

India GDP

Robust print to propel yields higher



GDP growth of 7.8% in 1QFY26 was significantly higher than market expectations of 6.7%. The upside surprise in GDP growth was on the back of strength in domestic consumption. On the supply side, broad-based growth in services and manufacturing was in line with India's PMI reading. This better-than-expected GDP growth will restrict RBI's ability to ease policy; however, considering the likely drag on the economy due to elevated US tariffs and the forward looking nature of monetary policy, we believe October would be an appropriate time to ease policy. But the bond markets have already called an end to the rate cut cycle, so we expect a further hardening in yields in the near term. GDP growth in 2QFY26 will be aided by a favourable base but, considering the tariff-related uncertainties, we see downside risk to FY26 GDP estimates of 6.3-6.4%.

- **GDP grew 7.8% in 1Q:** Indian economy grew 7.8% in 1QFY26, which is a robust pace considering markets had built in a lower number (6.7%) due to the tariff-related disruption. The upside surprise in GDP growth was on the back of strength in domestic consumption – mainly government consumption. Growth in gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) was noteworthy (7.8% YoY), albeit with a sequential moderation. On the supply side, broad-based growth in the services sector aided overall economic growth. Prima facie, the better-than-expected economic growth in 1Q will not signal the need for policy easing. However, considering the forward-looking nature of monetary policy and the likely drag on the economy due to the tariff-led disruption, policy easing may be warranted. The risk of lower nominal GDP growth could impact the government's fiscal deficit target, as a lower denominator will optically stretch the 4.4% target set for FY26.
- **Consumption-led growth:** On the demand side, growth in consumption (7.1% YoY vs. 4.7% YoY prior) aided overall economic growth, mainly led by the rebound in government consumption (7.5% YoY vs. -1.8% YoY prior) accompanied by resilience in private consumption (7% YoY vs 6% YoY prior). GFCF, although strong (7.8% YoY), moderated from 9.4% YoY in 4QFY25. Net exports proved to be a drag (-4.5% YoY); it is likely to remain under pressure considering the elevated US tariffs (50%). On the supply side, strength in the services sector was broad-based (9.3% YoY) while Agriculture activity moderated (3.7% YoY vs. 5.4% YoY prior). Mining and utilities dragged the overall performance, while the growth in manufacturing (7.7% YoY) is in line with India's robust PMI reading.
- **GST rate rationalisation could stretch fiscal deficit:** At INR 4.7trln, India's fiscal deficit during Apr-Jul'25 forms ~30% of FY26 budgeted estimates (BE). Revenue receipts of INR 10.7trln was majorly led by non-tax revenue (69% of FY26BE) while tax revenue was lower at 23.3% of FY26BE vs. 27.7% last year. Capital expenditure on a FYTD basis forms 30.9% of the budgeted estimates; however, our assessment of the ministry-wise capex spending signals some sluggishness in major ministries like Defence. Capex in Railways and Roads was robust in Jul'25. The government's fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of GDP for FY26 would be at risk, considering the impact of rate rationalisation in GST, unless the government decides to absorb the hit through lower capex.
- **Expect yields to harden further:** The better-than-expected GDP growth in 1Q reflects the strength in domestic consumption. Moreover, robust growth in services and manufacturing is in line with the resilience in India's PMI reading. Whether this growth will sustain in the face of US tariffs needs to be seen and will warrant appropriate policy actions. Any fiscal hit due to the rate rationalisation in GST will exert pressure on the fiscal position in the range of 0.15% to 0.3% of GDP. Moreover, a lower nominal GDP due to a lower deflator could optically stretch the fiscal deficit target. Considering these arguments we call for coordinated fiscal and monetary measures to navigate the uncertainties in the near term. Although 2QFY26 GDP growth will be aided by the favourable base, we maintain our FY26 GDP estimate at 6.3-6.4%, building in positive impact of the INR 1trln income tax exemption. The bond market had already factored in an end to the rate cut cycle, and with this robust GDP print we expect bond yields to harden further.

Hitesh Suvarna

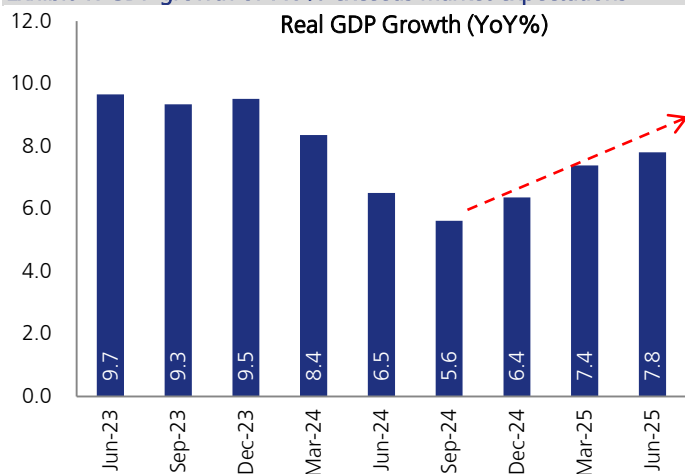
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Key Highlights

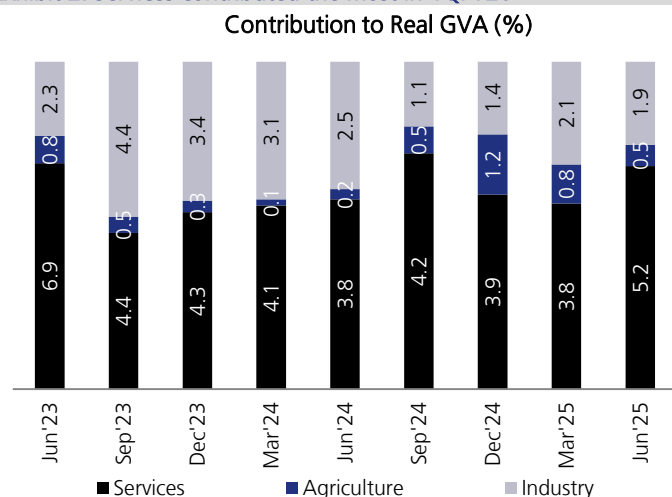
- At 7.8%, GDP growth in Q1 FY26 was higher than market expectation of 6.7%.
- Growth was led by consumption – mainly rebound in government consumption
- Broad-based growth in Services sector and in manufacturing aided growth
- Higher than expected growth would propel yields higher.
- We see downside risk to our FY26 GDP growth expectation at 6.3% - 6.4%.

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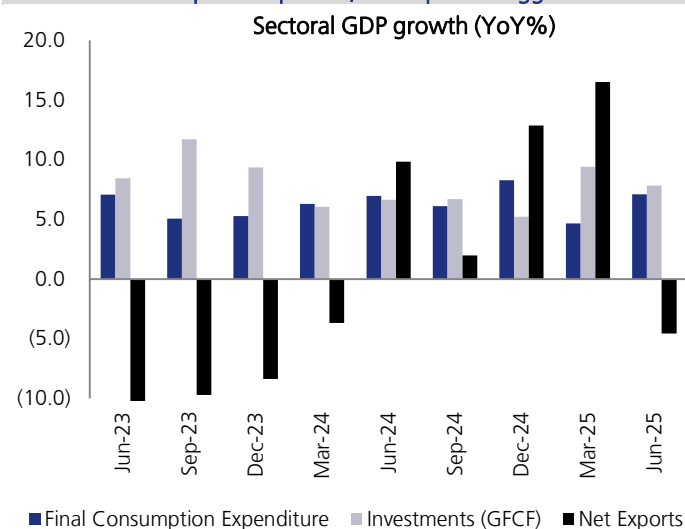
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Exhibit 1. GDP growth of 7.8% exceeds market expectations

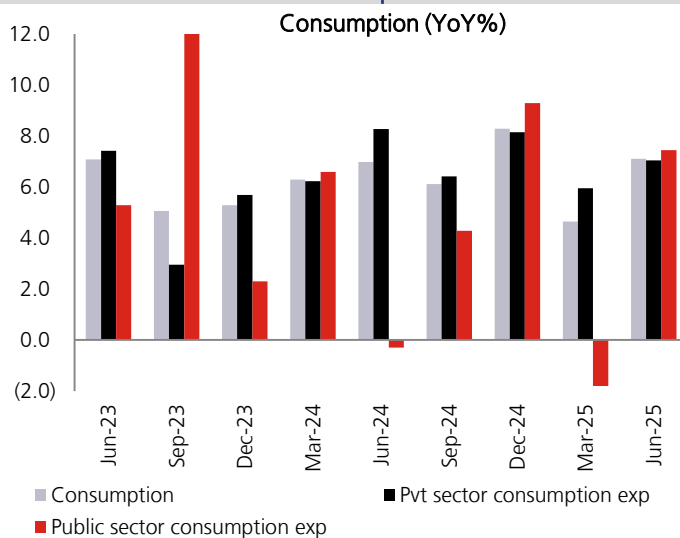
Source: MOSPI, JM Financial

Exhibit 2. Services contributed the most in 1QFY26

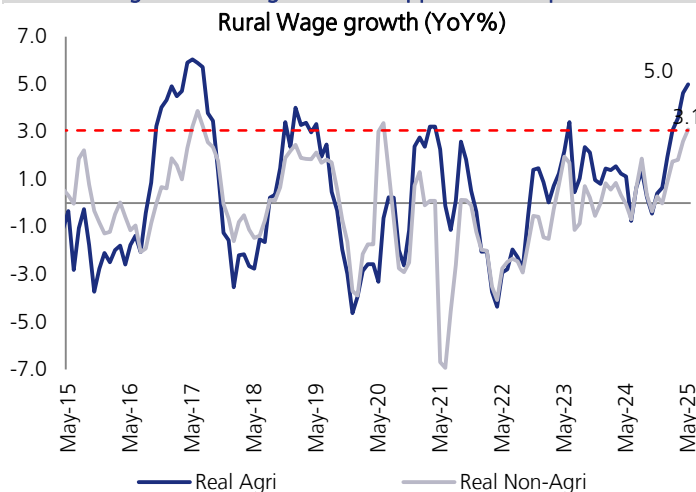
Source: MOSPI, JM Financial

Exhibit 3. Consumption improved; net exports dragged

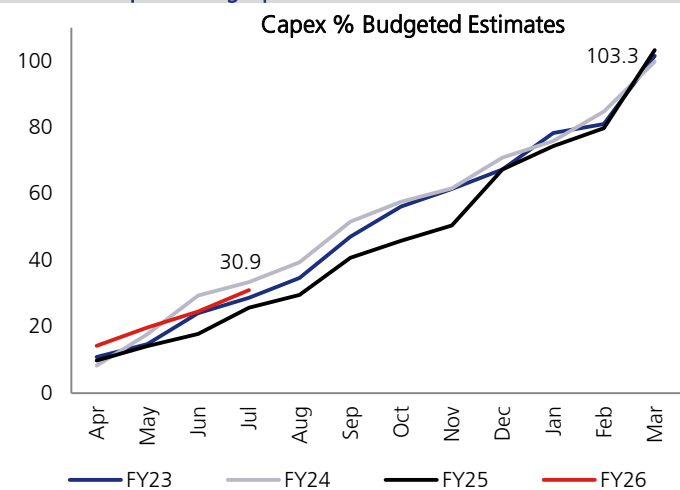
Source: MOSPI, JM Financial

Exhibit 4. Resilience in Public consumption vs Private

Source: MOSPI, JM Financial

Exhibit 5. Higher rural wages should support consumption

Source: CMIE, JM Financial

Exhibit 6. Capex during Apr-Jul'25 forms 31% of FY26BE

Source: CGA, JM Financial

Exhibit 7. Expect GDP growth of 6.3-6.4% in FY26

YoY%	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26E
Real GVA	(4.1)	9.4	7.2	8.6	6.4	6.3
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	4.0	4.6	6.3	2.7	4.6	2.9
Industry	(0.4)	12.2	2.5	10.8	5.9	6.0
Mining and Quarrying	(8.2)	6.3	3.4	3.2	2.7	3.5
Manufacturing	3.1	10.0	(1.7)	12.3	4.5	4.8
Electricity, Gas, Water & Other Utilities	(4.2)	10.3	10.8	8.6	5.9	6.5
Construction	(4.6)	19.9	9.1	10.4	9.4	8.7
Services	(8.4)	9.2	10.3	9.0	7.2	7.5
Trade, Hotels, Transport, Comm & Broadcasting	(19.9)	15.2	12.3	7.5	6.1	7.6
Financial, Real Estate & Professional Service	1.9	5.7	10.8	10.3	7.2	7.4
Public Administration, Defence & Other Services	(7.6)	7.5	6.7	8.8	8.9	7.0
Real GDP	(5.8)	9.7	7.6	9.2	6.5	6.4

Source: MOSPI, JM Financial

Exhibit 8. Robust growth in 1Q led by strength in consumption

YoY%	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
Real GDP	9.7	9.3	9.5	8.4	6.5	5.6	6.4	7.4	7.8
Final Consumption Expenditure	7.1	5.1	5.3	6.3	7.0	6.1	8.3	4.7	7.1
Private	7.4	3.0	5.7	6.2	8.3	6.4	8.1	6.0	7.0
Government	5.3	20.1	2.3	6.6	(0.3)	4.3	9.3	(1.8)	7.5
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	8.4	11.7	9.3	6.0	6.7	6.7	5.2	9.4	7.8
Change in Stocks	46.6	59.8	55.8	52.0	7.5	2.1	3.5	4.8	5.9
Valuables	(25.4)	(6.4)	54.7	63.1	(23.1)	25.8	(0.5)	(29.8)	(22.5)
Exports of Goods and Services	(7.0)	4.6	3.0	7.7	8.3	3.0	10.8	3.9	6.3
Import of Goods and Services	18.0	14.3	11.3	11.4	(1.6)	1.0	(2.1)	(12.7)	10.9
Net Exports	(25.0)	(9.7)	(8.4)	(3.7)	9.8	2.0	12.9	16.5	(4.5)

Source: MOSPI, JM Financial

Exhibit 9. GVA growth led by services and manufacturing

YoY%	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
Real GVA	9.9	9.2	8.0	7.3	6.5	5.8	6.5	6.8	7.6
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	5.7	3.7	1.5	0.9	1.5	4.1	6.6	5.4	3.7
Industry	7.3	15.1	11.8	9.5	8.5	3.8	4.8	6.5	6.3
Mining and Quarrying	4.1	4.1	4.7	0.8	6.6	(0.4)	1.3	2.5	(3.1)
Manufacturing	7.3	17.0	14.0	11.3	7.6	2.2	3.6	4.8	7.7
Electricity, Gas, Water & Other Utilities	4.1	11.7	10.1	8.8	10.2	3.0	5.1	5.4	0.5
Construction	9.2	14.6	10.0	8.7	10.1	8.4	7.9	10.8	7.6
Services	12.5	7.5	8.3	7.8	6.8	7.2	7.4	7.3	9.3
Trade, Hotels, Transport, Comm & Broadcasting	11.0	5.4	8.0	6.2	5.4	6.1	6.7	6.0	8.6
Financial, Real Estate & Professional Service	15.0	8.3	8.4	9.0	6.6	7.2	7.1	7.8	9.5
Public Administration, Defence & Oth Services	9.3	8.9	8.4	8.7	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.7	9.8

Source: MOSPI, JM Financial

Exhibit 10. Capex intensity picked up in Roads, slowed down in Defence & Railways

INR Bn	FY25		Apr-Jul'25	
Total Capex	INR Bn	% of RE	INR Bn	% of FY26BE
Ministry of agriculture	0.8	64.9	0.1	7.0
Department of atomic energy	125.4	100.3	37.9	31.6
Ministry of communications	910.9	119.5	179.7	34.1
Ministry of electronics and information technology	3.4	96.7	0.8	19.1
Ministry of defence	1,882.5	110.4	426.3	22.2
Ministry of development of north eastern region	29.2	113.5	10.8	26.9
Ministry of Finance	1,793.1	113.4	414.4	18.7
Transfers to state and UT governments	1,640.2	117.7	403.2	23.6
Direct taxes	21.2	89.2	0.4	3.1
Indirect taxes	18.2	76.7	3.1	15.9
Ministry of jal shakti	3.3	102.8	0.6	28.2
Ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises	6.3	107.1	2.9	39.9
Ministry of new and renewable energy	0.1	95.3	0.0	13.6
Ministry of petroleum and natural gas	3.4	100.1	0.0	0.0
Ministry of power	14.2	126.3	3.0	45.8
Ministry of road transport and highways	2,870.8	105.4	787.1	28.9
Department of space	40.0	84.5	12.9	21.1
Ministry of housing and urban affairs	311.9	98.5	79.1	21.0
Ministry of railways	2,545.5	101.0	927.8	36.8

Source: CGA, JM Financial

APPENDIX I

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