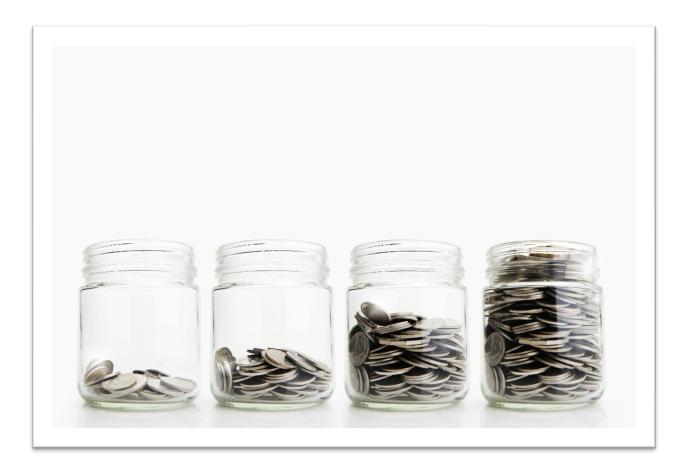


# **QMNI INSIGHTS**



## Budget Battle 2025: Consumption vs Capital Investments

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## Budget Battle 2025: Consumption vs Capital Investment



## Consumption seems to be the winner...

The showstopper in this budget was the raising of the zero tax slab from INR 7 lakhs to INR 12 lakhs income. This is what stole the popular imagination and the media focus. According to the FM, this will result in approximately *INR 1 lakh crore of revenue foregone* by the Government of India (GoI).

This tax relief will put approximately INR 1 lakh extra in the pockets of the "middle class", those earning approximately INR 5 lakhs to 15 lakhs per household. This is approximately 30%-40% of the Indian population. The budget relief is putting approximately 10% to 20% extra in the pockets of the households.

This could spark a consumption boom due to sentiment change. It could also go towards investment in affordable housing segment, consumer durables & personal vehicles (2W,3W & 4W), travel, recreation and tourism, besides FMCG-like consumption. Keep in mind that for a lot of micro and small businesses, a vehicle or expansion of the house could also be a capital investment aiding their business.

A strong possibility is also that some money could come to the markets.

\*Numbers for 2024-25 are Revised Estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget Estimates.

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{1}{\text{https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/indian-middle-class-will-nearly-double-to-61-by-2046-47-price-report-123070500864 1.html}$ 



### But, Capex Is The Hidden Star...

With nearly INR 16 lakh crores (USD \$180 billion), capital investments remain the key allocation in the budget. Compare this with the INR 1 lakh crore foregone from the tax relief (16X)!

The growth in the capital investment budget was nearly 18% from the previous year's revised estimates.

Defence, Railways, Roads, Housing & Urbanization, and Power remained in focus for the capex budget.

This focus on capital investments, reinforces our conceptual understanding of Amrit Kaal. In 2025, we have mostly crossed the Phase 1 of the Amrit Kaal, the establishment of a national market place on the foundatons of GST and a financial and digital infrastructure, and we are in Phase 2 of the Amrit Kaal with a focus on infrastructure development to establish a national transport and logistics network with a goal of reducing the logistics costs in the Indian economy from 14% to 7-8%, the developed market benchmark.

As we will see, infrastructure capex has been coming increasingly in focus over the last 5 and 10 years and this budget is clearly showing that it will continue for the next 5 to 10 years with the Amrit Kaal vision of the Government of India.





### **Budget 2025: Key Data Points**

Let's look at major Budget components of 2025-26 (Budget Estimates) and also as a percentage of GDP:



India's Budget Estimate GDP projected for 2025-26 is Rs 356 trillion (nearly \$4 trillion), growth of 10.1% as compared to Rs 324 trillion in 2024-25.

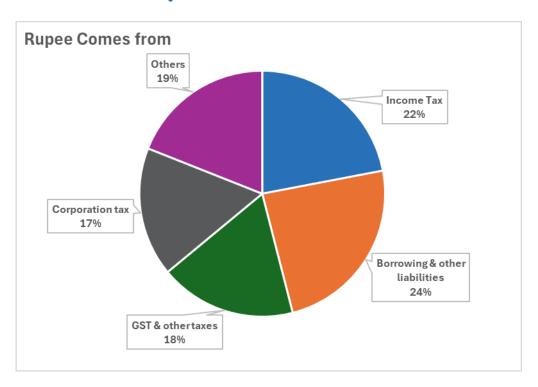


The Union Budget Estimate for 2025-26 is Rs 50.6 trillion (nearly \$580 billion), an increase of 7.4% from Rs 47.2 trillion in 2024-25 Revised Estimates. It constitutes 14.2% of the GDP as compared to 14.6% in 2024-25.

- The total tax revenue is projected to increase by 11% from Rs 25.6 trillion in 2024-25 to Rs 28.4 trillion in 2025-26.
- The total non-tax revenue is projected to increase by 10% from Rs 5.31 trillion in 2024-25 to Rs 5.83 trillion in 2025-26.

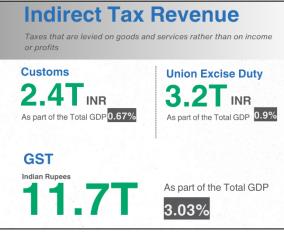


## Where the money comes from...



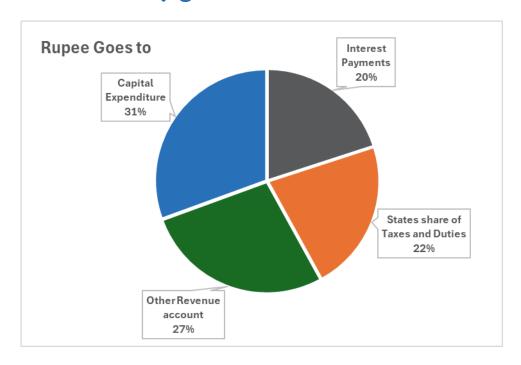
#### Below is the break-up of Tax revenue from direct and indirect sources:



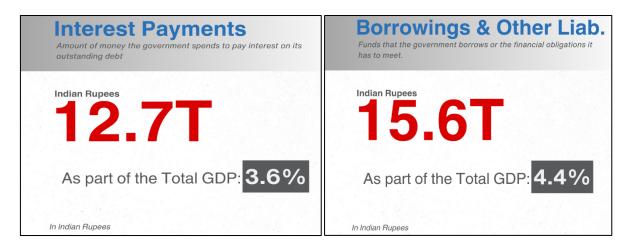


- The budget estimates for 2025-26 show an increase in various tax revenues, with Corporation Tax expected to rise to Rs 10.82 trillion from Rs 9.80 trillion in 2024-25.
- Taxes on Income are projected to grow to Rs 14.38 trillion from Rs 12.57 trillion.
- GST is projected to grow to Rs 11.78 trillion in 2025-26 from Rs 10.62 trillion in 2024-25.

### Where the money goes...



Most of the borrowings go towards interest payments.



**Borrowings & Other Liabilities:** For 2025-26, borrowings and other liabilities are projected at Rs 15.68 trillion, almost same as Rs 15.69 trillion in 2024-25. This represents 4.4% of projected GDP, compared to 4.8% respectively in the previous year.

**Interest Payments:** Interest payments are estimated to increase to Rs 12.76 trillion in 2025-26 from Rs 11.37 trillion in 2024-25. This accounts for 3.6% of projected GDP, up from 3.5% respectively in the previous year.

Hopefully, interest payments grow slower than the revenues in future...

<sup>\*</sup>Numbers for 2024-25 are Revised Estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget Estimates.

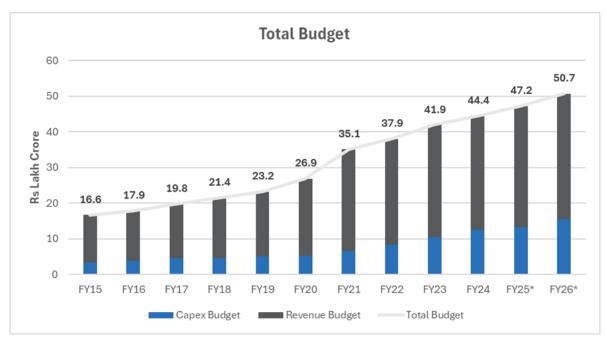


# Capital Budget From 2015 To 2025: Follow The Money

From 2014-15, when capex was 20% of the total budget, it has increased to 31% this year. Capex budget has grown at nearly 15% CAGR over the last 10 years compared to the revenue budget which has grown at around 10% CAGR. Over the last 5 years, the capex budget has grown at nearly 19% CAGR, way faster than the total budget growth rates versus the revenue budget at just 4%, barely keeping up with inflation. If one uses the logic of "follow the money", one can clearly infer that the emphatic focus of the government has been to hold the size of the government constant while allowing infrastructure to grow in leaps and bounds. *Truly, minimal government, maximum governance.* 

# India's Budget Growth: Capex Soars with a 15% CAGR, Reflecting Long-Term Development Vision

India's total budget has experienced a robust growth, with a compound annual growth rate **(CAGR)** of 11% from ~Rs 18 trillion in 2015-16 to an estimated Rs 50.6 trillion in 2025-26 (3X in 10 years). This growth is indicative of the government's commitment to expanding its fiscal capacity to meet the country's developmental needs.



**Exhibit 1:** India's Total Budget over the years with split between revenue and capex account Source: <a href="https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/">https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/</a>

| Particulars                | 5-year CAGR (%) | 10-year CAGR (%) |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Total Budget               | 7.6%            | 11.0%            |
| Capital Expenditure Budget | 18.7%           | 14.9%            |
| Revenue Expenditure Budget | 4.3%            | 9.6%             |

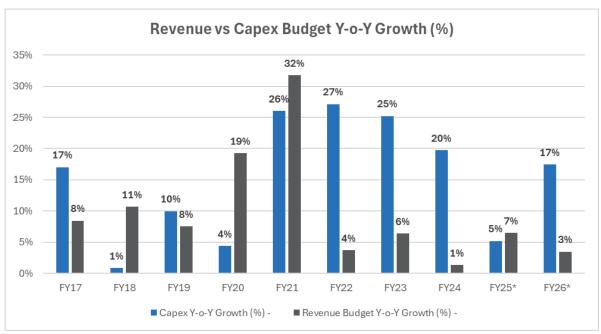
Table 1: 5-year (FY21-FY26) and 10-yr (FY16-FY26) CAGR of Total Budget, Capex and Revenue Budget

<sup>\*</sup>Numbers for 2024-25 are Revised Estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget Estimates.

The budget is divided into revenue and capital expenditure (capex) accounts, with the latter showing a particularly impressive increase. The capex budget has grown at a 5-year **CAGR of 18.7%** from 2020-21 to 2025-26\*, and a 10-year CAGR of 14.9% from 2015-16 to 2025-26\*. This significant rise in capex underscores the government's long-term vision for infrastructure development and economic growth.

### **Capex Growth Outpaces Opex Growth**

Contrast between year-on-year growth rates of Capital Expenditure and Revenue Expenditure Budget:



**Exhibit 2:** Revenue Budget vs Capital Expenditure year-on-year growth (%) Source: <a href="https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/">https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/</a>

The contrast between the growth rates of capital expenditure (capex) and the revenue budget over the years highlights a strategic shift in fiscal priorities.

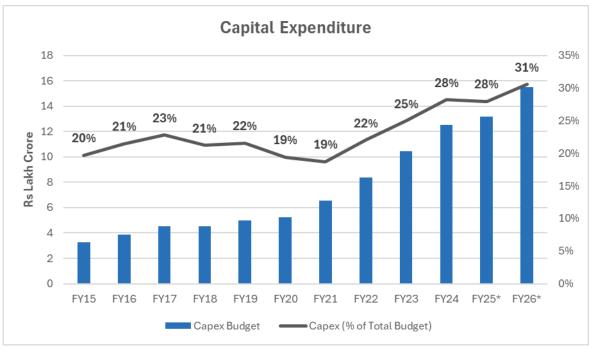
While the revenue budget growth has shown fluctuations, peaking at 32% in FY21 due to Covid-19 expenditures, and then stabilizing to a modest 3.5% in FY26, capex growth has been more dynamic and consistent.

Capex has seen significant growth, especially in recent years, with notable increases of 26% in FY21, 27% in FY22, 25% in FY23 and 20% in FY24. This trend underscores the government's focus on infrastructure and long-term investments.

<sup>\*</sup>Numbers for 2024-25 are Revised Estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget Estimates.



# Capital Expenditure constitutes 31% of India's Total Estimated Budget for 2025-26

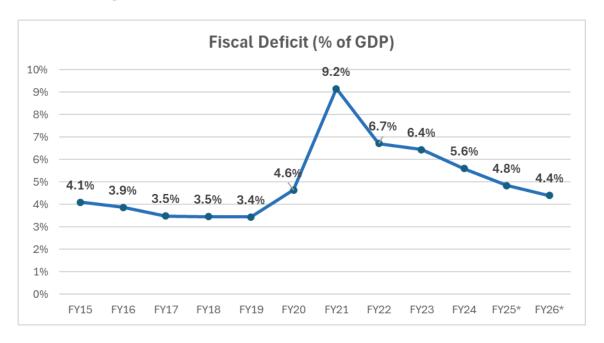


**Exhibit 3:** Capital Expenditure over the years from FY2015 to FY2026 Budget Estimates Source: <a href="https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/">https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/</a>

- The breakdown of the budget over the years reveals that the capex as a percentage of the total budget has increased from 19% in 2019-20 to 31% in 2025-26\*, which are crucial for creating assets and enhancing the productive capacity of the economy.
- The revenue budget, on the other hand, has grown at a more modest pace, with a 5-year CAGR of 4.3% and a 10-year CAGR of 9.6%. This balanced approach ensures that while immediate operational needs are met, substantial resources are allocated towards long-term growth drivers.



# India's Fiscal Discipline: Reducing Deficit Amidst Heavy Capex

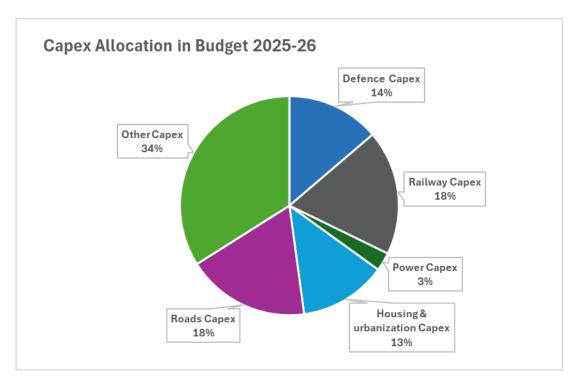


- Despite the significant increase in fiscal deficit to 9.2% of GDP in FY21 due to the pandemic, the Indian government has successfully reduced it to 6.4% in FY23 and is projected to further reduce it to 4.4% by FY26.
- Even with heavy capital expenditure, the government has shown a commitment to fiscal discipline, as evidenced by the projected decrease in fiscal deficit from 6.4% in FY23 to 4.4% in FY26.



## Surging Ahead: Sectors with Capex Growth Over 20% CAGR in the Last Decade!

India's capital expenditure has witnessed remarkable growth across various sectors over the past decade. From defence to railways, housing, urbanization, power and roads, the investment in infrastructure has surged significantly.



For 2025, Defence got \$25 billion, Railways \$33 billion, Power \$5 Billion, housing & urbanization \$23 billion and Roads \$32 billion. Defence capex allocation grew by 16%, Railways 2%, Power 36%, Housing and urbanization 95% and Roads were same as last year.

Certain Capital expenditures have been reclassified by us sector-wise as follows:

- **Defence** includes capex from Ministry of Defence (Civil), Capital outlay on defence services along with additional Police capex & optical fibre cable-based network for defence services from Department of Telecommunications,
- Railway includes capex from Ministry of Railways along with additional Metro projects and NCR transport corporation from Ministry of Housing & Urban affairs.
- **Power** includes capex from Ministry of Power and Ministry of new and renewable energy.
- Housing & urbanization includes capex from Ministry of Housing & Urban affairs along with capex from Ministry of Jal Shakti and PMAY-rural, PMGSY from Department of Rural development, less Metro projects and NCR transport corporation classified under Railways.
- Roads include capex only from Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.



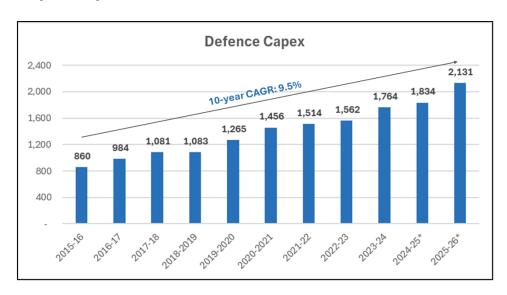
Below table shows year-wise capex allocated to these sectors:

| Capex (Rs Bn) | FY16 | FY17 | FY18  | FY19  | FY20  | FY21  | FY22  | FY23  | FY24  | FY25* | FY26* |
|---------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Defence       | 860  | 984  | 1,081 | 1,083 | 1,265 | 1,456 | 1,514 | 1,562 | 1,764 | 1,834 | 2,131 |
| Railway       | 443  | 605  | 572   | 672   | 860   | 1,179 | 1,405 | 1,827 | 2,656 | 2,802 | 2,856 |
| Power         | 61   | 106  | 150   | 163   | 138   | 80    | 191   | 90    | 178   | 310   | 422   |
| Housing &     | 326  | 488  | 614   | 564   | 479   | 470   | 787   | 1,509 | 1,426 | 1,025 | 1,999 |
| Urbanization  |      |      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Roads         | 73   | 471  | 572   | 745   | 752   | 957   | 1,203 | 2,135 | 2,725 | 2,812 | 2,818 |

| Particulars                  | 5-yr CAGR | 10-yr CAGR |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Defence Capex                | 7.9%      | 9.5%       |
| Railway Capex                | 19.4%     | 20.5%      |
| Power Capex                  | 39.5%     | 21.4%      |
| Housing & urbanization Capex | 33.6%     | 19.9%      |
| Roads Capex                  | 24.1%     | 44.2%      |

Table 2: Y-o-Y Sector-wise Capex allocation along with 5-year & 10-year CAGR

### **Defence Capital Expenditure:**

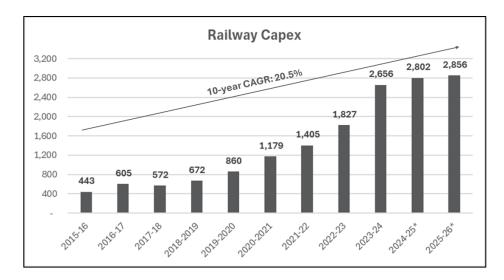


Major allocations for Defence in 2025-26 Budget are as under:

| Major Capex under Defence 2025-26 (BE) | Rs Crores |
|--|-----------|
| R&D                                    | 14,924    |
| Aircraft and Aero engines              | 48,614    |
| Other Equipments                       | 63,099    |
| Construction works                     | 11,452    |
| Naval fleet                            | 24,391    |
| Optical fibre cable                    | 1,456     |

<sup>\*</sup>Numbers for 2024-25 are Revised Estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget Estimates.

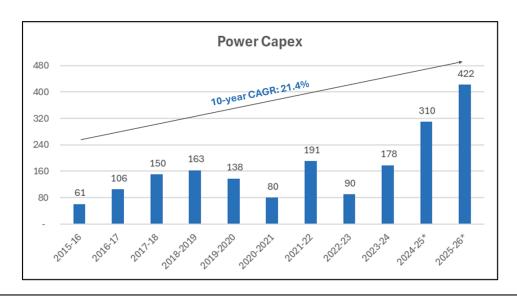
### **Railway Capital Expenditure:**



Major allocations for Railways in 2025-26 Budget are as under:

| Major capex under Railways 2025-26 (BE)     | Rs Crores |
|---|-----------|
| New lines                                   | 32,235    |
| Doubling                                    | 32,000    |
| Metro Projects                              | 31,106    |
| Rolling stock                               | 45,530    |
| Leased assets- payment of capital component | 27,905    |
| Track renewals                              | 22,800    |
| Customer amenities                          | 12,118    |
| Investment in PSU/JV/SPV etc.               | 22,444    |
| Stores suspense                             | 24,529    |
| Manufacturing suspense                      | 64,224    |
| Transfer to railway safety fund             | 45,000    |

### **Power Capital Expenditure:**



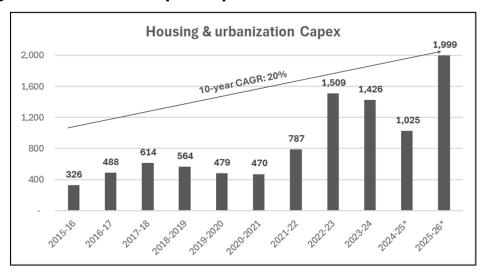
<sup>\*</sup>Numbers for 2024-25 are Revised Estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget Estimates.



Power Sector has been in focus for its capex increase from the last 5 years and new reforms to further reshape the sector have been announced in Budget 2025-26, discussed below in the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) section.

5-year capex CAGR for Power sector is 39.5%, which clearly indicates the same.

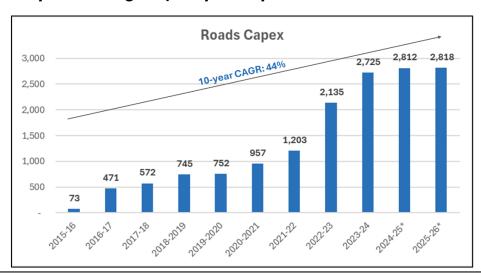
### **Housing and Urbanization Capital Expenditure:**



Major allocations for Housing and Urbanization in 2025-26 Budget are as under:

| Major Capex under 2025-26 (BE)                | Rs Crores |
|---|-----------|
| PMAY (Urban)                                  | 17,230    |
| PMAY (Rural)                                  | 50,948    |
| Urban Challenge Fund                          | 10,000    |
| Department of drinking water and sanitation   | 62,499    |
| Water resources, River and Ganga Rejuvenation | 17,413    |
| PMGSY   | 18,907    |

#### Roads, Transport and Highways Capital Expenditure:



<sup>\*</sup>Numbers for 2024-25 are Revised Estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget Estimates.

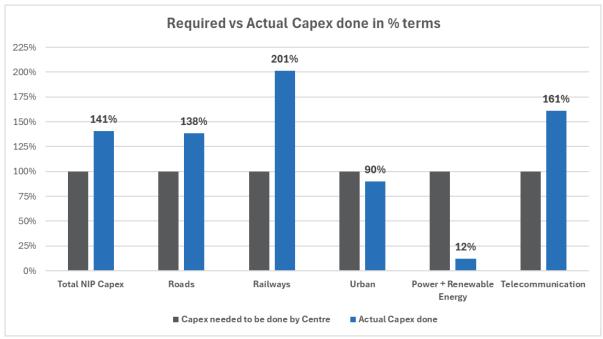
Major allocations for Roads, Transport and Highways in 2025-26 Budget are as under:

| Major Capex under 2025-26 (BE) | Rs Crores |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| NHAI                           | 1,70,266  |
| Road Works                     | 1,01,941  |

# India's Infrastructure Drive: NIP Achieves Targets, Reforms Shaping Power Sector

- The National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) was a comprehensive initiative launched by the Government of India to develop world-class infrastructure across the country.
- Announced in 2019, the NIP aimed to invest approximately Rs 102.5 lakh crore over a five-year period from 2020 to 2025, in a wide range of projects in sectors such as energy, roads, railways, and urban development, which together account for ~70% of the total projected investments.
- It involves a collaborative effort between the central and state governments, as well as the private sector, with the Centre and states each contributing around 39-40% of the investments, and the private sector accounting for the remaining 21%.

Let's look at some major allocations and how they have fared:



**Exhibit 4:** Centre's Capex plans vs progress for FY20-25 according to NIP Source: <a href="https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/">https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/</a>



| Ministry/Department (Rs Crore) | FY20-25     | Capex required from<br>Centre (39%) | Actual Capex<br>done till FY25 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total NIP Capex                | 1,02,50,704 | 39,97,775                           | 56,31,788                      |
| Of which:                      |             |                                     |                                |
| Roads                          | 19,63,943   | 7,65,938                            | 10,58,452                      |
| Railways                       | 13,68,523   | 5,33,724                            | 10,72,957                      |
| Urban                          | 16,29,012   | 6,35,315                            | 5,69,680                       |
| Power + Renewable Energy       | 21,05,495   | 8,21,143                            | 98,741                         |
| Telecommunication              | 3,20,498    | 1,24,994                            | 2,01,241                       |

Table 3: Centre's Capex plans and progress for FY20-25 according to NIP

From Table 3, we can see that National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) has seen strong success across different sectors that need to be met by the centre.

- 1. **Overall Capex Achievement**: The total capex needed to be done by the Centre was around Rs 40 trillion, while the actual capex done was significantly higher at Rs 56 trillion (1.4x). This indicates an overall strong performance, with the Centre exceeding its capex targets by a substantial margin.
- 2. **Sector-wise Performance**: Major sectors like Roads & Railways have overachieved their capex targets, with roads achieving 1.38x and Railways at 2x of their original target capex. Urban development target was achieved 90% and Telecommunications overachieving at 1.6x.

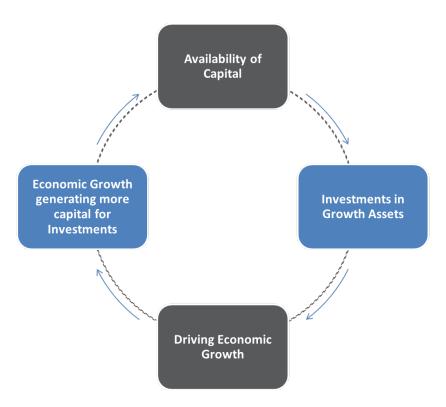
#### Power Sector reforms in 2025-26 Budget-

- Incentivized electricity distribution reforms and augmentation of intra-state transmission capacity by states to improve financial health and capacity of electricity companies.
   Additional borrowing of 0.5 per cent of GSDP will be allowed to states, contingent on these reforms.
- Development of at least 100 GW of nuclear energy by 2047. For an active partnership with the private sector towards this goal, amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act will be taken up.
- A Nuclear Energy Mission for research & development of Small Modular Reactors (SMR) with an outlay of Rs 20,000 crore will be set up. At least 5 indigenously developed SMRs will be operationalized by 2033.
- Green Manufacturing Incentives for solar PV cells, EV batteries, electrolyzers & wind turbines.



### **Capital Expenditure fueling Amrit Kaal Vision**

The National Infrastructure Pipeline and Union Budget 2025-26 lays the foundation for long-term sustainable development. India's path to 'Viksit Bharat' is now clearer, backed by focused reforms and strategic capital deployment that ensure a prosperous and resilient future. This capital deployment in creating growth assets will result in a sustainable virtuous cycle of growth as shown below:



This approach of creating growth assets is initiated by creating both digital and physical infrastructure to enhance productivity, foster inclusive development, and attract private investments, all of which align with the Amrit Kaal vision of a developed India by 2047.



# Amrit Kaal Phase 1: GST & Digital Infrastructure: Creating a National Marketplace

Platforms & Initiatives









Technology Systems





**NEFT/RTGS** 

Digital Transactions

Digital Identity & Access





Financial Inclusion: UPI, Jan Dhan Accounts

Digital Foundation





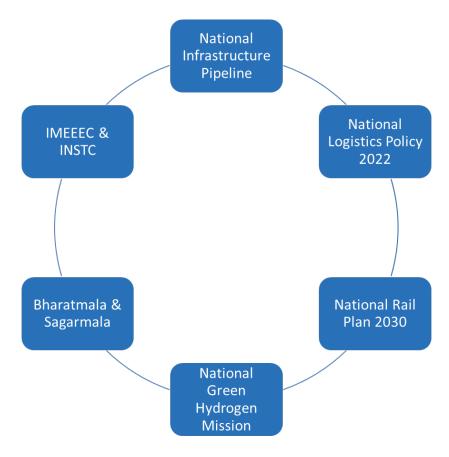
Affordable 4G/5G Network & Smart Devices

India's digital infrastructure has seen remarkable advancements with the rollout of 5G, Aadhaar digital identity, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) etc. These initiatives have created a robust national market, facilitated seamless transactions and improved financial inclusion.

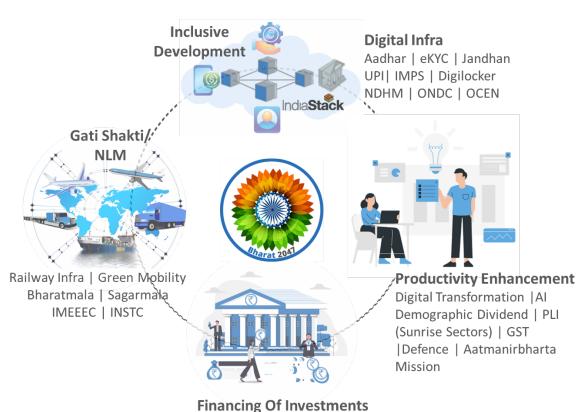


# Amrit Kaal Phase2: Physical Infrastructure: Building the Logistics & Transport Network

Key initiatives like NIP as seen above along with other initiatives like NLP, NRP, NGHM are all aiming to create an integrated, seamless, and efficient logistics network, reducing costs and improving performance.



The financing of these investments is facilitated by easy access to capital, supported by government initiatives and private sector participation. This creates a favourable business environment, attracting further private investments and driving economic growth.



Fiscal Expenditure | De-levered Balance Sheets | International Fund Flows | IFSC GIFT City

By investing in both digital and physical infrastructure, India is fostering inclusive development, which results in a collaborative effort, thus enhancing productivity and creating a National Market for India with less barriers and more growth.

#### 2025 To 2030: The Next 5 Years...

Given this focus, it is likely that the cumulative budgetary capital investment allocation until 2030 would exceed \$1.2 trillion. Keep in mind that a capex of \$1.2 trillion is likely to lead to an additional near perpetual additional GDP of \$1.2 trillion annually, assuming an asset turnover ratio of 1.

So, the India economy would be close to \$6 trillion purely based on the GoI capex. Additional capex from State governments and the private sector could trigger additional growth. We would estimate at least an equal contribution from the private sector and States put together.

This would contribute about \$2.5 trillion additional GDP by 2030, bringing, the 2030 GDP close to \$7 trillion primarily from capex investments.

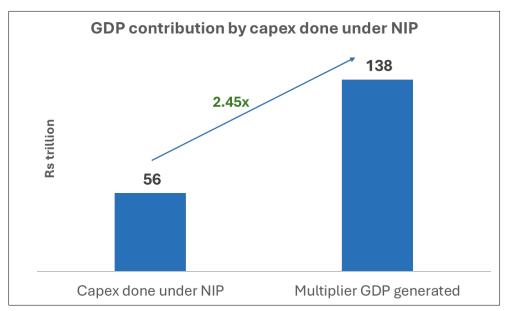
<sup>\*</sup>Numbers for 2024-25 are Revised Estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget Estimates.



## **Multiplier Effect**

The GDP multiplier effect, as detailed in The World Bank report "Catalyzing Private Financing for Sustainable Recovery and Growth", quantifies the impact of government spending on economic output. It measures the additional GDP generated from an increase in government capex. According to the paper, **capital expenditure has a robust multiplier effect of 2.45**, indicating that every unit of capital spending results in 2.45 units of GDP.

Taking this in account, the Capex done under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) of Rs 56.3 trillion would approximately generate  $\sim$ Rs 138 trillion worth of GDP.



**Exhibit 5:** NIP Capital expenditure GDP Multiplier effect

Source: https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/,

 $\frac{https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099080324113020001/pdf/BOSIB1df054807000185721a82}{4c0b0ad06.pdf}$ 

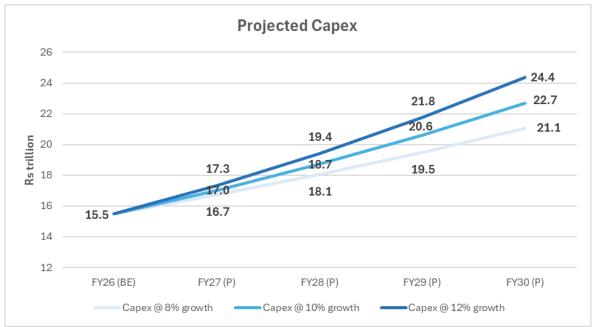


## Capex Projections: Potential GDP Boost of INR 200-250 trillion (FY26-30)

In this segment, we have taken 3 scenarios of Capex growth till FY30 and then estimate the total Capex and its contribution to GDP (FY26 to FY30) after considering the multiplier effect.

The projections are based on the following assumptions:

- Capex Growth Rates: 8%, 10%, and 12%
- Base Year (Budget Estimates 2025-26): Rs 15.5 trillion



**Exhibit 6:** Projected Capex at 8%, 10% and 12% growth rate till FY30 Source: Omniscience Research

#### **Conclusion:**

The projections indicate that with a steady increase in Capex, India can significantly boost its infrastructure and economic growth. The multiplier effect of Capex on GDP highlights the importance of sustained investment in capital projects as shown below:

| Particulars (Rs trillion) | Total Capex in FY26-30 | Addition to GDP after multiplier effect |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Capex @ 8% growth         | 91                     | 223                                     |
| Capex @ 10% growth        | 95                     | 232                                     |
| Capex @ 12% growth        | 98                     | 241                                     |

The above analysis concludes that a potential GDP boost between Rs 223 to Rs 241 trillion can be expected even after considering a conservative capex growth, keeping government's fiscal consolidation target in mind.

<sup>\*</sup>Numbers for 2024-25 are Revised Estimates and for 2025-26 are Budget Estimates.



### **Executive Summary**

Over the past decade, India's budget has demonstrated a strategic focus on capital expenditure (Capex) to drive infrastructure development and economic growth. The analysis of budgetary allocations reveals a significant increase in Capex, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14.9% over the past ten years. This growth underscores the government's commitment to long-term development, as evidenced by the rise in Capex as a percentage of the total budget from 19% in 2019-20 to 31% in 2025-26.

While the tax rebate stole the limelight in the budget discussions, we believe with nearly INR 16 lakh crores (USD \$180 billion) of capital investments remain the most important key allocation in the budget.

As FY25 marks the completion of the 5 year period from the year 2020, when the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) initiative was launched, we reviewed the progress on the government's initial target of investing approximately ₹102.5 lakh crore on key infrastructure sectors such as energy, roads, railways, and urban development. The NIP has seen exceptional success, with sectors like roads and railways exceeding their Capex targets. The robust multiplier effect of Capex on GDP, estimated at 2.45, highlights the importance of sustained investment in capital projects to achieve significant economic growth.

Achieving a projected GDP boost of Rs 200-250 trillion through increased Capex will significantly accelerate India's journey towards its ambitious goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy and beyond, possibly \$7+ trillion. This substantial investment in infrastructure and development will not only enhance economic growth but also create numerous job opportunities and improve the overall quality of life. By prioritizing Capex, India can ensure sustainable and inclusive growth, positioning itself as a global economic powerhouse sooner than anticipated. *If this continues, the dream of a Viksit Bharat during the Amrit Kaal looks very much in reach.* 



## **Key References:**

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