



MONTHLY ECONOMIC **APR** REPORT ON INDIA 2026

India's **economic resilience** is holding even as the **West Asia conflict increasingly feeds through** on multiple fronts: supply chains, trade, financial markets and energy prices. Wholesale inflation already reflects the pressure, with consumer prices likely to follow with a lag. Yet domestic demand for credit and automobiles remain robust even as **industrial output and mobility soften**. The duration of elevated energy prices and trade disruptions remains the key risk to watch.

March-April 2026

- Growth** Early signs of the **West Asia conflict's impact** on India's economic momentum emerge in March as **core infra output contracts** 0.4% yoy across **fertiliser, crude oil and coal**. Steel, cement and electricity production moderate, and **port traffic slows** amid rising freight rates. Mobility weakens too, with FASTag volumes and **air passenger traffic falling**. Yet consumer **demand holds firm**: auto registrations including EVs, e-way bills (12.9%) and fuel consumption (petrol 7.6%, diesel 8.1%) stay robust. Despite near-term headwinds, **IMF projects India to grow at 6.5% in FY2027**, revised up 10bps from January, even as global growth projections are trimmed.
- Rates** **RBI holds the repo rate** at 5.25% with a neutral stance in April; consensus (as on 17 April) **projects a pause through H1FY28** as rate transmission nears completion and system liquidity stays in surplus at 1.2% of NDTL. **Credit growth picks up** to 17% YoY in March from 14% last month. The West Asia conflict, however, unsettles Indian markets - 10-year **G-sec yields remain elevated** at ~6.9% and **equity markets decline** ~6.0% TTM, lagging Asian peers. **FPI outflows hit a record** ~INR 1.5 trillion in FY2026, concentrated in IT, consumer goods and financial services, though **domestic institutions** more than offset this with **record inflows** of ~INR 8.5 trillion.
- Inflation** **Global energy prices feed through to inflation** broadly in March - US and Germany see 90 and 80 bps increase in inflation, respectively, while **India's retail inflation edges up** ~20bps to 3.4% compared to Feb, driven by higher food and utility prices on **rising retail LPG costs**. **WPI inflation jumps to a 38-month high** of 3.9%, reflecting the pass-through of surging crude oil prices (~USD 98/bbl on 22 April) linked to the West Asia conflict. Precious metals, though correcting from recent peaks, stay elevated — silver at USD 77.9/troy oz and gold at USD 4,713/troy oz (as on 21 April), up ~50% yoy. **Industrial metals also surge on supply disruptions** with copper up 40% yoy and aluminium up 50%+ in April.
- Forex** **Higher energy prices and capital outflows weigh on the rupee** - 1-year depreciation stays sharp against the USD (8.9%), EUR (11.5%), GBP (10.3%) and JPY (2.3%) as of 22 April, even as **INR marginally recovers over the past month**. REER stays undervalued at 94.1 in February while DXY falls to 98.3, and the **USD-INR forward premium reverts** to historical norms at 3.1%. On trade, Strait of Hormuz disruptions reflect in March - **oil imports fall** 35.9% yoy and **overall exports contract** 7.4%, though **non-oil imports hold up** at 6.0%. Services trade softens modestly. Forex reserves of ~USD 701 billion provide 8+ months of import cover.



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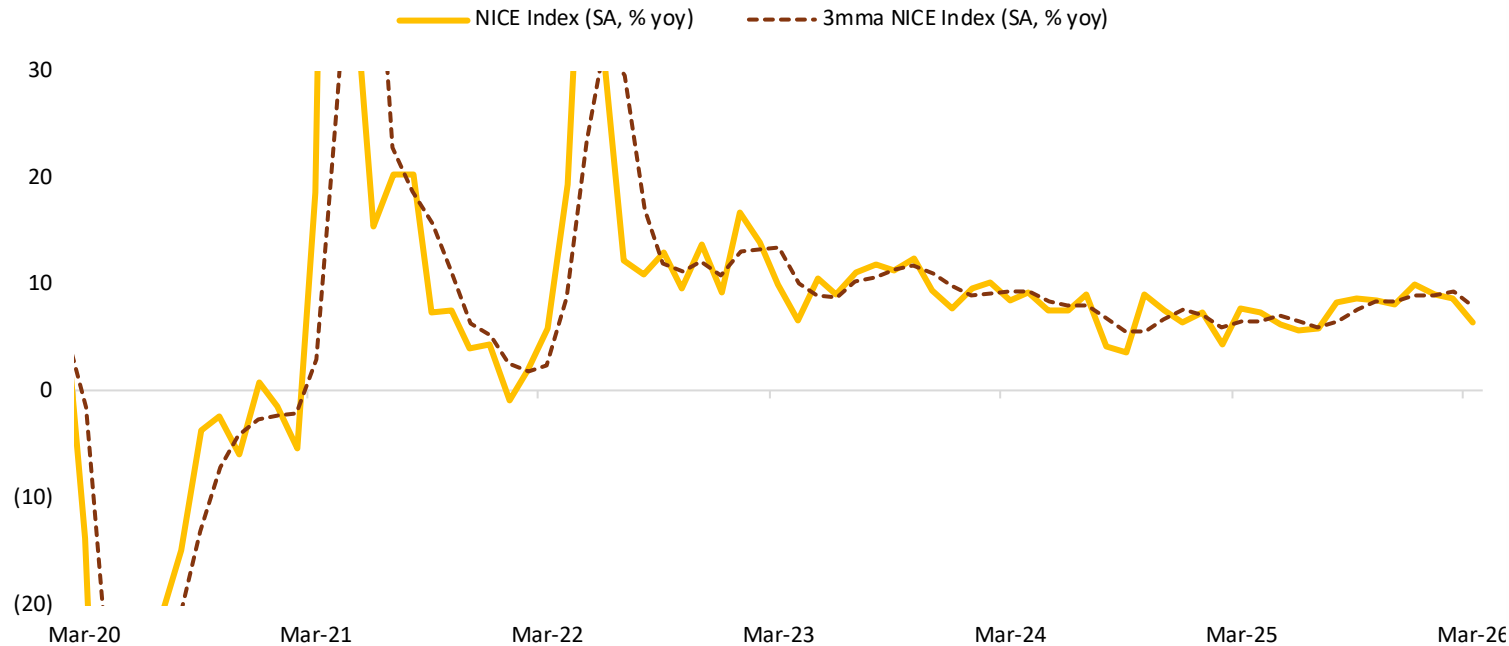
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Key charts: NIIF India Coincident Economic (NICE) Index (1/2)

NICE Index moderates in March on seasonally adjusted basis; auto and fuel demand stay strong while logistics, air travel and electricity soften

Monthly NIIF India Coincident Economic (NICE) Index (% yoy), FY2020 - FY2026 (Mar '26)



Strong seasonally adjusted y-o-y growth in auto demand (27.3%), e-way bills (13.5%), diesel (8.5%) and petrol (7.8%) consumption signalling economic resilience in March. PMI services stays firmly expansionary at 57.5, though the momentum has eased from last year

Broad-based moderation in industrial activity and mobility in March - port traffic (0.6%) and steel production (4.0%) decelerate while air passenger traffic (-4.1%), coal (-5.2%) and electricity output (-1.3%) contract

Source: CEIC, Thurro, NIIF Research

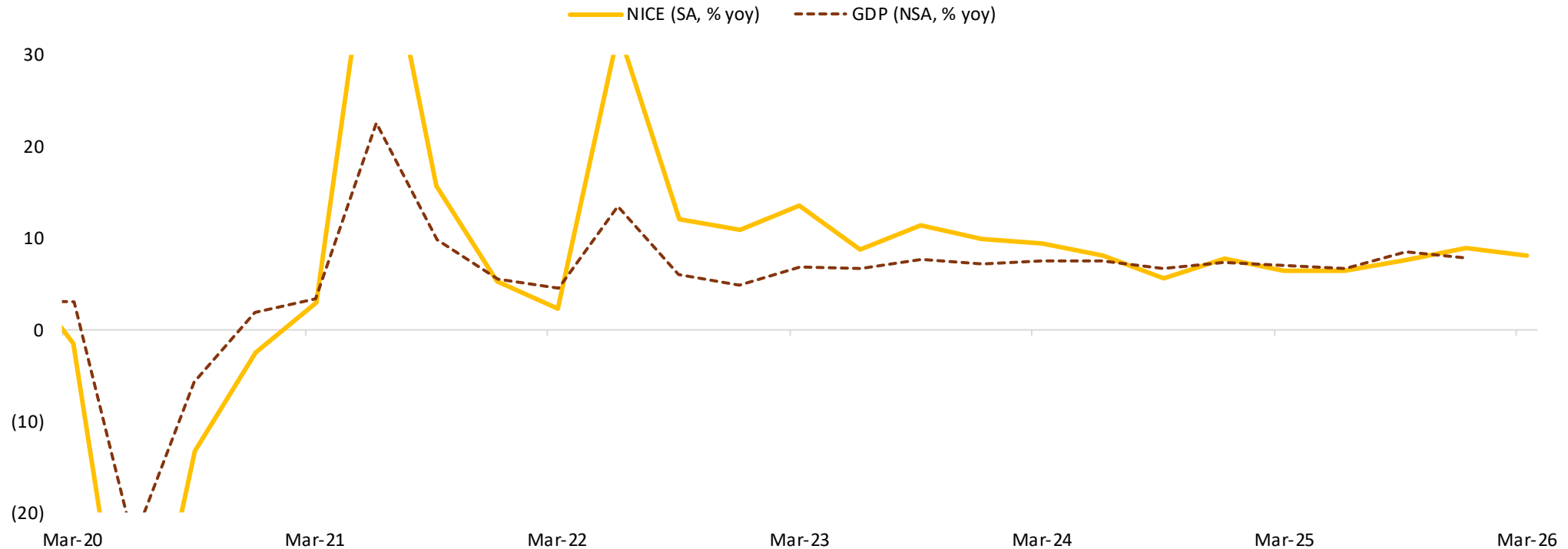
Note:

1. NICE is an index of 10 monthly high-frequency indicators: e-way bills, steel production, petrol consumption, diesel consumption, air passenger traffic, electricity generation, automobile registrations, major ports cargo, coal production and PMI services
2. Indicators are seasonally adjusted (unless already adjusted, such as in PMI services) and rebased to June 2018 = 100. A single factor is estimated by applying principal component analysis (PCA). Specifically, an index is created using the first two Principal Components (PCs), which account for 90% of the variations, and a weighted average of PC1 and PC2 is used to derive individual indicator weights. Turning point analysis was also carried out to ensure the index coincides with major economic events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, election cycles, and festival demand spikes
3. 3mma NICE refers to the 3-month moving average of the NICE Index (X)
4. Methodology subject to periodic review and refinement

Key charts: NIIF India Coincident Economic (NICE) Index (2/2)

NICE Index points to resilient economic activity in Q4FY26, underpinned by robust demand

Quarterly NIIF India Coincident Economic (NICE) Index and real GDP (% yoy), FY2020 - FY2026 (Mar '26)



Source: CEIC, Thurro, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Quarterly index computed by averaging monthly NICE values within each quarter using identical methodology
2. SA: Seasonally adjusted; NSA: Not seasonally adjusted
3. GDP growth (% yoy) measured at constant prices
4. Methodology subject to periodic review and refinement

[Growth] Global

IMF revises India's FY2027 forecast up to 6.5% with stable growth through FY2032; global growth revised down for 2026

IMF nominal GDP (USD trillion) and real GDP growth projections (%), CY2025 to CY2031

	Nominal GDP (USD trillion)		Real GDP growth (% yoy)		
	Actual	Projection	Actual	Projection	
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2031
World	118.2	126.3	3.4	3.1	1.8
Advanced Economies	69.4	73.8	1.9	1.8	3.1
United States	30.8	32.4	2.1	2.3	1.8
European Union	21.2	23.0	1.4	1.1	1.5
Germany	5.0	5.5	0.2	0.8	0.6
Japan	4.4	4.4	1.2	0.7	0.6
United Kingdom	4.0	4.3	1.3	0.8	1.4
Canada	2.3	2.5	1.7	1.5	1.8
Emerging markets and developing economies	48.8	52.5	4.4	3.9	1.4
China	19.6	20.9	5.0	4.4	3.3
India	3.9	4.2	7.6	6.5	6.5
Russia	2.6	2.7	1.0	1.1	1.0
Brazil	2.3	2.6	2.3	1.9	2.5
South Africa	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.8

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook (April 2026), NIIIF Research

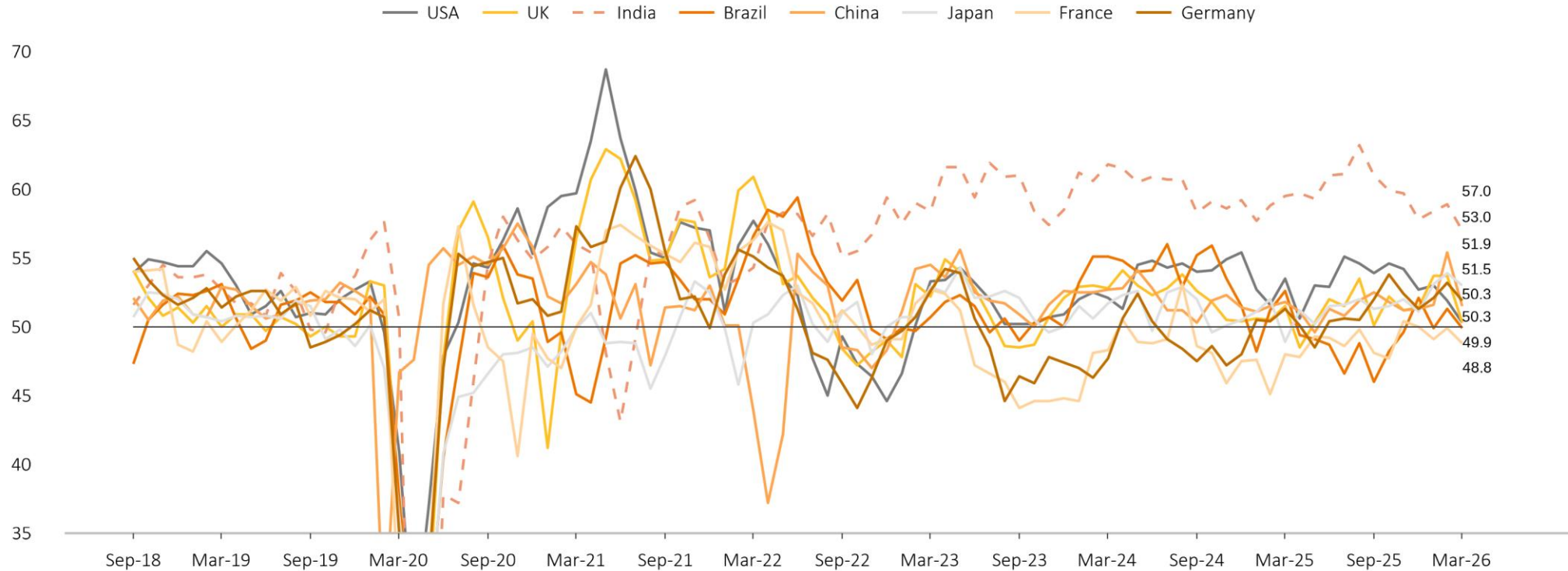
Note:

1. For India, data and forecasts are presented on a fiscal year basis with period starting Apr 1 and ending on Mar 31
2. The 6.5% GDP growth for India under the 2026 column is estimated for FY2027. Similarly, 6.5% GDP growth for FY2032
3. India's FY2027 growth forecast was raised by 10 bps from previous January edition due to the reduction in additional US tariffs, from 50% to 10% and steady demand despite pressures from the conflict in West Asia

[Growth] Purchasing managers' index: Global

Composite PMI falls sequentially for most economies; India stays expansionary while France and Brazil slip into contraction

Monthly PMI composite indices across major economies, FY2019-FY2026 (Mar '26)



Source: Thurro, S&P, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Impact of Covid on economic activity seen across countries for months between Feb '20 and May '20 and hence not shown in the chart.
2. The headline PMI Composite (Output) Index is a weighted average of the headline PMI Services Index and the Manufacturing Output Index (not the headline PMI manufacturing). Hence, a simple average of PMI Services and Manufacturing indices may not reflect in the PMI Composite.

[Growth] High-frequency indicators: Supply

Change in major economic indicators (% yoy), Feb '25 - Mar '26

	Feb-25	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
Fiscal														
Central government capex	(35.4)	67.2	61.0	38.7	43.7	(10.5)	113.1	30.9	(28.3)	(13.8)	(24.5)	(24.5)	59.6	
Central government revex	(12.8)	(5.5)	(5.7)	40.7	36.6	7.8	(25.5)	(20.8)	(8.2)	18.0	1.9	(4.2)	(0.4)	
Gross tax revenue	19.7	2.8	6.5	19.1	(4.7)	(11.7)	1.0	8.4	13.8	(2.8)	32.4	10.1	(19.2)	
GST collection	9.1	9.9	12.6	16.4	6.2	7.5	6.5	9.1	4.6	0.7	6.1	6.2	8.1	8.8
Industry														
Index of industrial production	2.7	3.9	2.6	1.9	1.5	4.3	4.0	4.6	0.5	7.2	8.0	5.1	5.2	
Index of eight core industries	3.4	4.5	1.0	1.2	2.2	3.7	6.5	3.3	(0.1)	2.1	4.7	4.7	2.8	(0.4)
Electricity generation	3.0	6.4	1.6	(5.3)	(2.0)	1.6	4.0	3.0	(5.9)	(0.9)	6.4	4.6	1.7	1.3
Steel production	6.9	8.7	4.4	7.4	9.7	16.6	13.6	14.4	5.9	6.7	10.1	11.5	7.6	2.2
Cement production	10.7	12.2	6.3	9.7	8.2	11.6	5.4	5.0	5.2	14.6	13.7	11.3	8.9	4.0
Coal production	1.7	1.6	4.1	2.8	(6.8)	(12.4)	11.5	(1.1)	(8.5)	2.1	3.6	3.2	2.3	(4.1)
Wholesale price index	2.4	2.2	0.9	0.1	(0.2)	(0.6)	0.5	0.2	(1.0)	(0.1)	1.0	1.7	2.1	3.9
Logistics														
Rail freight	(3.0)	3.0	3.6	2.7	0.9	0.0	8.5	3.9	2.3	4.2	3.2	2.9		
Port cargo	7.5	12.5	7.0	4.4	5.6	3.9	2.6	11.4	11.9	14.6	12.8	7.6	3.8	0.7
Air cargo	(4.9)	3.9	11.5	5.0	0.2	4.2	5.3	2.9	(2.5)	15.6	9.5	9.0	17.9	
E-way bills (volume)	14.7	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
Trade														
Merchandise exports	(10.9)	0.9	(3.8)	(1.2)	(1.3)	13.3	5.7	6.0	(12.5)	18.7	1.3	0.4	(0.8)	(7.4)
Merchandise imports	(15.7)	11.8	20.0	(1.3)	(3.4)	9.1	(9.6)	17.6	17.7	(1.4)	10.3	19.2	24.1	(6.5)
Non-oil merchandise exports	(6.0)	2.4	9.1	3.9	3.2	14.1	6.7	5.5	(12.1)	20.3	3.1	(0.2)	6.4	(9.2)
Non-oil merchandise imports	(10.4)	9.9	17.7	10.6	(1.6)	9.6	(13.6)	25.6	33.7	1.9	11.7	24.8	28.7	6.0
Services exports	11.7	18.7	8.9	9.6	12.0	10.4	2.8	12.6	2.2	6.7	13.0	9.8	9.7	(1.2)
Services imports	(4.7)	5.3	1.0	(1.0)	5.1	8.5	(5.3)	7.9	2.9	(2.1)	7.4	(0.5)	16.2	(3.0)

Source: Thurro, CGA, Ministry of Finance, MoSPI, EAI, POSOCO, Indian Railways, Indian Ports Association, AAI, GSTN, RBI, NPCI, NIIF Research
Note:

1. Conditional formatting based on yoy growth values with respect to zero, with the largest negative values represented by dark red and largest positive values represented by dark green
2. Absolute values in Annexure.
3. GST collection growth (% yoy) from November 2025 onwards is adjusted to exclude the discontinued compensation cess

Capex and GST hold up; core infra output, coal, trade and logistics soften

• **Fiscal**

Govt. capex surges in Feb on a low base; tax revenue contracts sharply while GST picks up in March and revex stays muted

• **Industry**

Core infra output contracts in March across fertiliser, crude oil, and coal; wholesale prices at a 38-month high on elevated energy prices

• **Logistics**

E-way bills steady while port cargo moderates in March on a high base; air cargo surges in February

• **Trade**

Goods trade deficit narrows sequentially as oil imports fall amid West Asia conflict; services exports (on a high base) and imports both contract in March

[Growth] High-frequency indicators: Demand

Change in major economic indicators (% yoy), Feb '25 - Mar '26

	Feb-25	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
Energy														
Electricity demand	2.8	6.7	2.2	(5.0)	(1.7)	2.0	4.3	3.2	(6.0)	(0.8)	6.1	3.9	1.1	0.7
Petrol consumption	5.0	5.7	5.0	9.2	6.9	5.9	5.5	7.9	7.4	2.6	7.1	6.1	6.1	7.6
Diesel consumption	(1.3)	0.8	4.2	2.1	1.5	2.3	1.2	6.5	(0.3)	4.8	5.2	3.3	4.3	8.1
Automobile registrations														
Passenger vehicles	(7.0)	10.9	5.5	0.6	11.7	1.4	3.7	11.2	13.9	22.4	28.5	11.2	29.3	23.8
Three - wheeler	(0.8)	(5.6)	24.5	6.3	17.7	0.8	(2.3)	(7.2)	5.4	23.7	36.1	18.8	24.4	10.5
Two - wheeler	(5.8)	(1.0)	2.8	7.8	19.0	(6.1)	2.7	7.3	52.7	(2.6)	10.3	21.4	25.9	28.7
Commercial vehicles	(6.8)	0.7	(3.4)	(5.7)	16.6	(2.4)	4.9	2.5	20.0	20.5	24.9	18.6	32.4	19.2
Passenger vehicles - electric	28.3	63.1	71.1	70.4	157.4	109.3	194.8	194.4	79.3	76.3	77.6	74.8	63.0	78.4
Three - wheeler - electric	5.0	(2.1)	48.8	20.6	17.0	8.6	4.5	(3.0)	5.1	31.9	48.5	26.4	25.0	6.7
Two - wheeler - electric	(7.2)	(6.3)	41.2	30.7	96.5	(3.8)	18.0	16.0	3.4	(1.7)	33.1	25.6	47.0	46.1
Commercial vehicles - electric	(4.5)	(59.5)	114.9	104.8	353.0	141.9	171.3	172.7	226.0	229.0	171.1	187.0	198.6	176.3
Services														
Air passenger (domestic)	11.1	8.7	8.4	1.7	2.9	(3.0)	(1.5)	(3.0)	2.8	6.9	(4.1)	4.4	0.1	0.4
Air passenger (international)	7.3	5.6	13.3	5.6	2.8	7.6	8.5	7.3	10.4	8.5	7.4	10.9	7.1	(14.8)
FASTag collection (volume)	18.7	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)
FASTag collection (value)	18.3	14.5	21.6	20.0	17.5	19.6	18.7	14.3	9.3	16.1	11.2	9.4	4.9	5.8
UPI transactions (volume)	33.1	36.2	34.5	33.1	32.5	34.9	33.7	30.5	24.8	32.2	29.3	27.7	26.6	23.7
UPI transactions (value)	20.2	25.2	21.9	23.0	19.8	21.5	20.6	20.6	16.1	22.1	20.3	20.7	22.2	19.2
Consumer price index	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.0	2.3	1.6	2.0	1.4	0.0	0.5	1.2	2.7	3.2	3.4
Banking														
Aggregate deposits	12.0	10.3	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.2	9.3	9.4	10.8	10.2	12.7	10.6	11.3	16.2
Outstanding credit	12.3	11.0	10.1	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.1	10.8	12.0	11.5	14.5	13.4	14.0	17.1

Auto and credit demand strong; fuel robust; air traffic weak and FASTag subdued in March

•**Energy**

Petrol and diesel consumption remain strong in March while electricity demand softens sharply

•**Automobile registrations**

Auto demand holds strong across segments in March with EV adoption robust across most categories

•**Services**

International air passenger traffic contracts sharply in March while domestic stays subdued; FASTag volumes decline but UPI transactions stay robust; retail inflation inches up

•**Banking**

Credit growth outpaces deposits in March, keeping the credit-deposit ratio elevated at 81.4

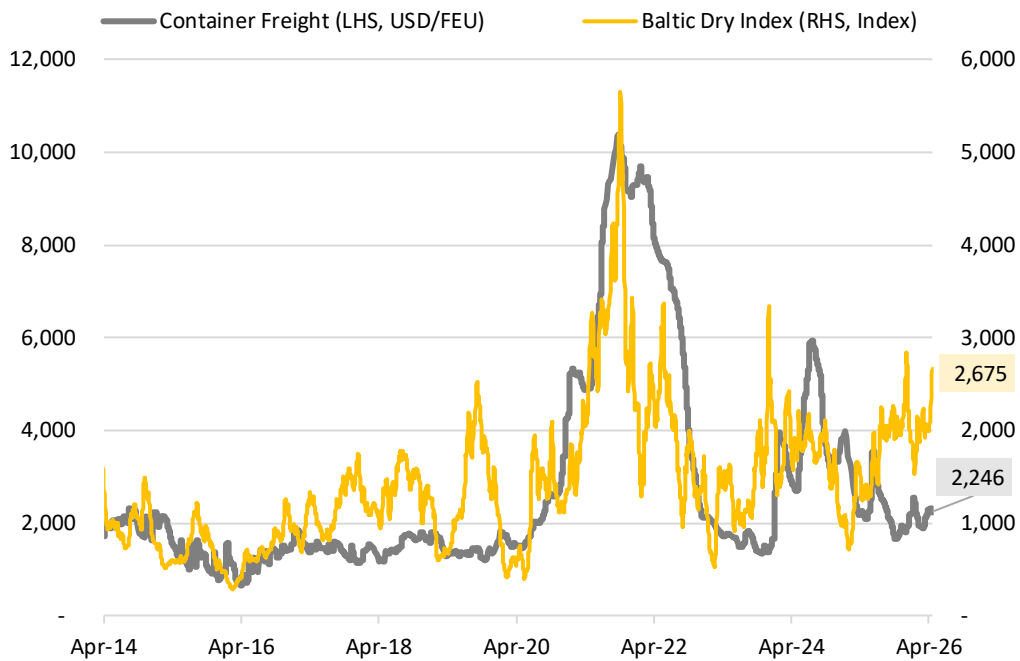
Source: Thurro, CGA, Ministry of Finance, MoSPI, EAI, POSOCO, Indian Railways, Indian Ports Association, AAI, GSTN, RBI, NPCI, NIIF Research
Note:

1. Conditional formatting based on yoy growth values with respect to zero, with the largest negative values represented by dark red and largest positive values represented by dark green
2. Absolute values in Annexure, CPI on 2024 base year

[Growth] Transport and energy costs

Both bulk and container rates continue to rise in April

Daily shipping freight indices, FY2015-FY2027 (22 Apr '26)



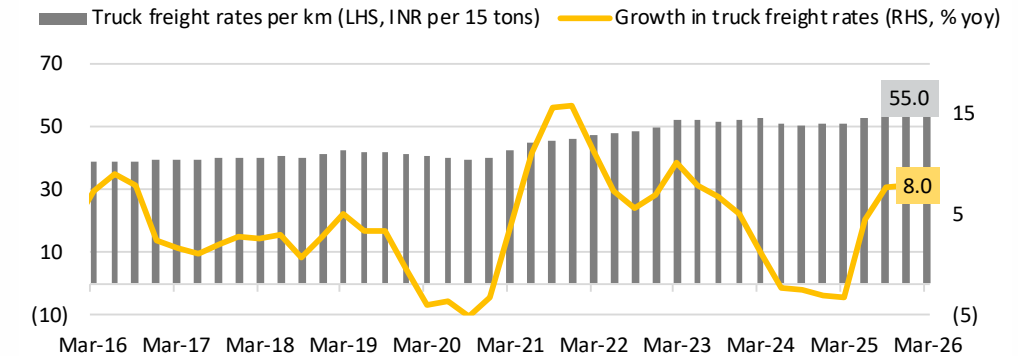
Source: Bloomberg, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Baltic Dry Index measures freight rates for ships carrying bulk commodities like coal, iron ore, food grains, bauxite and alumina, steel and fertilizers.
2. Container freight measures actual spot freight rates in USD for 40-foot containers for 8 major east-west trade routes compiled as World Container Index (WCI).

Trucking rates stay high in Q4FY26; up 8.0% yoy

Quarterly average all-India truck freight rates, FY2016-FY2026 (Mar '26)



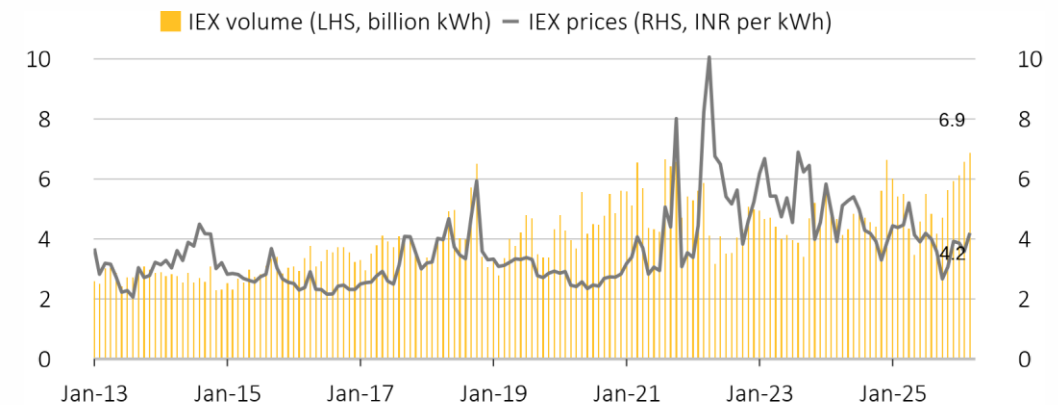
Source: CMIE, NIIF Research

Note:

1. The index tracks average monthly truck freight rates between Delhi and 81 cities in India.
2. INR per 9 tons was considered for Dehradun and Lucknow in national average before Dec '15

Traded electricity prices edge up in March

Monthly clearance prices on IEX DAM (INR/kWh), FY2013-FY2026 (Mar '26)



Source: Thurro, IEX, NIIF Research

[Rates] Forecast of policy rates

Consensus (as of 17 April) projects RBI to hold repo rate at 5.25% till H1FY28

Projections for RBI's benchmark repo rate (%), Q1FY27 to Q2FY28 (17 Apr '26)

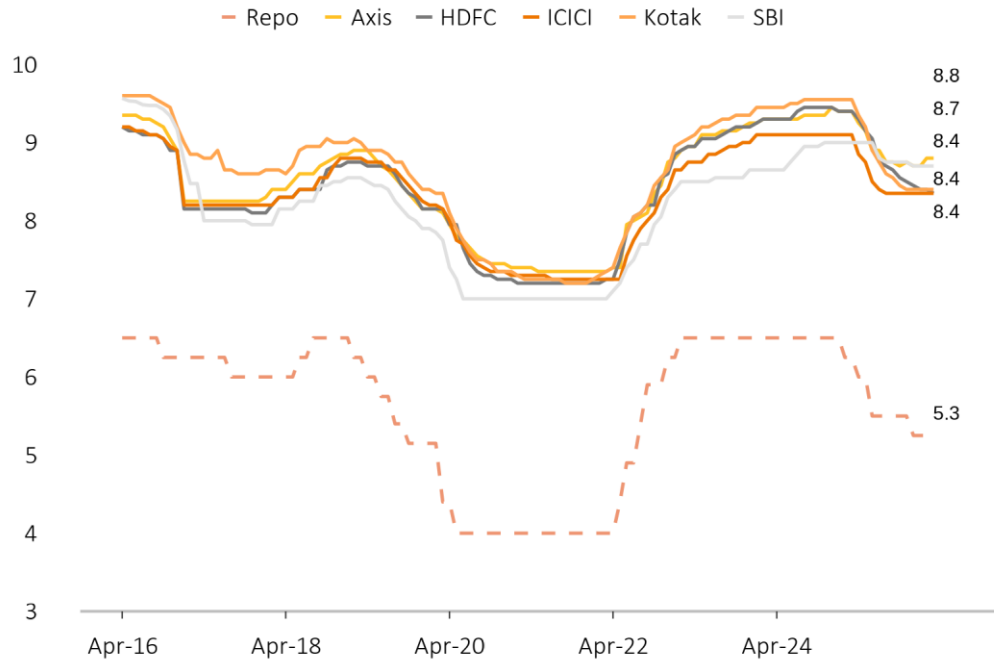
	Q1FY27	Q2FY27	Q3FY27	Q4FY27	Q1FY28	Q2FY28
<i>Number of analysts</i>	18	18	18	16	16	13
High forecast	5.50	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	6.00
Low forecast	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Bloomberg average	5.26	5.29	5.29	5.30	5.36	5.46
Median forecast	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Comparing previous survey median forecasts						
Bloomberg Jan '26 survey	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
Bloomberg Dec '25 survey	5.00	5.13	5.13	5.13	5.13	5.25

Source: Bloomberg, NIIF Research

[Rates] Policy rate and liquidity

Private sector bank lending rate reflect near transmission

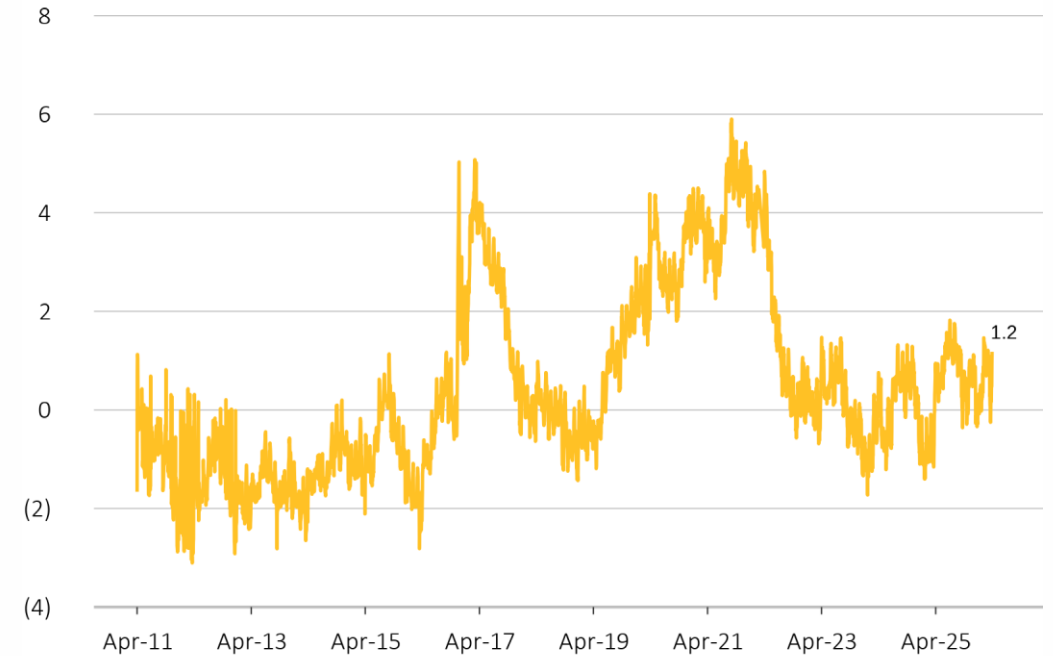
Monthly 1-year marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (%), FY2017-FY2026 (Mar '26)



Source: Thurro, RBI, NIIF Research

Banking system liquidity in surplus; 1.2% of NDTL (as on 31st March)

Surplus liquidity (% of net demand and time liabilities), FY2012-FY2026 (31 Mar '26)



Source: Thurro, RBI, NIIF Research

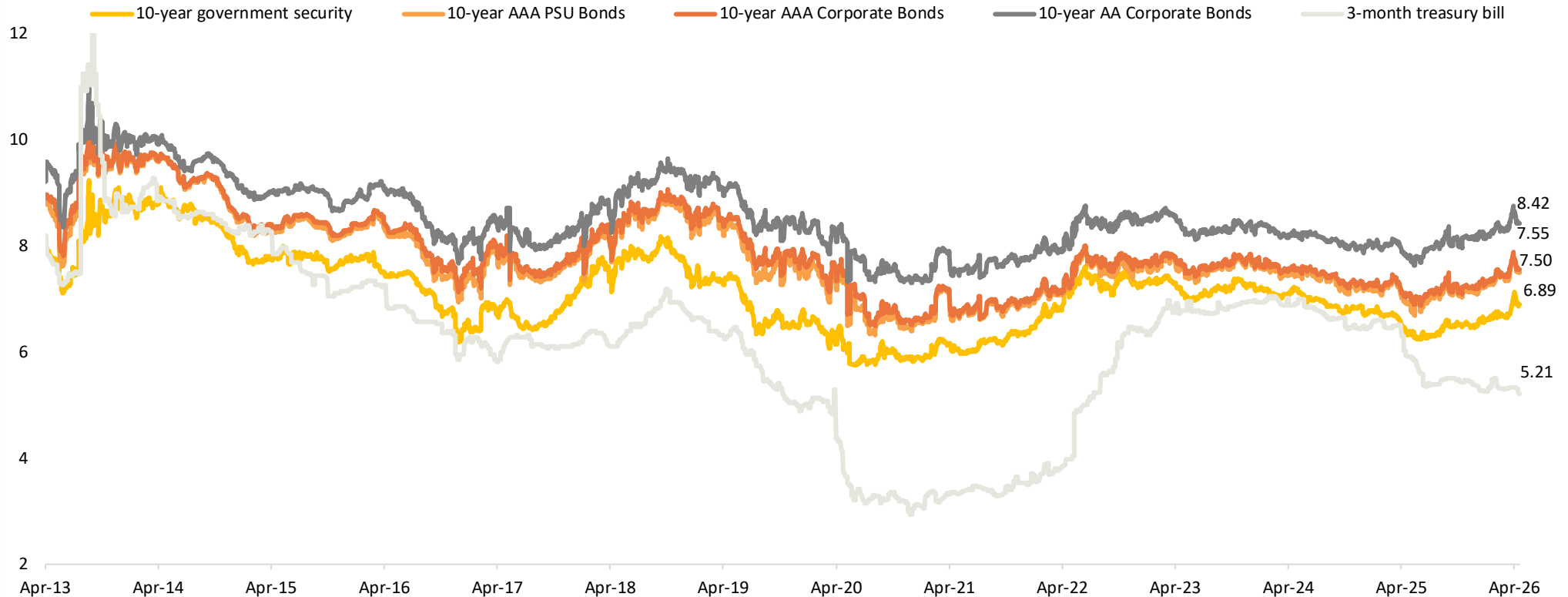
Note:

1. Liquidity operations by RBI include repo, term-repo, long-term repo operations, open market operations, marginal standing facility, and standing liquidity facilities
2. A positive number indicates liquidity surplus

[Rates] Debt markets

10-year G-sec yield pulls back to ~6.9% on 21 April after spiking to 7.13% on 3 April; short-term yields stay anchored

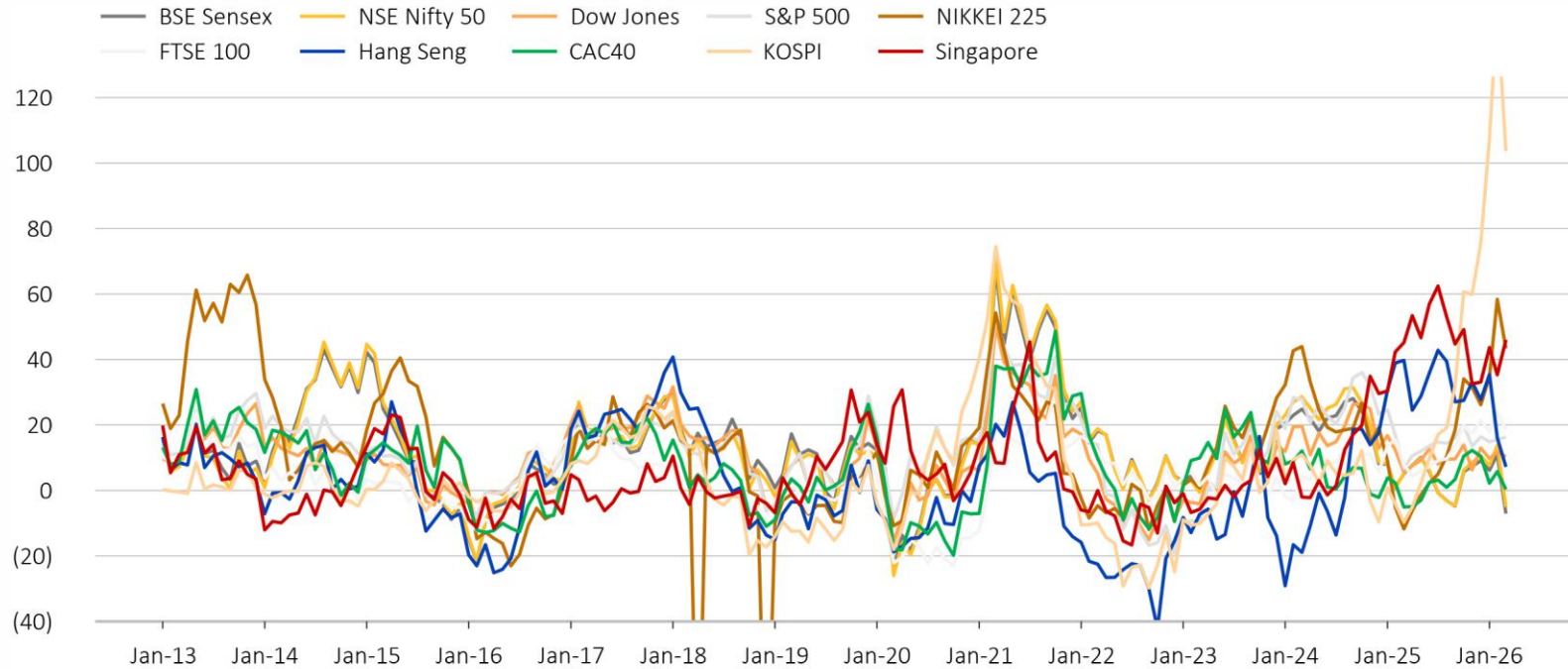
Daily India G-sec and corporate bond yields (%), FY2014-FY2027 (21 Apr '26)



Source: Bloomberg, NIIF Research

[Rates] Equity markets: Global

Indian equities generate ~-6% TTM in March; Hong Kong and France markets muted, while Korea (104%), Japan (43%) and Singapore (46%) surge
 Monthly performance of Nifty-50, Sensex and other global indices, returns in local currency (% yoy), FY2013-FY2026 (Mar '26)



Returns as on March 31, 2026 (% yoy)

KOSPI	103.6
Singapore	46.0
NIKKEI 225	43.4
FTSE 100	18.6
S&P 500	16.3
Dow Jones	10.3
Hang Seng	7.2
CAC40	0.3
NSE Nifty 50	(5.1)
BSE Sensex	(7.1)

Source: Thurro, BSE, NIIF Research

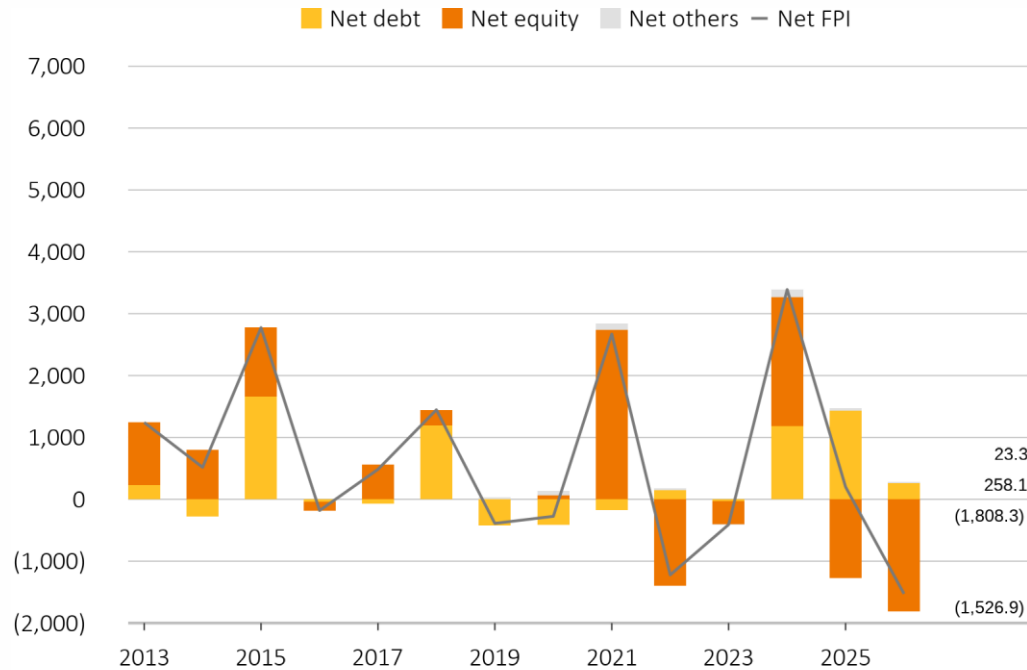
Note:

1. Return is calculated as on month end

[Rates] Flows: Portfolio

FPI net outflows reach a record ~INR 1.5 trillion in FY2026

Annual net FPI investments in India (INR billion), FY2013-FY2026 (Mar '26)



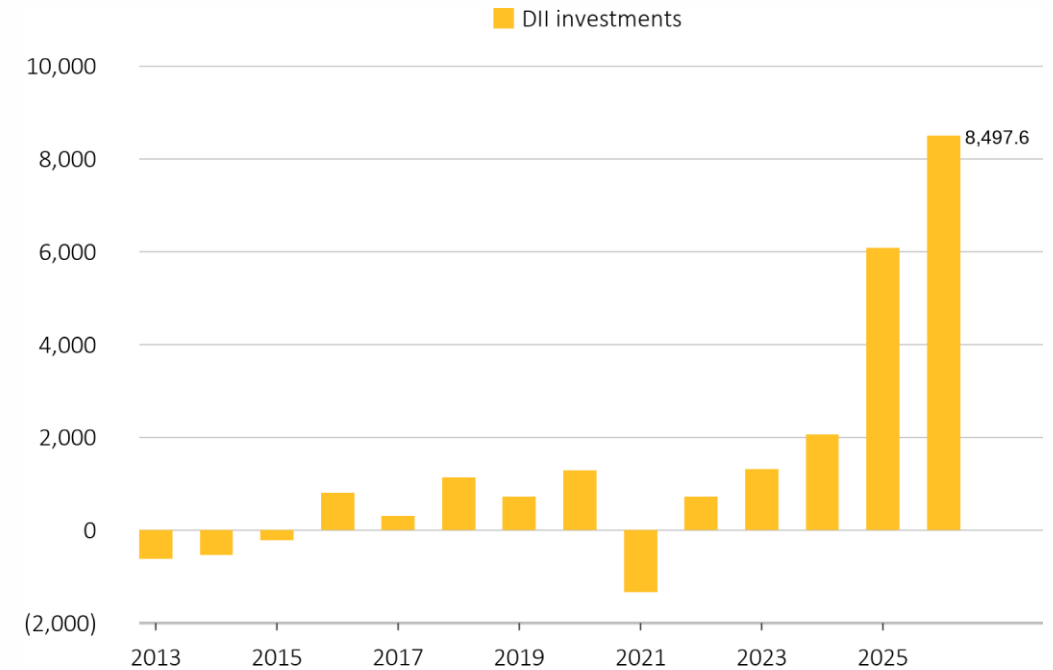
Source: Thurro, NSDL, NIIF Research

Note:

- Others comprise of hybrid, mutual funds and AIFs. Hybrid include investments in InvITs and REITs. Debt includes investments under Debt-VRR, Debt-FAR and Debt-General limit. Debt-VRR (voluntary retention route) allows FPIs to participate in repo transactions and also invest in exchange traded funds that invest in debt instruments.

DII net inflows reach a record ~8.5 trillion in FY2026

Annual net DII investments in India (INR billion), FY2013-FY2026 (Mar '26)



Source: Thurro, NSE, BSE, NIIF Research

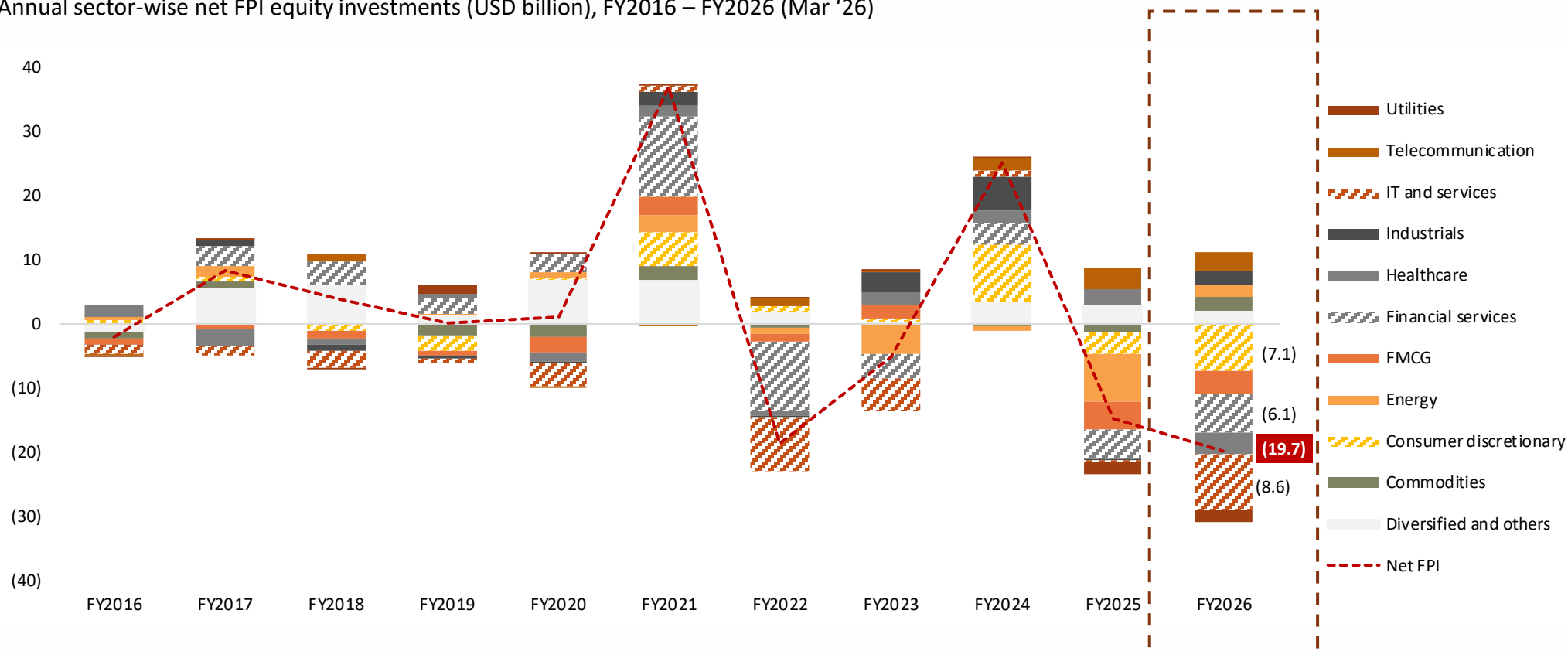
Note:

- Domestic institutional investors (DII) are those institutional investors who undertake investment in securities and other financial assets (debt, AIFs, etc.) within India. These include insurance companies, banks, DFIs, mutual funds, NPS, EPFO.

[Rates] Equity flows: FPI

FPI outflows in FY2026 heaviest in IT (USD 8.6 bn), consumer discretionary (USD 7.1 bn) and financial services (USD 6.1 bn)

Annual sector-wise net FPI equity investments (USD billion), FY2016 – FY2026 (Mar '26)



Source: NSDL, CEIC, NIIF Research

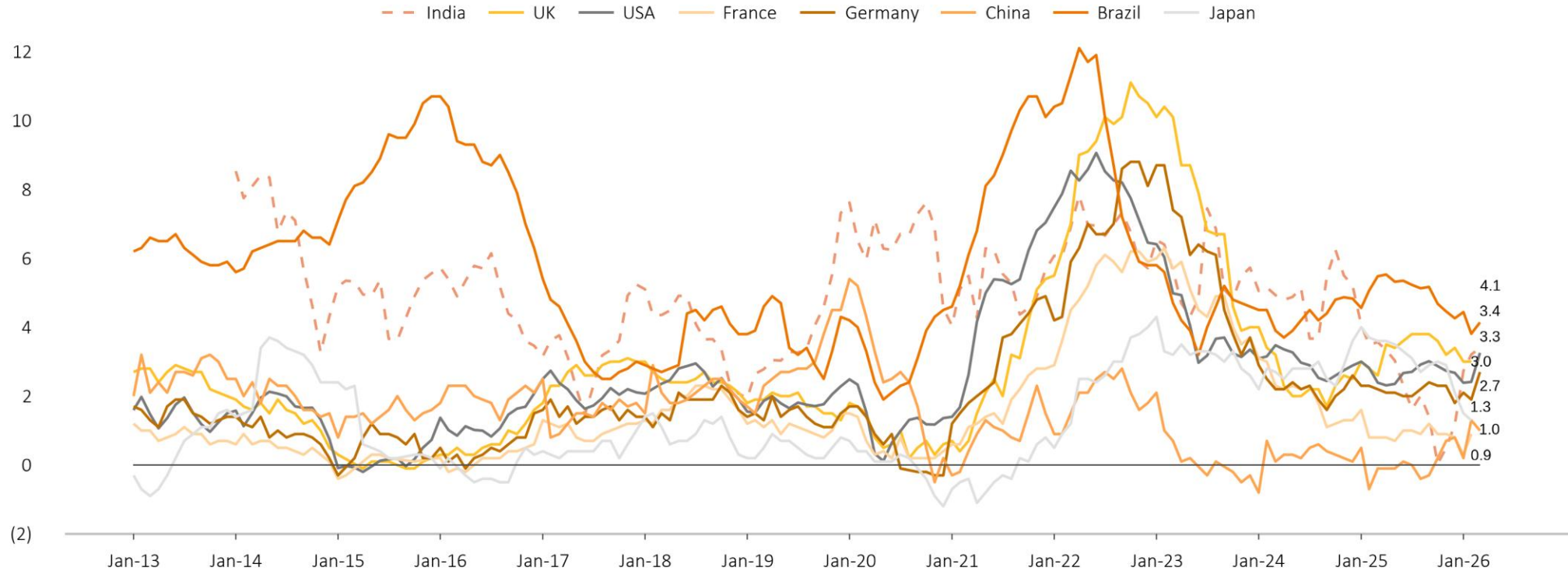
Note:

1. Classification of sectors as per BSE Industrial classification. Industry classification categorises companies into industrial groupings based on similar production processes, products, or nature of business
2. FMCG: Fast Moving Consumer Goods

[Inflation] Global

India's retail inflation rises to 3.4% in March; US and Germany spike, Brazil sees a modest uptick, while China eases

Monthly consumer price inflation (% yoy), FY2014-FY2026 (Mar '26)



Source: Thurro, MOSPI, Bloomberg, Investing.com, NIIF Research

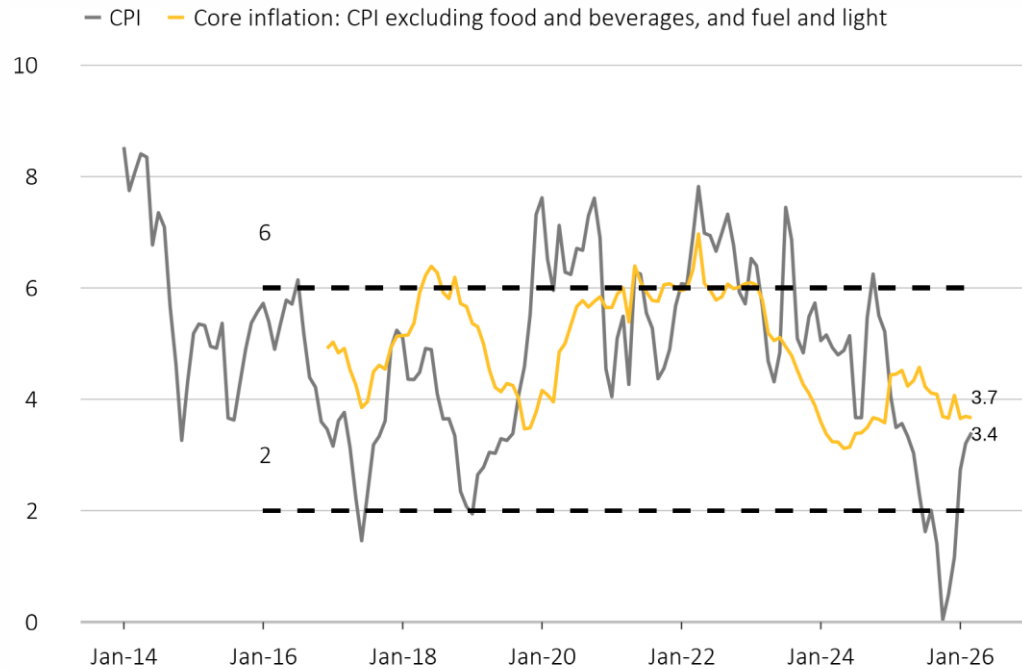
Note:

1. UK-Feb 2026 (3%), France-Feb 2026 (0.9%), Japan-Feb 2026 (1.3%)
2. Inflation targeting: India (4% ± 2%), UK (2%), USA (2%), France (2%), Germany (2%), China (2%), Brazil (3% ± 1.5%) and Japan (2%).
3. Advanced economies (UK, USA, Eurozone, Japan) mostly use point targets (2%), with some flexibility in time horizon. Emerging markets like Brazil and India adopt explicit ranges to allow for volatility. China sets indicative CPI goals rather than formal inflation targeting

[Inflation] CPI: India

Retail inflation edges up to 3.4% while core remains flat in March

Monthly consumer price inflation (% yoy), FY2014-FY2026 (Mar '26)



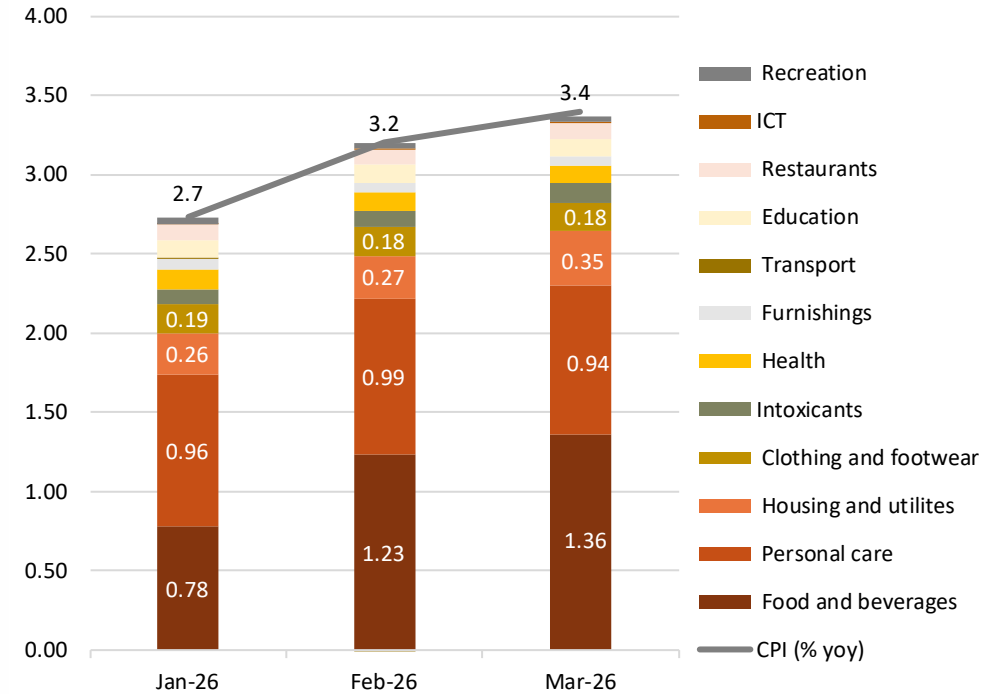
Source: Thurro, MoSPI, NIIF Research

Note:

1. RBI in 2016 adopted flexible inflation target set at 4%, with 6% as upper bound and 2% as lower bound
2. Both core and retail inflation prices have been adjusted according to new revised series with base 2024 = 100
3. According to RBI, core inflation is defined by excluding 'Food and beverages', 'Electricity, gas and other fuels', and 'Fuels and lubricants for personal transport equipment' from headline inflation.

Rising food and utility prices drive the pickup in March inflation

Contribution of key components to CPI inflation (%yoy/pp), Jan '26 - Mar '26



Source: CEIC, MoSPI, NIIF Research

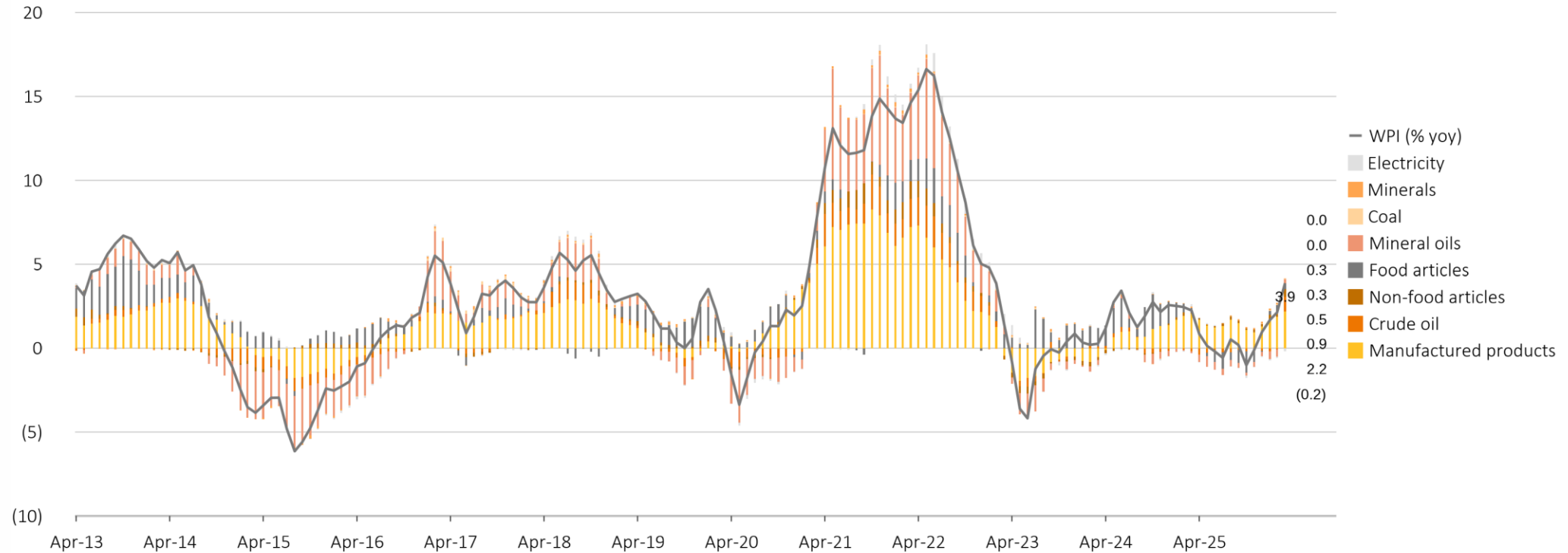
Note:

1. Food & beverages account for 36.8%, intoxicants 3.0%, clothing and footwear 6.4%, housing and utilities 17.7%, furnishings, HH equipment & routine HH maintenance 4.5%, health 6.1%, transport 8.8%, information and communication 3.6%, recreation, sport and culture 1.5%, education services 3.3%, restaurants and accommodation services 3.3% and personal care and miscellaneous 5.0%.

[Inflation] WPI: India

WPI inflation hits a 38-month high of 3.9% in March, driven by a surge in crude and mineral oil prices

Contribution of key components to wholesale price inflation (WPI) (% yoy/pp), FY2014-FY2026 (Mar '26)



Source: Thurro, Office of the Economic Advisor, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Food articles account for 15.26%, non-food 4.12%, mineral 0.83%, crude oil 2.41%, coal 2.14%, mineral oils 7.95%, electricity 3.06%, and manufactured products 64.23% weight in the wholesale price index inflation

[Inflation] Commodity markets

Gold climbs to ~USD 4,713/troy oz on 21 April amid global volatility

Daily gold prices, FY2015-FY2027 (21 Apr '26)



Source: Thurro, Business Insider, NIIF Research

Copper stays elevated at USD 13,000/tonne as on 21 April

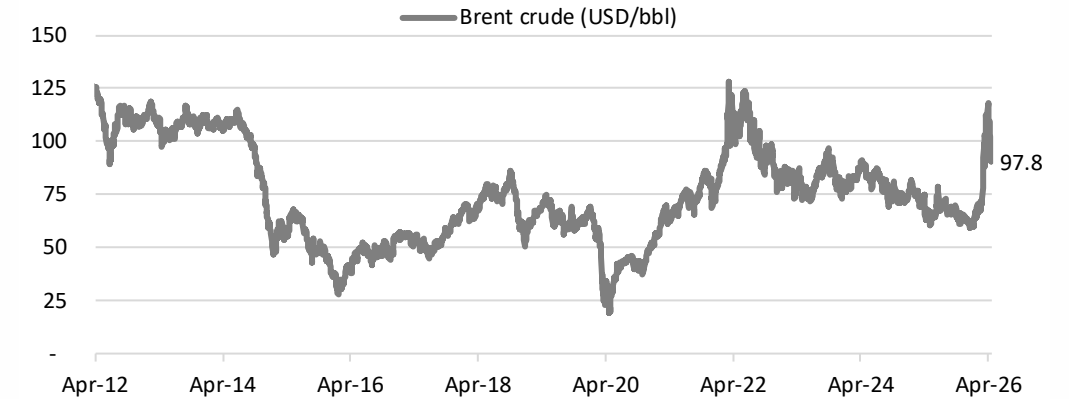
Daily copper prices, FY2015-FY2027 (21 Apr '26)



Source: Thurro, Business Insider, NIIF Research

Crude prices eases to ~USD 98/bbl on 22 April following interim ceasefire

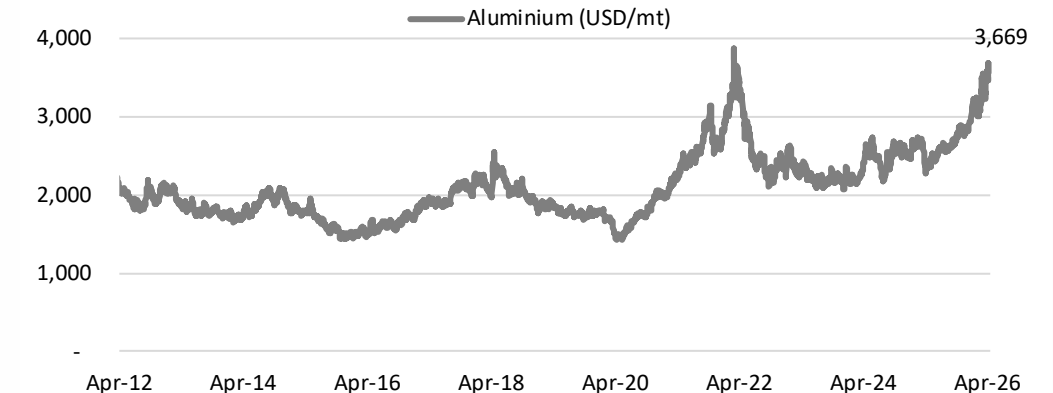
Daily brent crude oil prices, FY2013-FY2027 (22 Apr '26)



Source: Bloomberg, NIIF Research

Aluminium prices surge 50+% over April

Daily global aluminium prices, FY2013-FY2027 (22 Apr '26)



Source: Bloomberg, NIIF Research

[Forex] Foreign exchange markets (1/3)

Rupee's REER slips further to 94.1 in February from 94.8 in January

Monthly real effective exchange rate of INR, base year 2015-16 (X), Feb '26



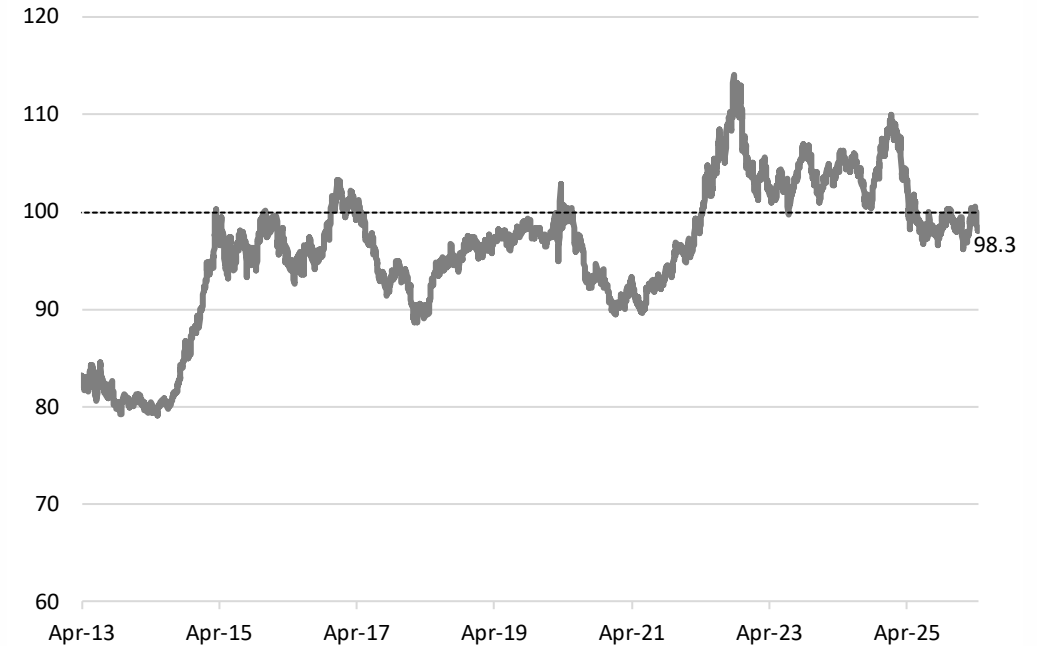
Source: Thurro, RBI, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Real effective exchange rate (REER) is the weighted average of a country's currency in relation to basket of currencies of its major trading partners.
2. A REER value greater than 100 implies that the currency is overvalued, and undervalued if under 100

US dollar index falls to 98.3 on 22 April from ~100 in early April

Daily dollar index (X), FY2013-FY2027 (22 Apr '26)



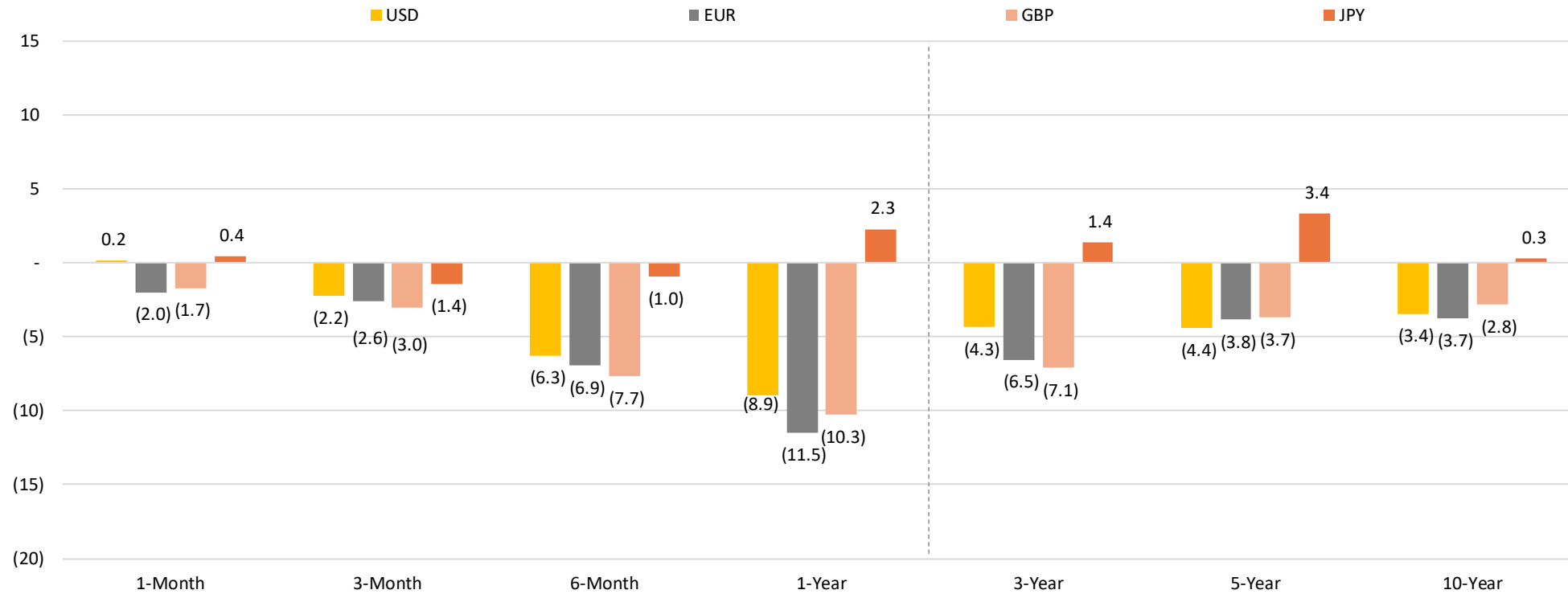
Source: Bloomberg, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Dollar index measures the relative strength of USD compared to other major currencies (EUR, GBP, JPY, SEK, CAD, CHF). A higher number indicates a stronger USD.

[Forex] Foreign exchange markets (2/3)

Rupee recovers over the past month, but 1-year depreciation against USD stays sharp at ~9%; 10-year depreciation at ~3%
 INR performance vis-a-vis major currencies (%), FY2016-FY2027 (22 Apr '26)



Source: Thurro, RBI, NIIF Research

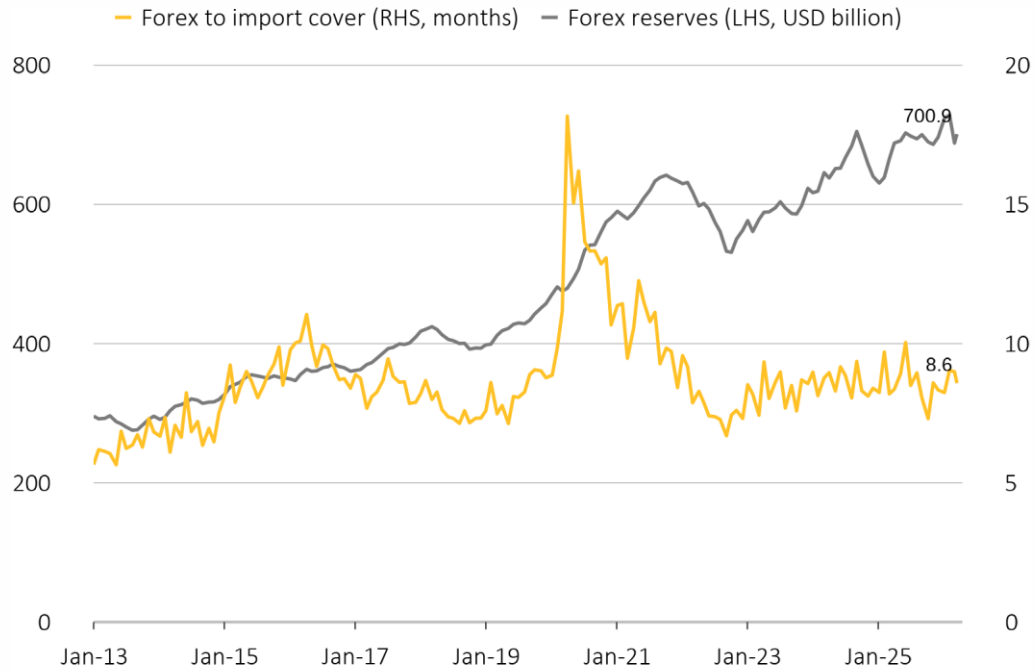
Note:

1. Numbers are annualized for periods above 1 year
2. Positive return indicates appreciation of INR and negative means depreciation of INR vis-a-vis respective currency

[Forex] Foreign exchange markets (3/3)

Healthy forex reserves ~USD 701 billion; 8+ months import cover

Monthly foreign exchange reserves, FY2013-FY2027 (10 Apr '26)



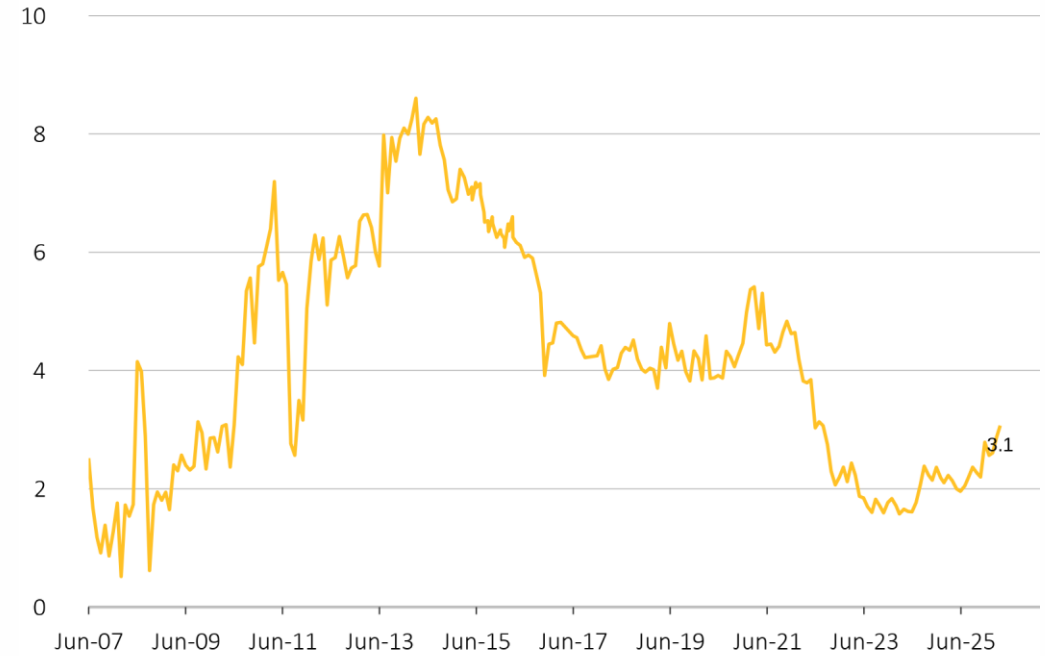
Source: Thurro, RBI, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Import cover calculated on total imports (merchandise plus services)

1-year USD-INR forward premium inches to 3.1% on 21 April

USD/INR implied 1-year forward risk premium (%), FY2008-FY2027 (21 Apr '26)



Source: Thurro, CCIL, Bloomberg, NIIF Research

[Forex] Merchandise export: Growth

Exports decline 7.4% yoy in March as West Asia disruptions hit most categories; oil and engineering goods hold up

Broad product category - wise exports (% yoy), Feb '25 - Mar '26

	Feb-25	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 QE
Engineering goods	(7.7)	(4.0)	11.2	(0.8)	1.3	13.9	4.9	2.9	(16.7)	23.8	1.3	10.4	12.9	1.1
Petroleum and crude	(30.4)	(9.6)	(36.6)	(23.9)	(24.2)	6.8	(0.8)	9.6	(16.1)	5.3	(11.5)	6.0	(40.1)	5.9
Electronic goods	26.4	29.4	39.4	54.0	46.8	33.7	25.9	50.5	19.0	38.8	16.7	0.3	10.4	(3.3)
Agricultural and allied	(1.5)	5.1	12.8	3.4	0.9	13.9	8.0	15.7	(4.3)	6.2	(0.5)	(6.5)	2.6	(12.6)
Chemicals and related	(23.2)	(23.0)	(11.5)	0.9	1.4	7.8	2.2	(0.5)	(22.4)	17.6	0.0	(1.5)	7.0	(2.0)
Drugs and pharmaceuticals	(1.5)	31.2	2.0	7.6	6.0	14.2	7.0	2.6	(5.1)	20.9	5.7	1.0	3.4	(23.2)
Textile and apparels	0.1	3.5	8.6	4.8	0.3	6.5	(1.4)	(8.3)	(12.2)	10.1	1.1	(2.8)	(4.0)	(14.9)
Gems and jewellery	(20.7)	10.6	10.7	(13.9)	(20.4)	28.9	15.6	0.4	(29.5)	27.8	(2.1)	(23.0)	4.1	(29.4)
Ores and minerals	(19.8)	4.6	22.0	(15.8)	(24.1)	(18.7)	16.9	21.6	(8.8)	66.8	22.6	19.3	(3.3)	(8.0)
Plastic and linoleum	(6.9)	1.6	4.5	(0.8)	2.2	4.5	(5.3)	(12.0)	(21.6)	(0.5)	(9.6)	(11.8)	(8.8)	(21.7)
Leather and leather manufactures	(0.9)	3.6	4.9	7.7	0.2	7.5	0.8	(6.0)	(15.1)	5.7	(3.4)	(6.7)	(4.4)	(14.4)
Glass, ceramics and cement	(10.3)	(5.1)	(0.8)	0.3	0.1	7.8	6.0	(10.6)	(19.8)	11.7	(8.9)	(7.7)	0.9	(17.1)
Paper and wood	(6.7)	(5.2)	(1.0)	(3.3)	(0.9)	3.9	(2.9)	(4.3)	(15.5)	14.6	(1.1)	(1.0)	3.4	
Other manufactured commodities	(24.1)	(23.0)	(20.6)	(25.3)	(11.9)	5.9	2.5	(1.7)	(18.3)	8.8	21.4	10.5	16.6	(10.0)
Total	(10.9)	0.9	(3.8)	(1.2)	(1.3)	13.3	5.7	6.0	(12.5)	18.7	1.3	0.4	(0.8)	(7.4)

Source: Thurro, DGCIS, MOCI, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Other manufactured commodities include other manufactured goods that are not included in the above product categories and other commodities list as provided by DGCIS.
2. Conditional formatting based on yoy growth values with respect to zero, with the largest negative values represented by dark red and largest positive values represented by dark green for each variable.
3. QE refers to quick estimate data from ministry of commerce
4. Absolute values in Annexure

[Forex] Merchandise import: Growth

Imports fall 6.5% yoy in March, led by sharp declines in crude, chemicals and labour-intensive goods

Broad product category - wise imports (% yoy), Feb '25 - Mar '26

	Feb-25	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 QE
Engineering goods	(4.6)	(0.7)	21.1	8.9	(2.7)	13.0	(4.2)	11.5	11.9	13.9	18.0	9.5	12.3	5.4
Petroleum and crude	(29.6)	16.3	25.5	(26.2)	(8.4)	7.4	9.4	(5.9)	(21.7)	(11.3)	5.9	(0.3)	9.1	(35.9)
Electronic goods	9.1	25.0	31.2	27.2	9.4	12.7	8.3	15.2	14.3	15.9	22.2	9.0	33.4	19.5
Gems and jewellery	(47.0)	40.8	3.4	(8.0)	(21.3)	4.0	(50.5)	83.2	161.8	(31.5)	(3.4)	169.9	105.8	(17.8)
Chemicals and related	17.7	18.0	34.3	46.9	4.5	20.4	17.8	33.2	22.6	20.8	2.7	(7.9)	6.9	(7.8)
Ores and minerals	(27.4)	(23.6)	3.2	(16.8)	(7.5)	(5.0)	(18.0)	(0.9)	4.3	13.0	21.8	(7.6)	22.2	15.3
Agricultural and allied	16.1	(5.3)	(5.6)	(1.0)	5.9	7.2	4.3	24.5	(3.2)	(2.0)	11.8	(0.4)	10.5	9.8
Plastic and linoleum	(6.2)	7.1	14.2	4.7	(2.1)	0.9	(9.7)	2.6	(3.7)	(1.9)	(1.0)	8.0	12.3	(3.0)
Drugs and pharmaceuticals	6.5	9.0	9.5	3.3	0.0	13.9	1.3	16.6	5.5	8.9	10.5	0.4	20.1	2.7
Paper and wood	2.9	(2.7)	14.4	2.8	(6.3)	8.5	(12.0)	(5.2)	(7.4)	2.1	(6.3)	(4.7)	(3.3)	(10.5)
Textile and apparels	10.4	21.4	21.7	20.3	1.9	12.9	5.3	12.3	7.7	8.9	1.4	10.4	21.4	2.9
Leather and leather manufactures	22.6	38.1	(3.9)	5.9	(15.4)	(40.7)	(27.1)	24.7	20.0	19.3	(9.9)	18.3	13.4	1.8
Glass, ceramics and cement	16.4	20.0	39.4	34.4	16.2	24.6	11.1	23.9	18.5	28.2	36.6	44.0	25.3	
Other manufactured commodities	(18.3)	(9.6)	16.1	(3.2)	(7.1)	5.9	(5.2)	12.8	15.8	14.1	(1.3)	(2.1)	22.3	33.4
Total	(15.7)	11.8	20.0	(1.3)	(3.4)	9.1	(9.6)	17.6	17.7	(1.4)	10.3	19.2	24.1	(6.5)

Source: Thurro, DGCIS, MOCI, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Other manufactured commodities include other manufactured goods that are not included in the above product categories and other commodities list as provided by DGCIS.
2. Conditional formatting based on yoy growth values with respect to zero, with the largest negative values represented by dark red and largest positive values represented by dark green for each variable.
3. QE refers to quick estimate data from ministry of commerce
4. Absolute values in Annexure

[Forex] Merchandise export: Country-wise

Exports grow 0.9% yoy in FY2026; US and UAE see modest growth; Saudi Arabia falls 12.5% while China (36.7%) and HK (33.2%) surge

Country-wise goods export (% yoy), FY2016 -FY2026 (Mar '26)

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
USA	(5.0)	4.7	13.4	9.5	1.3	(2.8)	47.4	3.2	(1.3)	11.6	0.9
UAE	(8.2)	2.8	(9.7)	7.0	(4.2)	(42.2)	68.1	12.7	12.7	2.8	2.0
China	(24.6)	12.8	31.1	25.6	(0.8)	27.5	0.3	(27.9)	8.7	(14.5)	36.7
Netherland	(25.3)	7.3	23.5	40.7	(5.1)	(22.6)	93.8	72.3	3.5	1.8	(23.1)
Singapore	(21.3)	23.9	6.7	13.4	(22.9)	(2.8)	28.5	7.7	20.1	(10.0)	(8.5)
Bangladesh	(6.4)	13.0	26.3	6.9	(11.0)	18.2	66.4	(24.3)	(9.4)	3.8	(7.9)
UK	(5.3)	(3.5)	13.6	(3.9)	(6.0)	(6.4)	27.9	9.1	13.3	12.1	(7.6)
Hong Kong	(11.1)	16.2	4.6	(11.5)	(15.7)	(7.3)	8.1	(9.9)	(16.7)	(26.4)	33.2
Germany	(5.9)	1.3	21.0	2.5	(6.9)	(2.0)	21.6	2.5	(2.9)	8.0	8.4
Saudi Arabia	(42.8)	(19.9)	5.9	2.8	12.1	(6.1)	49.6	23.2	7.1	1.7	(12.5)
RoW	(18.2)	4.8	10.8	9.2	(5.7)	(6.4)	49.3	9.6	(8.7)	(3.1)	2.0
World	(15.5)	5.2	10.0	8.7	(5.1)	(6.9)	44.6	6.9	(3.1)	0.1	0.9

Source: Thurro, DGCIS, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Top 10 countries based on cumulative exports from FY2018 to FY2025
2. Conditional formatting based on yoy growth values with respect to zero, with the largest negative values represented by dark red and largest positive values represented by dark green
3. YTD refers to financial year to date, i.e., from April onwards
4. ROW stands for Rest of the World
5. FY2026 data is provisional based on quick estimates provided by Ministry of Commerce and Industry

[Forex] Merchandise import: Country-wise

Imports grow 7.5% yoy in FY2026, led by China, Hong Kong, US and Switzerland; Russia falls 13.3% on lower oil purchases

Country-wise goods import (% yoy), FY2016 - FY2026 (Mar '26)

	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
China	2.1	(0.7)	24.6	(7.9)	(7.2)	(0.1)	44.4	4.5	3.4	11.5	16.0
UAE	(25.6)	10.6	1.1	37.0	1.6	(12.0)	68.4	19.5	(10.3)	32.1	0.7
USA	(0.2)	2.4	19.3	33.6	0.8	(19.4)	49.9	17.7	(17.3)	7.4	16.7
Saudi Arabia	(27.7)	(1.7)	10.5	29.0	(5.7)	(39.7)	110.7	24.7	(26.1)	(4.1)	2.2
Russia	7.9	21.1	54.4	(31.9)	21.4	(22.7)	79.9	375.2	30.4	4.4	(13.3)
Iraq	(23.9)	8.0	50.5	27.0	6.1	(39.8)	123.5	8.5	(13.5)	(3.6)	(15.0)
Switzerland	(12.8)	(10.6)	9.7	(4.4)	(6.6)	7.9	28.3	(32.5)	34.5	2.6	11.3
Indonesia	(12.5)	2.3	22.4	(3.6)	(5.0)	(17.2)	42.0	62.8	(18.8)	(2.7)	(10.9)
Korea	(3.6)	(3.5)	30.0	2.4	(6.6)	(18.4)	36.7	21.6	(0.4)	(0.3)	1.3
Hong Kong	8.6	35.6	30.1	68.5	(5.8)	(10.4)	25.9	(4.3)	11.9	(3.4)	23.2
RoW	(19.4)	(0.1)	20.8	9.9	(12.6)	(19.0)	54.8	10.0	(9.0)	4.8	12.0
World	(15.0)	0.9	21.1	10.4	(7.7)	(16.9)	55.4	16.8	(5.3)	6.3	7.5

Source: Thurro, DGCIS, NIIF Research

Note:

1. Top 10 countries based on cumulative imports from FY2018 to FY2025
2. Conditional formatting based on yoy growth values with respect to zero, with the largest negative values represented by dark red and largest positive values represented by dark green
3. YTD refers to financial year to date, i.e., from April onwards
4. ROW stands for Rest of the World
5. FY2026 data is provisional based on quick estimates provided by Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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MONTHLY ECONOMIC REPORT ON INDIA APR 2026

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Published on April 24, 2026