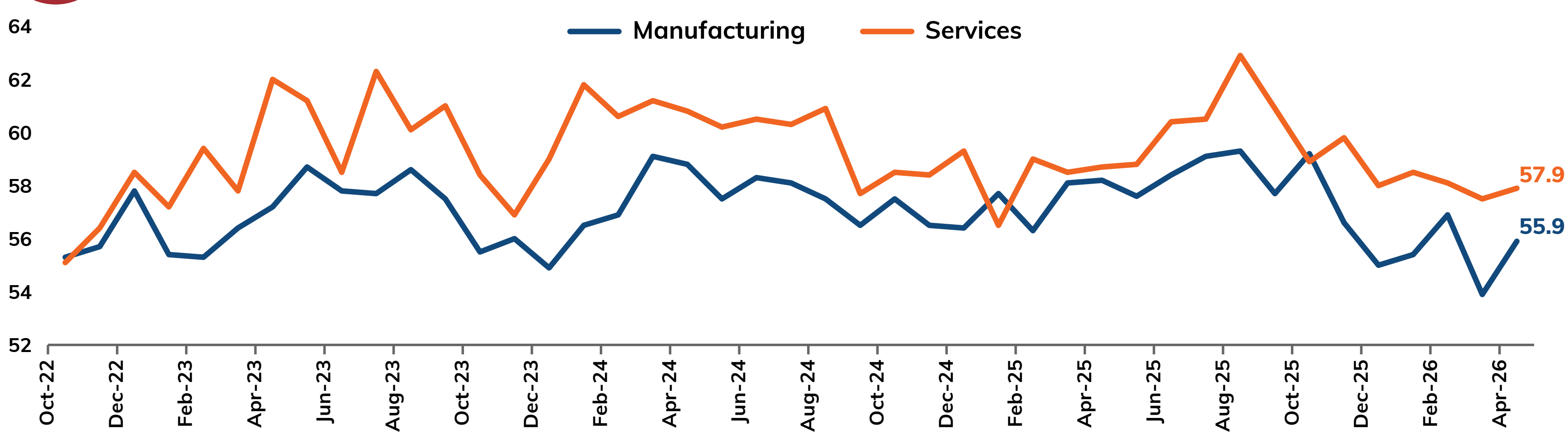
Among the major industrial sub-sectors, credit growth of the infrastructure sector strengthened, contributing to industrial credit expansion. **Additionally, credit growth in metal products, chemical products and all engineering displayed improvement.**

Growth of India's private sector output accelerates

The HSBC Flash India PMI Composite Output Index, which measures the combined performance of India's manufacturing and services sectors, rebounded to 58.3 in April 2026 from 57.0 in March 2026:

- **Business conditions improved:** Business activity picked up steam on the back of better demand conditions, capacity expansion, rising intakes of new work and tech investment. The HSBC Flash India Manufacturing PMI rose to 55.9 in April 2026 from 53.9 in the preceding month.
- **Elevated cost pressures:** Businesses reported higher cost pressures in April 2026, owing to rising fuel, gas, oil and raw material prices.

INDIA'S PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX (PMI)



Source: S&P Global. Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data. The HSBC Flash India PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to survey panels of around 400 manufacturers and 400 service providers. The panels are each stratified by detailed sector and company workforce size, based on contributions to GDP. The services sector is defined by S&P Global as consumer (excluding retail), transport, information, communication, finance, insurance, real estate and business services. GDP: Gross Domestic Product. PMI: Purchasing Managers' Index. Report as of April 23, 2026.

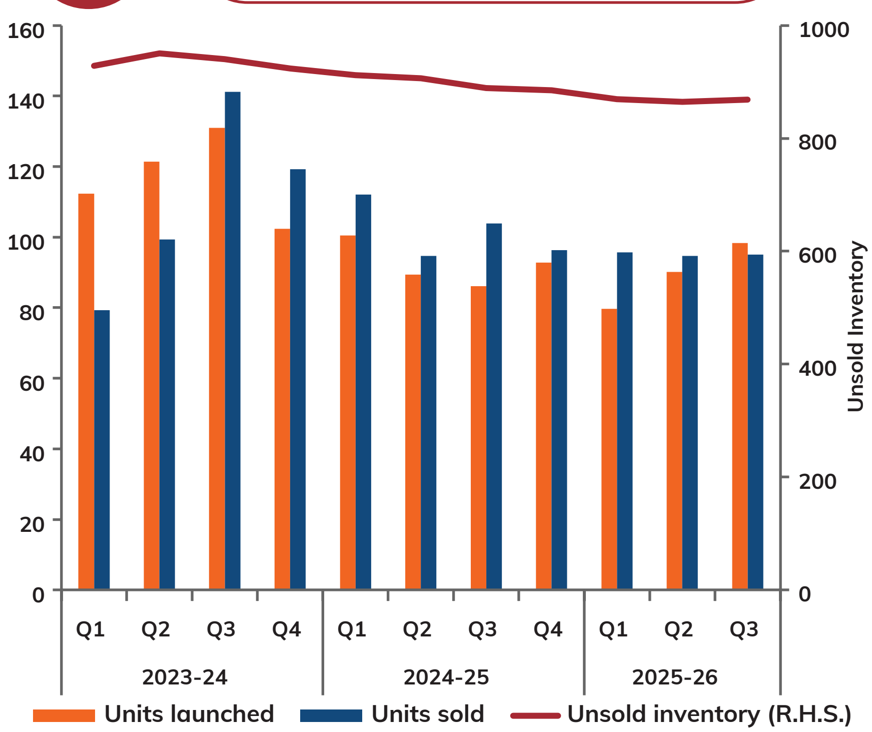
- **Exports weakened:** At the composite level, new export business rose at a softer rate in April 2026 due to the impact of the West Asia conflict on global trade flows. Businesses are building buffer stocks to navigate the uncertainties related to the duration of the supply-side shock.
- **Hiring trend:** Employment increased across India's private sector, underpinned by rising business requirements and potential expansion plans.

India’s Housing Sector Update – Launches, Sales and Prices

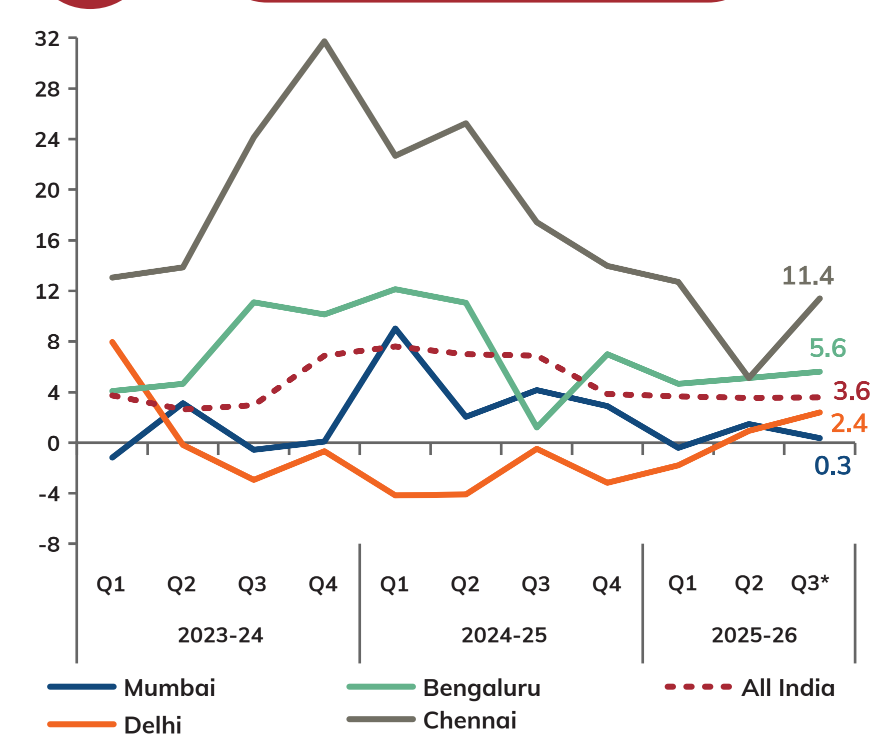
In Q3:2025-26, India’s real estate activity remained healthy as reflected by the pick-up in new housing project launches. The rise in projects was driven by **lower costs following the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reductions on key inputs,** while sales remained steady. **However, as the launches outpaced sales, the level of unsold inventory level increased** during the quarter compared to Q2:2025-26.

In Q3:2025-26, the All India housing price index edged up with an increase recorded across all major cities except Mumbai. Public administration, defence and other services grew at 4.5% during the quarter, relative to 4.4% observed a year ago, supported by buoyant activity in other services like education and health.

HOUSING ACTIVITY (NUMBER OF UNITS IN THOUSANDS)



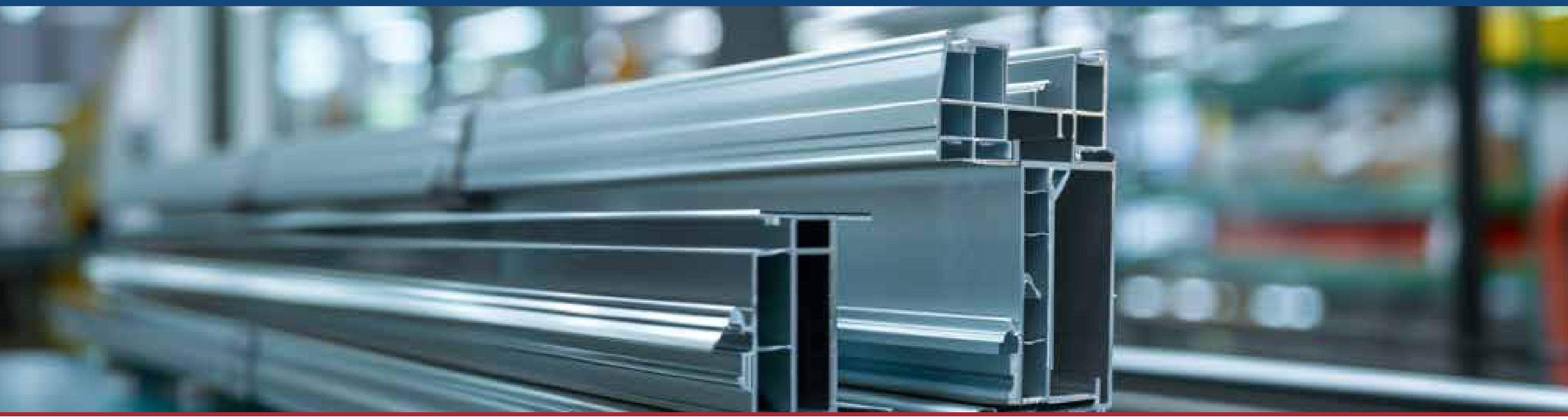
HOUSING PRICE INDEX (YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH, %)



Source: Reserve Bank of India Bulletin as on April 2026, PropTiger. *Provisional data. Q: Quarter. The sector(s) /stock(s) mentioned in this presentation do not constitute any recommendation of the same and ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund may or may not have any future position in these sector(s)/stock(s).

Steel prices rebound sharply, India regains its position as a net exporter

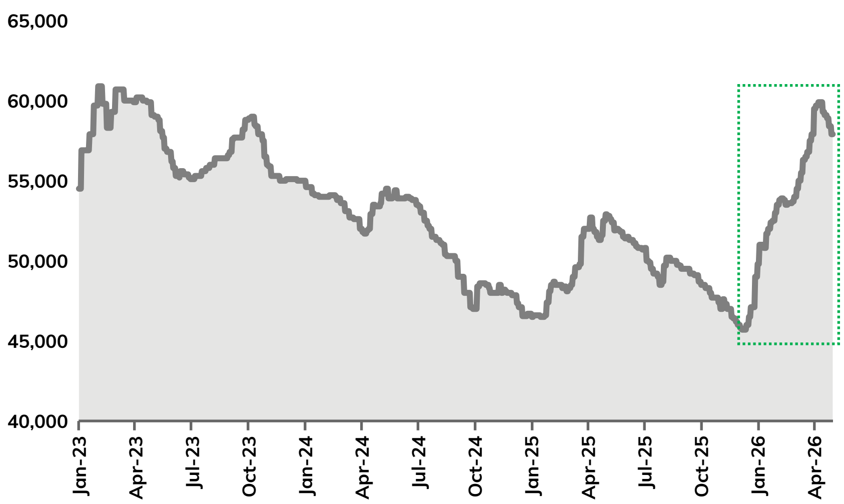
ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND



Safeguard duties on imports of certain steel products: The Government of India's decision of extending safeguard duties on imports of certain steel products for three years would shield domestic manufacturers from the influx of cheaper imports from other countries. The safeguard duty will be levied at 12% in the first year (April 21, 2025 to April 20, 2026), reduced to 11.5% in the second year (April 21, 2026 to April 20, 2027) and lowered to 11% in the third year (April 21, 2027 to April 20, 2028).

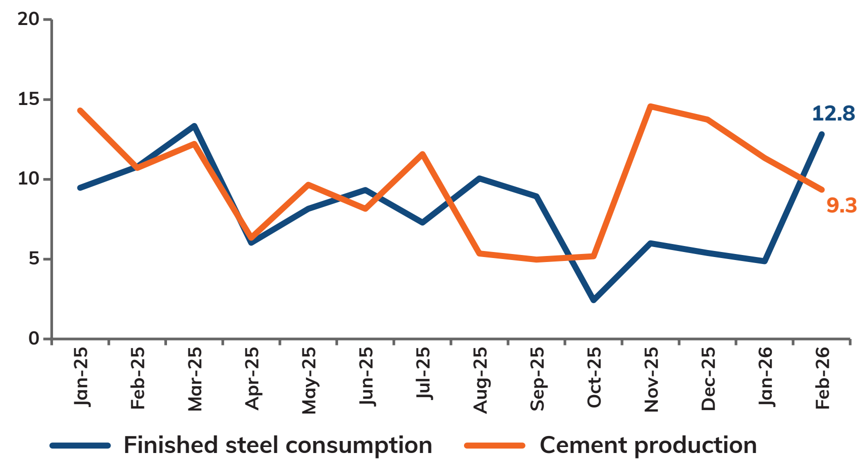
Higher Steel production: In FY2025-26, India's steel sector production picked up steam, supported by increased activities across infrastructure, construction and manufacturing sectors.

STEEL - HOT ROLLED COIL PRICES (₹/TON)



Source: CEIC, Data as on April 30, 2026.

CONSTRUCTION INDICATORS (YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH, %)



Source: Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, April 2026. National Statistical Office, Office of the Economic Adviser, Joint Plant Committee.

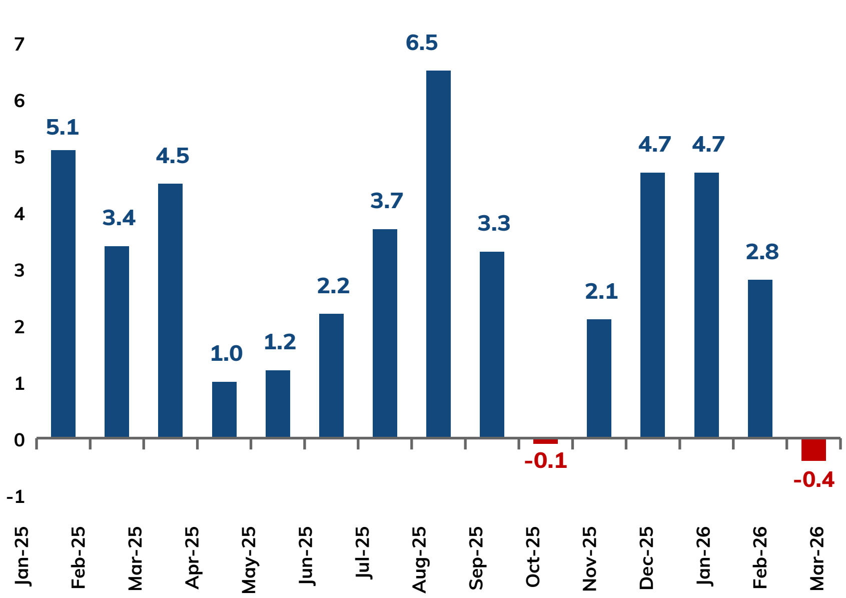
India has become a net exporter of steel: During April 2025-March 2026, India's finished steel exports surged by 35.9%, while imports declined by 31.7% **(Source: Ministry of Steel). India has strengthened its footprint across global markets like the Middle East, Europe and Southeast Asia.**

Challenges: Domestic manufacturers may have to combat challenges arising from fluctuating raw material costs and increased logistics costs amid geopolitical tensions.

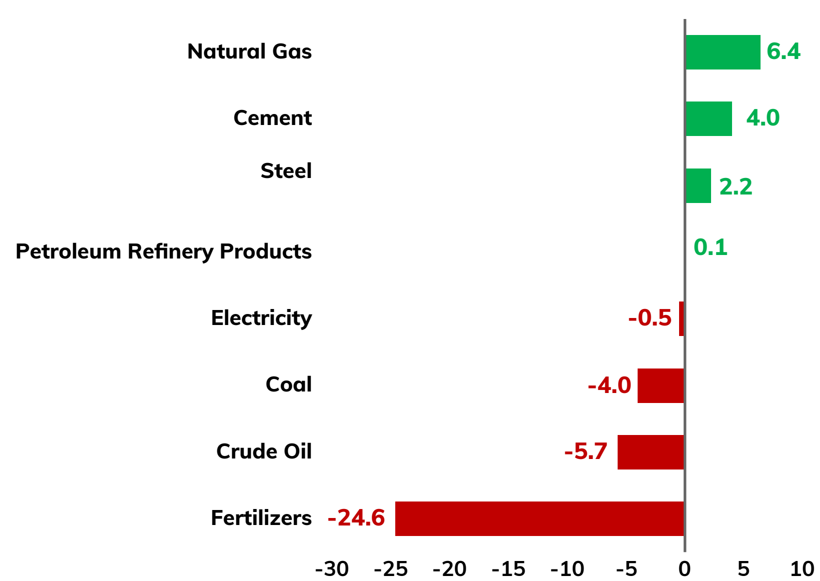
India’s core sector output slips to a 19-month low

In March 2026, India’s eight core sector output contracted 0.4% year-on-year from 2.8% in February 2026, primarily due to a steep decline in fertilizer production and weaker performance in energy-related sectors. **Fertilizer output registered the sharpest fall of 24.6% year-on-year in March 2026, owing to supply chain disruptions and raw material shortages stemming from the ongoing West Asia conflict. Crude oil output also continued to decline during the month, extending the contraction in domestic hydrocarbon production.**

INDEX OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES PERFORMANCE (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



SECTOR OUTPUT GROWTH (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The eight core sectors are: Coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity. March 2026 print is provisional. The above data includes Year-on-year growth.

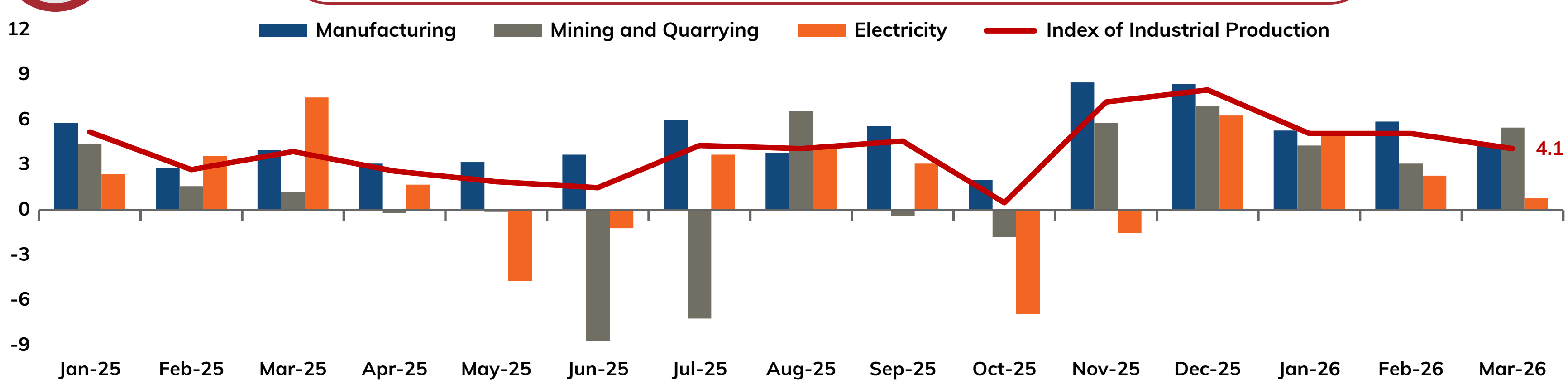
Natural gas output expanded by 6.4% year-on-year in March 2026, the fastest pace in 22 months, as domestic players ramped up production, amidst the decline in imports from West Asia. **The steel and cement output remained stable,** driven by ongoing housing construction projects and infrastructure development.

India's Industrial Sector output growth slows

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

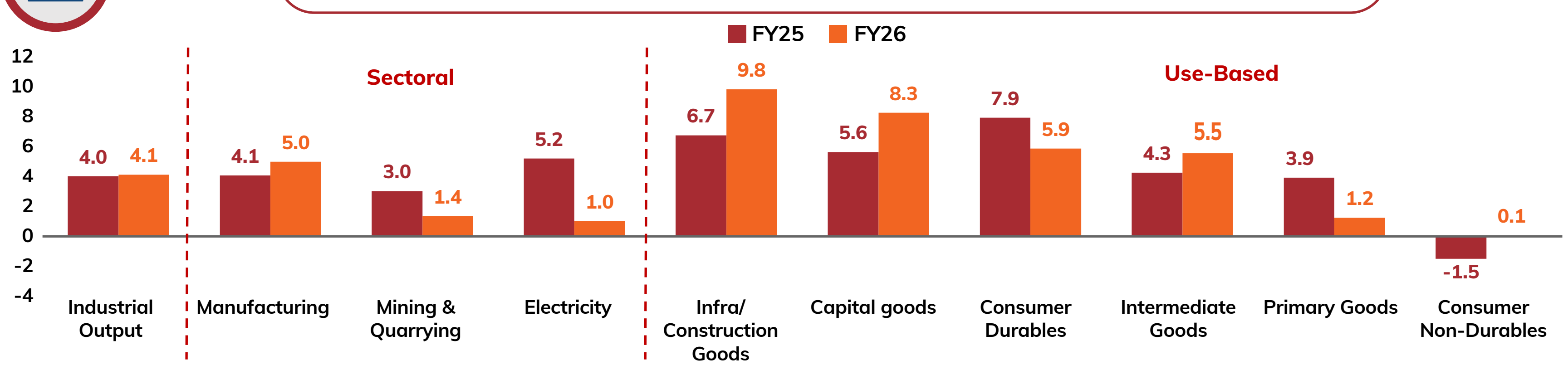
In March 2026, India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth slowed to a five-month low of 4.1%, down from the 5.1% print recorded in February 2026. This was primarily on account of subdued performance of the manufacturing and power sector during the month amid headwinds stemming from the West Asia conflict.

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION - MANUFACTURING, MINING AND QUARRYING, ELECTRICITY (YEAR-ON-YEAR %)



In FY2025-26, India's full-year industrial output grew by 4.1%, registering a marginal uptick from the growth recorded in the previous year. Within the use-based classification, **growth was supported by encouraging performance in the capital goods and infrastructure segments,** bolstered by the Government's thrust on capital expenditure. Various policy measures, such as Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate rationalization, income tax reductions and monetary policy stimulus measures supported domestic consumption.

FULL YEAR PERFORMANCE IN INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT (YEAR-ON-YEAR, %)



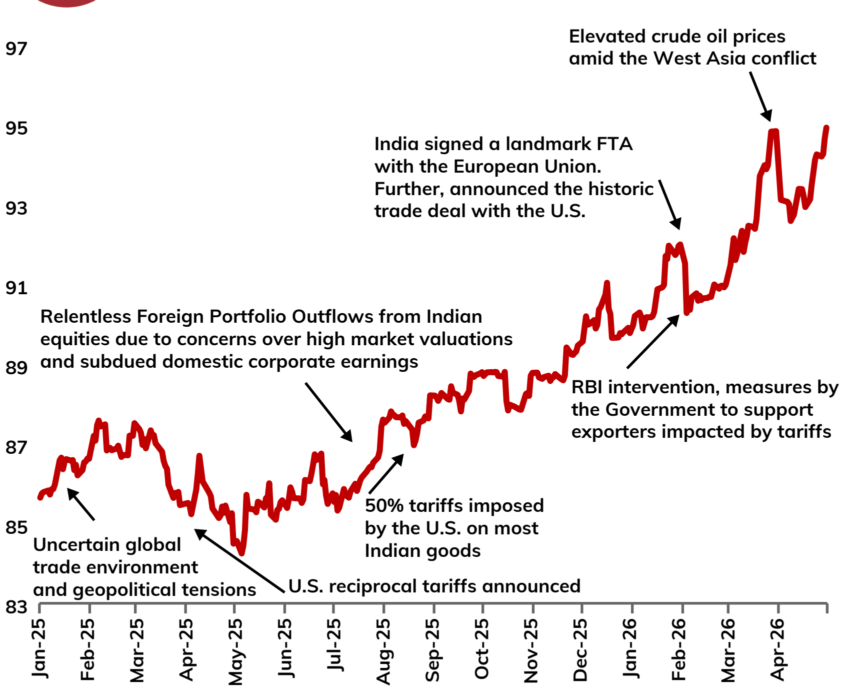
Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). CareEdge Ratings. FY: Financial Year. The sector(s) /stock(s) mentioned in this presentation do not constitute any recommendation of the same and ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund may or may not have any future position in these sector(s)/stock(s).

The Indian Rupee is caught in a crossfire

In April 2026, the Indian Rupee traded around 94.50 against the U.S. Dollar. The Indian Rupee is caught in a web of challenges, including global geopolitical risks, foreign portfolio outflows from Indian equities and a rise in global risk-off sentiments.

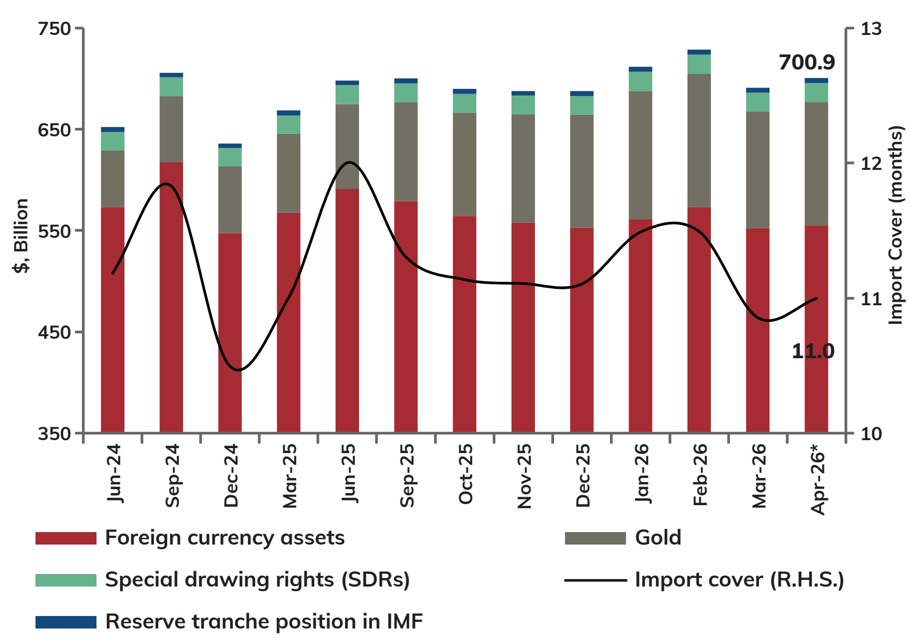
Factors supporting the Rupee: **a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) implemented measures aimed at curtailing speculative arbitrage positions** between onshore and offshore markets, restricting the Net Open Position (NOP) of banks to $100 million per day. **b) India's foreign exchange reserves remain comfortable, providing cover for goods imports of around 11 months.**

USD/INR



Source: Reuters. Data as on April 30, 2026. U.S.: United States. INR: Indian Rupee. USD: U.S. Dollar. FTA: Free Trade Agreement.

INDIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES ($, BILLION)



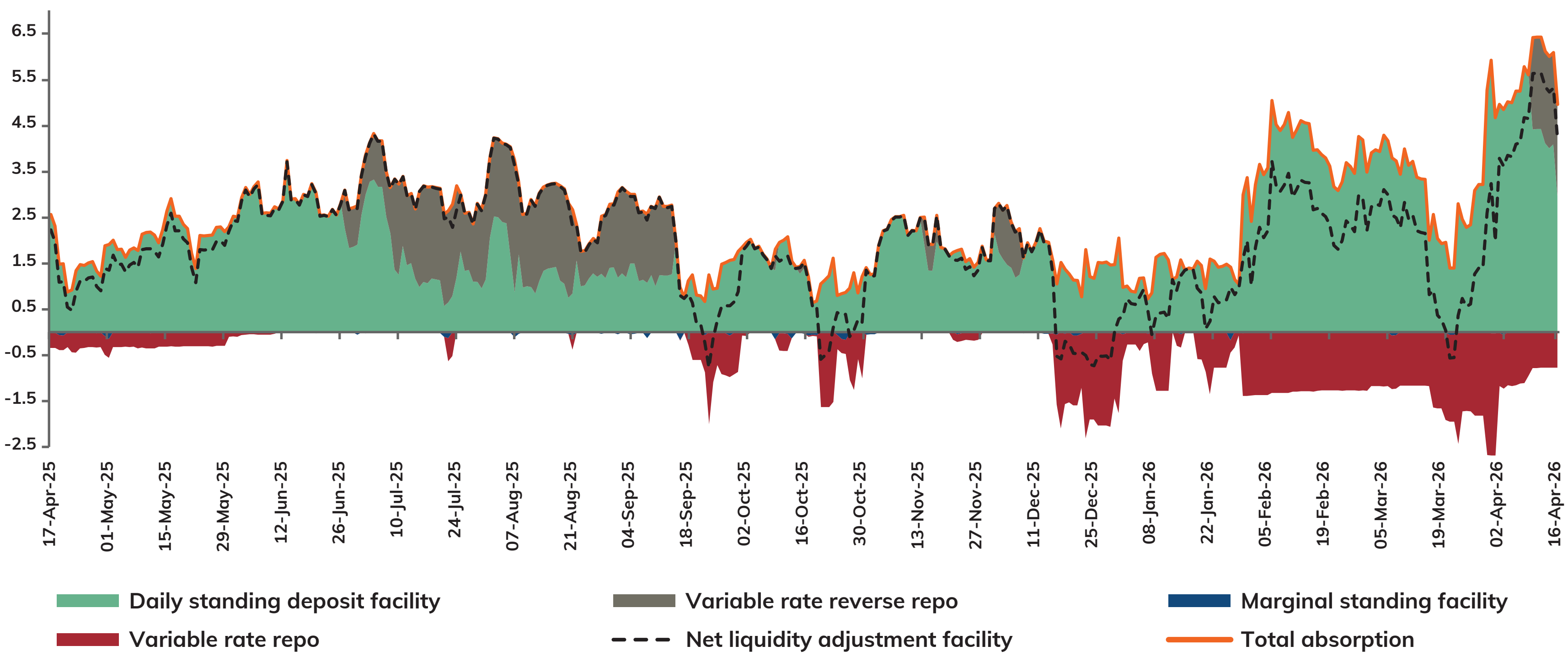
Source: Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, April 2026. R.H.S: Right-hand side. IMF: International Monetary Fund. *Data as on April 10, 2026. The import cover data is based on annualized merchandise imports as per the balance of payments statistics.

India’s banking system liquidity remains in surplus

During the first half of March 2026, India’s banking system liquidity remained comfortable, supported by Reserve Bank of India’s open market operations (OMOs). However, in the second half of the month, the liquidity surplus moderated on account of Goods and Services Tax (GST) related outflows.

To address the transient liquidity tightness during the second half of the month, the central bank conducted seven **variable-rate repo (VRR) auctions** with maturities ranging from overnight to 7 days and further conducted two 7-day variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions on April 10, 2026 and April 17, 2026. **System liquidity improved in April 2026 as the pressure from tax outflows declined gradually and government spending picked up.**

INDIA'S BANKING SYSTEM LIQUIDITY (₹, LAKH CRORE)



Source: Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, April 2026. Data as on April 16, 2026.

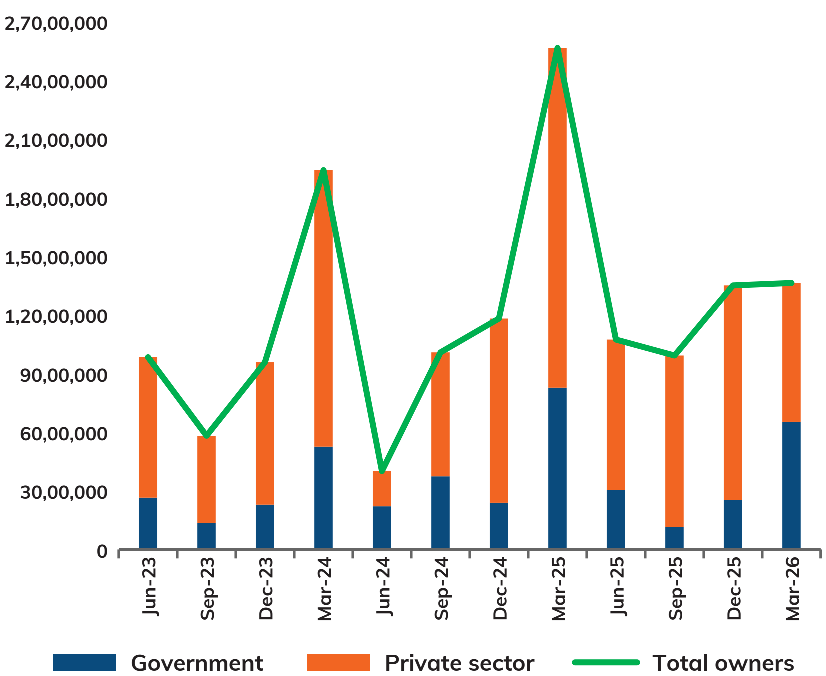
India's New Investment Projects witness a surge

The value of India's new investment projects completed rose from around ₹1.95 lakh crore in the quarter ended December 2025 to around ₹4.12 lakh crore in the quarter ended March 2026, reflecting confidence in the business and economic environment.

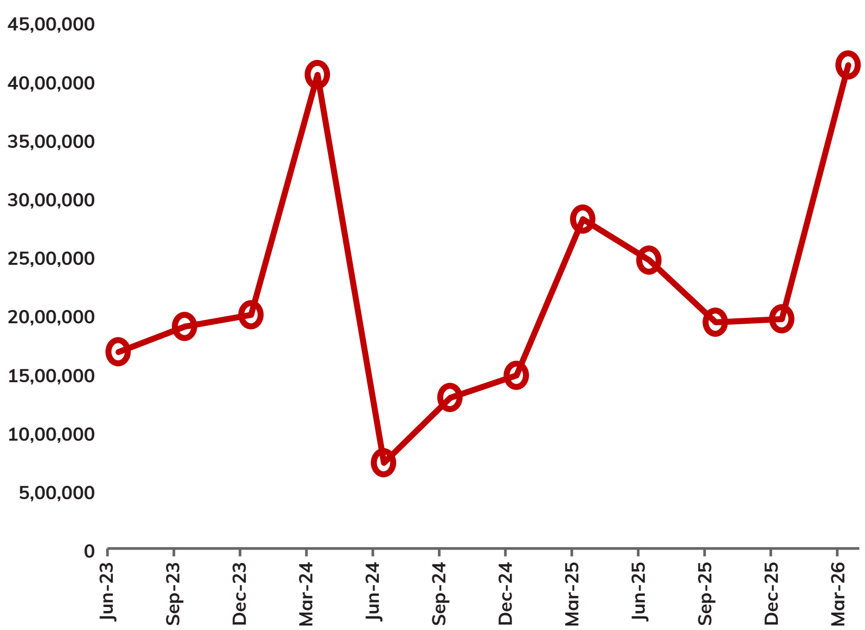
Capital expenditure Levels: Public investment has witnessed a sharp rise, growing from ₹2 lakh crore in FY2014-15 to a Budget Estimate of ₹12.2 lakh crore in FY2026-27, underscoring the Government's commitment to infrastructure-led growth.

Crowding in private investment: Large-scale government spending would encourage private participation in infrastructure projects and generate employment across multiple sectors, further strengthening economic growth prospects.

VALUE OF NEW INVESTMENT PROJECTS ANNOUNCED (₹, MILLION)



VALUE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS COMPLETED (₹, MILLION)



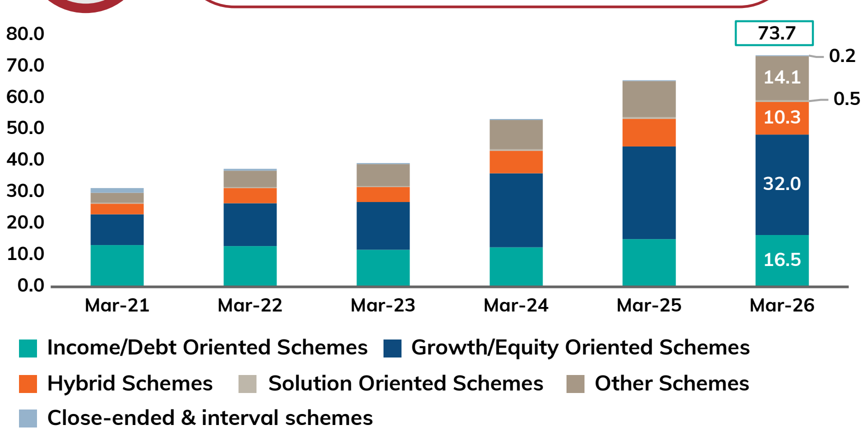
Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. Data as on April 28, 2026. Total projects include a combination of government and private sector. FY: Financial Year.

Growth trajectory of India's Mutual Fund Industry

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

In March 2026, the Net Assets Under Management of India's mutual fund industry grew 12.2% year-on-year to ₹73.73 lakh crore.

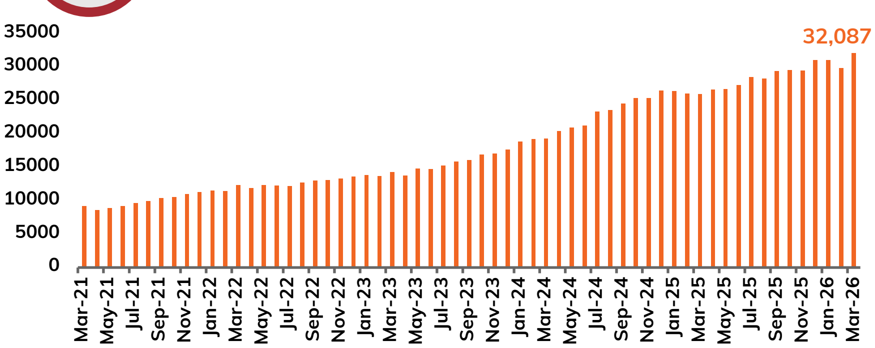
NET ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT (₹, LAKH CRORE)



Source: Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), CRISIL Intelligence.

In March 2026, Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) inflows surged to a new high of ₹32,087 crore, denoting the inclination of investors towards long-term, disciplined investing.

SIP CONTRIBUTION (₹, CRORE)



Source: Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), CRISIL Intelligence.

Despite dramatic market swings resulting from geopolitical tensions, equity mutual fund inflows rose to an eight-month high of ₹40,450 crore in March 2026, climbing 56% from ₹25,978 crore in the previous month.

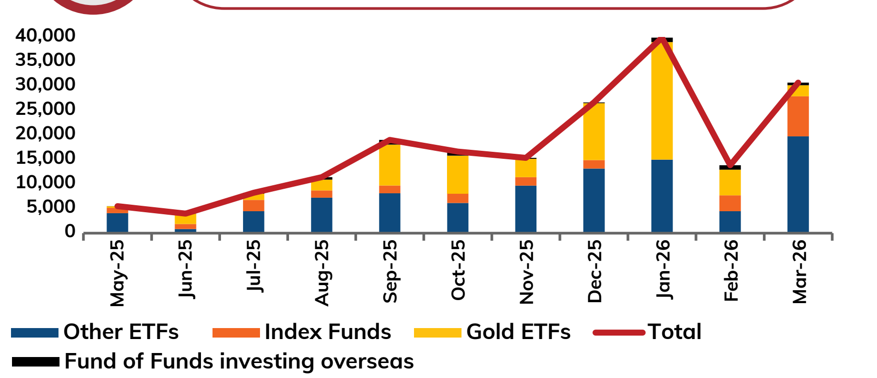
MONTHLY FLOW OF MUTUAL FUNDS (₹, CRORE)

Category	Mar-26	Feb-26	Jan-26	Dec-25	Nov-25	Oct-25	Sep-25
Equity	40,450	25,978	24,029	28,054	29,911	24,690	30,422
Debt	-294,987	42,106	74,827	-132,410	-25,693	1,59,958	-101,977
Hybrid	-16,538	11,983	17,356	10,756	13,299	14,156	9,397
Others	30,768	13,879	39,955	26,723	15,385	16,668	19,057
Solution-oriented schemes	256	247	342	345	320	261	286
Closed-ended and interval schemes	141	336	-49	-59	-467	-77	-331
Total	-239,910	94,530	1,56,459	-66,591	32,755	2,15,657	-43,146

Source: Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). CRISIL Intelligence. Cells in green to red signify the highest to lowest inflows in that period.

In March 2026, strong inflows of ₹19,802 crore into other ETFs reflect investor preference for passive investment avenues offering exposure to broader market.

MONTHLY FLOW TREND OF PASSIVE SCHEMES (₹, CRORE)



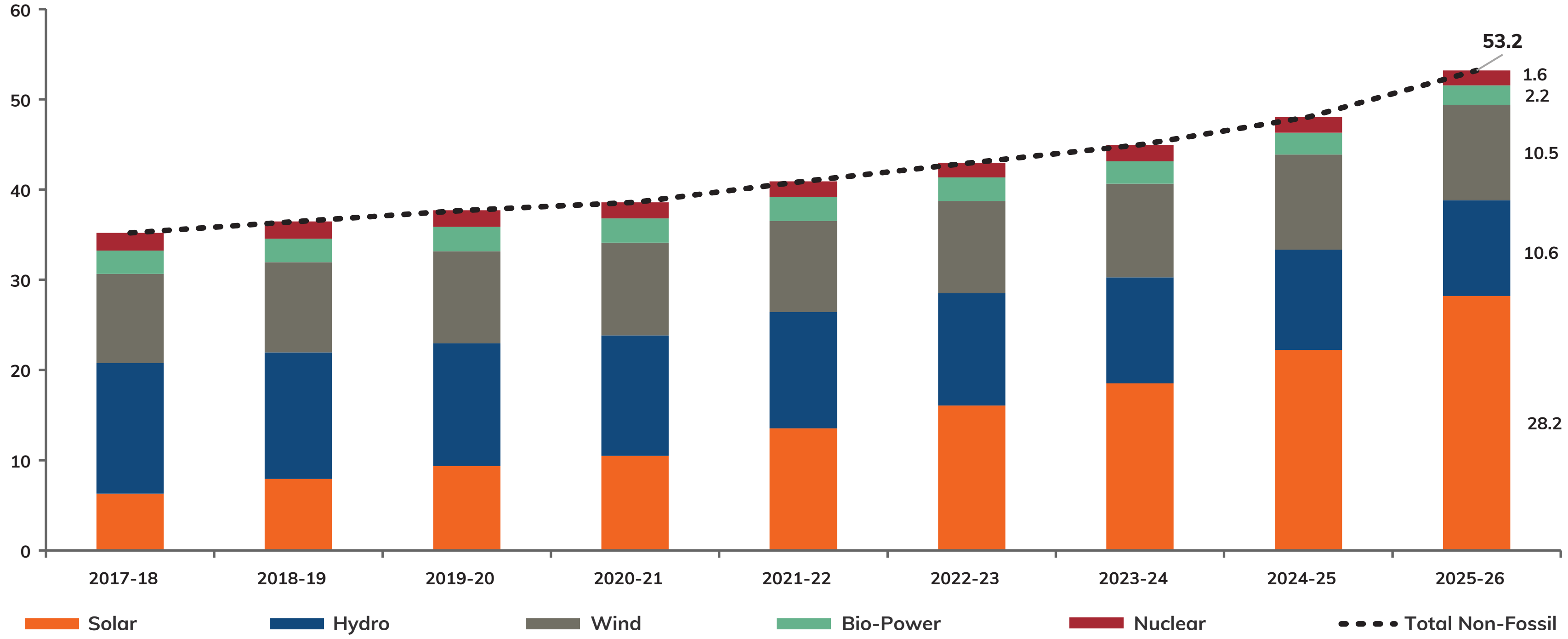
Source: Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), CRISIL Intelligence.
ETFs: Exchange Traded Funds.

More Renewable Energy to India

In March 2026, the Government of India approved the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) for the period 2031-2035, aimed at tackling climate change through reduced emissions and increased electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.

India ranks third globally in terms of total renewable energy capacity and has reached more than 53% of non-fossil fuel capacity. Sustaining this momentum through continued expansion of renewable energy capacity, grid integration and complementary climate actions is key for translating commitments into credible outcomes.

INCREASING NON-FOSSIL FUEL SHARE IN TOTAL INSTALLED CAPACITY (%)



Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. Central Electricity Authority. The sector(s) /stock(s) mentioned in this presentation do not constitute any recommendation of the same and ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund may or may not have any future position in these sector(s)/stock(s).

The Narrative of High-Frequency Indicators

In March 2026, E-way bills continued to display double-digit growth supported by Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate rationalization, reflecting strong goods movement. **GST revenue surged, reflecting sustained consumption and improved compliance. Aviation turbine fuel demand declined sharply during the month due to widespread flight suspensions,** following the West Asia conflict. **Electricity demand remained moderate, primarily due to above normal rainfall in the first 25 days of March 2026, which reduced cooling requirements.**

High Frequency-Indicators – Economic Activity (Year-on-Year Growth %)

Indicator	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26
GST E-way bills	20.2	23.4	18.9	19.3	25.8	22.4	21.0	8.2	27.6	23.5	15.8	18.8	12.9
GST revenue	10.6	13.3	17.3	6.5	8.2	6.9	10.0	7.6	0.7	6.1	6.2	8.1	8.8
Toll Collection	11.9	16.6	16.4	15.5	14.8	12.7	4.5	4.6	2.9	0.4	-1.8	-8.7	-4.0
Electricity demand	5.7	2.8	-4.8	-2.3	2.6	3.8	3.5	-5.8	-0.6	5.8	3.8	1.0	1.7
Petroleum consumption	-3.1	0.2	1.1	0.5	-4.4	4.8	7.0	-1.5	0.6	4.5	0.7	5.5	2.2
Of which Petrol	5.7	5.0	9.2	6.8	5.9	5.5	8.0	7.4	2.6	7.1	6.1	6.1	7.6
Diesel	0.9	4.2	2.1	1.5	2.4	1.2	6.5	-0.3	4.8	5.2	3.3	4.3	8.0
Aviation Turbine Fuel	5.7	3.9	4.4	3.3	-2.3	-2.9	-0.8	2.1	5.4	0.3	5.5	4.0	0.7
Digital Payments - volume*	30.8	30.0	29.2	28.3	30.9	31.1	28.1	21.5	30.2	26.8	22.3	23.5	18.5
Digital payments - value*	17.3	18.4	12.6	17.4	16.6	5.3	13.4	8.8	14.7	15.2	11.5	17.9	12.8

<<<<<<Contraction---Expansion>>>>>>

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The heatmap translates the data range for each indicator into a colour gradient scheme with red denoting the lowest values and green corresponding to the highest values of the respective data series. The heatmap is applied on data from April 2023 to the latest month for which data is available. For digital payments, heatmap is applied on data from April 2024 to the latest month for which data is available. *Digital payments data for March 2026 are provisional as data for card payments is subject to revision. GST: Goods and Services Tax.

In March 2026, the growth in automobile sales was driven by strong retail demand, supported by post-Goods and Services Tax (GST) momentum. Strong tractor sales indicate robust rabi sowing and improving farm economies.

High-Frequency Indicators – Demand Conditions (Year-on-Year, Growth %)

	Indicator	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26
Urban Demand	Domestic Air Passenger Traffic	9.9	9.7	2.6	3.7	-2.5	-0.5	-2.5	3.5	7.0	-4.9	3.1	-0.1	-1.5
	Retail Passenger Vehicle Sales	6.3	1.6	-3.1	2.5	-0.8	0.9	5.8	10.7	20.4	26.6	7.2	26.1	21.5
Rural Demand	Retail Automobile Sales	-0.7	2.9	5.4	4.8	-4.3	2.8	5.2	40.5	2.1	14.6	17.6	25.6	25.3
	Retail Tractor Sales	-5.7	7.6	2.8	8.7	11.0	30.1	3.6	14.2	56.5	15.8	22.9	36.4	10.9
	Retail Two-wheeler Sales	-1.8	2.3	7.3	4.7	-6.5	2.2	6.5	51.8	-3.1	9.5	20.8	25.0	28.7

<<<<<<Contraction---Expansion>>>>>>

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. Airports Authority of India, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The data on domestic air passenger traffic for March 2026 growth rate is calculated by aggregating daily data. In the heatmap, red denotes the lowest values and green corresponds to the highest values of the respective data series. Data for retail automobile sales consists of sales of two wheelers, three wheelers, passenger vehicles, tractors and commercial vehicles. GST: Goods and Services Tax. The heatmap is applied on data from April 2023 to the latest month for which data is available. The sector(s) /stock(s) mentioned in this presentation do not constitute any recommendation of the same and ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund may or may not have any future position in these sector(s)/stock(s).

The Narrative of High-Frequency Indicators

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

In March 2026, Automobile production continued to record strong growth across major segments. Passenger Vehicle segment was driven a rich new-model pipeline and the sustained shift towards Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs). The Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate rationalization has reduced the effective tax burden on mass-segment two-wheelers, small cars, three-wheelers and select commercial categories. **Automobile manufacturers continue to remain vigilant of West Asia conflict-driven supply disruption, fuel price sensitivity and seasonal transition.**

High-Frequency Indicators for Industrial Growth (Year-on-Year, Growth %)

Indicator	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26
Automobile production	6.5	-1.7	5.2	1.2	10.7	8.1	10.8	-2.8	22.3	37.1	15.0	22.1	20.2
Passenger vehicle production	11.2	10.8	5.4	-1.8	0.1	-4.1	16.1	9.8	22.8	23.1	5.6	9.8	9.0
Tractor production	18.5	20.5	9.1	9.8	11.5	9.4	23.0	13.0	37.5	57.9	14.6	80.0	28.6
Two-wheelers production	5.6	-4.1	4.7	1.4	12.3	10.0	9.8	-5.6	20.9	39.9	16.1	24.4	22.0
Three-wheelers production	6.0	4.1	16.9	8.6	24.0	15.8	15.9	15.9	55.4	39.6	33.2	29.9	34.0
Crude steel production	8.5	9.3	11.0	12.6	13.8	12.8	13.7	8.9	11.1	10.8	10.5	10.2	3.8
Finished steel production	10.0	6.6	7.0	10.9	13.8	13.8	14.0	7.2	12.4	10.9	11.0	8.0	1.2
Imports of capital goods	8.6	24.5	15.7	3.4	13.3	0.2	12.7	8.5	12.8	13.0	7.1	19.7	11.7

<<<<<<Contraction---Expansion>>>>>>

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Ministry of Power, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Office of Economic Adviser, Government of India, Joint Plant Committee, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Tractor and Mechanisation Association. In the heatmap, red denotes the lowest values and green corresponds to the highest values of the respective data series. The heatmap is applied on data from April 2023 to the latest month for which data is available.

In March 2026, the Naukri JobSpeak Index displayed robust growth in white-collar hiring, led by hospitality, BPO/ ITES and education. **The demand for work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) continued to decline for the ninth consecutive month,** indicating the availability of alternate job opportunities in rural areas.

High-Frequency Indicators for Employment

Indicator	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26
Naukri Job Speak Index	-1.5	8.9	0.3	10.5	6.8	3.4	10.1	-9.3	23.5	13.2	3.4	11.9	9.2
PMI Employment: manufacturing	53.4	54.2	54.9	55.1	53.3	53.1	52.1	52.4	50.9	50.5	51.1	51.5	52.6
PMI Employment: Services	52.5	53.9	57.1	55.1	51.4	52.2	51.9	51.4	51.6	49.8	50.8	51.6	52.7
MGNREGA: Work Demand	2.2	-6.5	4.4	4.4	-12.3	-26.2	-27.1	-35.1	-32.0	-28.9	-25.7	-14.1	-23.2

<<<<<<Contraction---Expansion>>>>>>

Source: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin, April 2026. Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, Info Edge, S&P Global. All PMI values are reported in index form. A PMI value >50 denotes expansion, <50 denotes contraction and =50 denotes no change. In the PMI heatmaps, red denotes the lowest value, yellow denotes 50 (or the no change value) and green denotes the highest value in each of the PMI series. MGNREGS is encoded in inverse scale - lowest is marked in green, highest is marked in red. PMI: Purchasing Managers' Index. BPO/ITES: Business Process Outsourcing/Information Technology Enabled Services. MGNREGS: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The heatmap is applied to data from April 2023 to March 2026. The sector(s) /stock(s) mentioned in this presentation do not constitute any recommendation of the same and ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund may or may not have any future position in these sector(s)/stock(s).

Other Key Developments

Headline Inflation across select countries: In the United Kingdom, headline inflation has been trending lower since the second half of 2025, mainly due to easing services inflation amid slower wage growth, although it remains above target. In the Euro area, headline inflation rose to 2.5% in March 2026, largely on account of higher energy inflation. Japan's inflation cooled with easing food and lower electricity prices. In Brazil, headline CPI has been gradually converging towards the target on the back of monetary tightening undertaken earlier. In Russia, CPI inflation has been on a disinflationary path. China's headline CPI inflation remained positive, with February 2026 posting the sharpest rise since January 2023 due to Chinese New Year related spending. In South Africa, headline inflation has remained within the target band with the recent decline driven by transportation costs (Source: Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, April 2026. CPI: Consumer Price Index).

The IMF raises India's growth forecast for FY2026-27: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded India's FY2026-27 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 6.5%, citing strong momentum and reduced U.S. tariff impacts (Source: International Monetary Fund. FY: Financial Year. U.S.: United States).

India's wholesale inflation rises: India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation nearly doubled to a 38-month high of 3.88% in March 2026 from 2.1% in February 2026, primarily due to increase in prices of crude petroleum & natural gas, other manufacturing, non-food articles, manufacture of basic metals and food articles etc. (Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the March 2026 reading is provisional).

Update on India's agricultural output: As on April 10, 2026, the area sown under summer crops stood at 64.1 lakh hectares, which is 85.1% of the normal acreage for the full season. Favourable summer sowing for pulses, oilseeds and coarse cereals offset the decline in rice amidst concerns over input supplies following the war in West Asia. The reservoir storage levels remain sufficient for the ongoing summer season. The current public foodgrain stocks also remain well above the buffer norms to meet any contingency requirements. However, the likelihood of below-normal rainfall during the south-west monsoon due to possible El Nino conditions, poses downside risk to agricultural output (Source: Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, April 2026).

Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the Kharif Season, 2026: In April 2026, the Government of India approved proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixing the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the Kharif Season, 2026 (from 01.04.2026 to 30.09.2026) on Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers. The tentative budgetary requirement for Kharif season 2026 would be around ₹41,533.81 crore. This initiative would facilitate availability of fertilizers to farmers at reasonable prices, which could shield farmers from rising global fertilizer and input prices amid geopolitical tensions (Source: Government of India, Press Information Bureau, April 08, 2026).

And it is a wrap for the month

The global landscape continues to struggle with challenges posed by supply chain disruptions and rising energy costs due to the West Asia conflict. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected a moderation in global growth in 2026 alongside an increase in inflation, reflecting the adverse impact of the conflict. However, growth prospects could strengthen with a sustained easing of trade tensions and faster materialization of productivity gains from artificial intelligence (AI).

If the conflict persists, it could lead to challenges like disruption in trade flows, higher input cost pressures and financial market spillovers. The strong macroeconomic fundamentals of India could help the economy maintain its resilience and withstand such shocks.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Disclaimer

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

In the preparation of the material contained in this document, the AMC has used information that is publicly available, including information developed in-house. Some of the material(s) used in the document may have been obtained from members/persons other than the AMC and/or its affiliates and which may have been made available to the AMC and/or to its affiliates. Information gathered and material used in this document is believed to be from reliable sources. The AMC however does not warrant the accuracy, reasonableness and / or completeness of any information. We have included statements / opinions / recommendations in this document, which contain words, or phrases such as "will", "expect", "should", "believe" and similar expressions or variations of such expressions, that are "forward looking statements". Actual results may differ materially from those suggested by the forward looking statements due to risk or uncertainties associated with our expectations with respect to, but not limited to, exposure to market risks, general economic and political conditions in India and other countries globally, which have an impact on our services and / or investments, the monetary and interest policies of India, inflation, deflation, unanticipated turbulence in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, equity prices or other rates or prices etc. ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited (including its affiliates), the Mutual Fund, The Trust and any of its officers, directors, personnel and employees, shall not be liable for any loss, damage of any nature, including but not limited to direct, indirect, punitive, special, exemplary, consequential, as also any loss of profit in any way arising from the use of this material in any manner. Further, the information contained herein should not be construed as forecast or promise. The recipient alone shall be fully responsible/are liable for any decision taken on this material.

Registration No.: ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund 003/93/6