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RBI BULLETIN MAY 2025

Global economic prospects continue to face significant challenges, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) May 2025 Bulletin. Trade tensions, increased policy uncertainty, and subdued consumer sentiment are all weighing on global growth. However, the Indian economy has managed to stay resilient in the face of these external pressures. High-frequency indicators suggest that both industrial and services sector activities maintained steady momentum through April.

A strong rabi harvest, increased acreage for summer crops, and favourable southwest monsoon forecasts are expected to boost the agricultural sector. "Headline CPI inflation fell for the sixth consecutive month to its lowest since July 2019, primarily driven by the sustained easing in food prices," RBI stated. This means inflation appears to be easing, with headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation falling for the sixth consecutive month to a level last seen in July 2019, primarily due to a decline in food prices. Though domestic financial markets remained volatile through April, they began to recover from mid-May.

"Leveraging high-frequency monthly nightlights data as a proxy for total economic activity and tax collection data as a measure of formal economic activity, the analysis isolates the effect of formalisation on Notes in Circulation (NiC), controlling for aggregate economic output," RBI stated in the bulletin.

"The volatility in vegetable prices is often exacerbated by supply-side disturbances, predominantly driven by weather shocks, warranting regular monitoring of evolving weather conditions," the bulletin says.



India's economic growth in Q4 beat estimates after accelerating to 7.4 per cent but it couldn't save the economy from posting its slowest growth since Covid-era in FY25. The economy in 2024-25 hit a four-year low of 6.5 per cent, slowing down sharply from the 9.2 per cent growth recorded in FY24. Nonetheless, New Delhi's key officials have backed India's growth potential and vouched that the country will retain its title as the fastest-growing major economy in the world. The full-year growth remained within official projections, as private investment remained subdued amid global uncertainties.

The third quarter had seen growth rise to 6.2 per cent, revised upward from an earlier estimate of 5.6 per cent, showing resilience amid global headwinds. The fourth quarter was marred by global trade disruptions led by Trump's tariffs and escalation of the Russia-Ukraine war. However, the Indian economy powered through the storm on the back of pick up rural demand and healthy government spending.

Moreover, the latest growth figures continue to keep New Delhi in the race of fastest economies in the world. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also expects India's economic size to surpass Japan's by the end of the year, reaching \$4.18 trillion.

INDIA'S FISCAL DEFICIT FY25

India's fiscal deficit for FY25 stood at 4.8% of GDP, meeting the revised estimate, according to data released by the Comptroller General of Accounts on Friday. The central government's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 15.77 lakh crore, or 100.5% of the revised annual target, compared with 95.4% a year before. Total expenditure stood at Rs 46.56 lakh crore, which is 98.7% of this fiscal year's revised budget targets.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

In conclusion, while India's economic growth moderated to 6.5% in FY25—its slowest since the pandemic era—the economy demonstrated remarkable resilience amid persistent global headwinds, including trade tensions, geopolitical uncertainties, and policy shifts in major economies. A strong rebound in the fourth quarter, driven by industrial growth, rural demand, and government spending, helped offset earlier weaknesses. Inflation has steadily eased, reaching multi-year lows, thanks to a decline in food prices and favorable agricultural conditions. Fiscal discipline has been maintained, with the fiscal deficit contained at 4.8% of GDP, aligning with revised targets. High-frequency indicators point to a broad-based recovery in both rural and urban demand, supported by structural reforms and strategic public investment. With robust fundamentals, easing inflation, and a supportive policy environment, India is well-poised to retain its status as the world's fastest-growing major economy in FY26, even as it navigates an uncertain global landscape.

NIFTY TECHNICAL VIEW (WEEKLLY CHART) – 24,750.70



- In May, the Nifty was largely dominated by bulls, allowing the index to close the month on a positive note. However, despite the strong momentum seen earlier, the index struggled to maintain its pace during the last two weeks of the month.
- On the weekly chart, the index is facing resistance at a key horizontal level. On the positive side, it continues to hold above the 20-day exponential moving average (20 DEMA) and trades along a longterm rising trendline, indicating that the broader bullish structure remains intact.
- Looking ahead, a sustained move above 25,100 will be crucial for the Nifty to regain upward momentum and resume its bullish trend. Conversely, a break below 24,330 could lead to further downside and signal potential short-term weakness.



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