

India's retail inflation eased sharply to a series low of 0.25 per cent in October from 1.44 per cent in September, thanks to a favorable base effect, a record 5 per cent drop in food prices, and the initial impact of GST rates' rationalisation, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Wednesday.

Economists reckon that as the favourable base effects wear out by December, inflation numbers would witness an uptick.

While overall inflation cooled sharply, core inflation, which excludes volatile items in the consumer basket such as food and energy, remained elevated at 4.3-4.5 per cent in October, driven primarily by a surge in precious metals.

Gold inflation soared to 57.83 per cent while silver witnessed a spike of 62.36 per cent amid festive demand. Inflation in personal care and effects surged to 23.88 per cent in October, while miscellaneous items' price rise hardened to 5.71 per cent, largely due to the gold effect.

Excluding precious metals like gold, core CPI inflation was at a more benign 2.5-2.6 per cent.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, reckoned that the MPC may trim its FY26 inflation forecast below 2.6 per cent, driven by the soft sequential momentum in food prices and the impact of the GST rate rationalisation. The agency reckons that this would support a 25-bps rate cut in the December 2025 policy review, unless Q2 FY2026 GDP growth continued on Pg no. 2

Cabinet clears Rs.45,060 cr schemes to boost exporters amid US tariff blow

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved schemes worth Rs.45,060 crore to support exporters, particularly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), grappling with challenges due to the 50 per cent tariff imposed by the United States (US) on several Indian products.

The package includes the much-awaited Export Promotion Mission (EPM), with an outlay of Rs.25,060 crore, and Rs.20,000 crore towards the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE).

Export-oriented industries directly and indirectly employ over 45 million people, and MSMEs contribute nearly 45 per cent of India's total exports. The announcement came a week after the PM held meetings with the heads of at least half a dozen export promotion councils across sectors most affected by the steep, double-digit tariffs by the US.

On Tuesday, US President Donald Trump and Indian officials had indicated that both sides were pretty close to reaching a fair trade deal, suggesting that another round of negotiations might not be required.

The EPM, announced in the FY26 Union Budget with an initial allocation of 22,250 crore for the current financial year, will now continue until FY31 with an expanded outlay. It aims to strengthen India's export competitiveness, particularly for first-time exporters and labour-intensive sectors, such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products.

EPM will bring together key support programmes – the Interest Equalisation Scheme and Market Access Initiative.

The scheme will be implemented through two sub-schemes -- Nirayat Protsahan, with an allocation of Rs.10,401

The CGSE will include collateral-free support to exporters as additional working capital of up to 20 per cent of their sanctioned export limits. The programme would provide

NTPC to foray into coal gasification with 5-10 MT annual production goal

State-owned power generator NTPC Ltd is planning a foray into coal gasification, aiming to produce a minimum 5-10 million tonnes (MT) of the synthetic gas annually in three-four years, a top company official said.

The cost of gas production is expected to be around \$10-\$12 per million British thermal units (mmBtu).

The official said the gas price determined by NTPC would be competitive with the delivered cost of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and the company sees no challenge in securing buyers.

The gas produced would be either sold in the domestic market or utilised by the firm's own plants. NTPC would use its own coal to produce synthetic gas.

It would also explore

bringing on board a technology consultant for the coal gasification initiative and is planning to float tenders this financial year itself.

To promote coal gasification projects, the government has approved financial incentives of 78,500 crore with the aim to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030.

NTPC recently made a debut into the nuclear power generation domain.

In September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for a 2,800 Mw nuclear power project in Banswara, Rajasthan, to be set up jointly by NTPC and Nuclear Power Corporation (NPCIL).

The project houses four PHWRs of 700 Mw capacity each.

India aims to achieve 100 Gw of nuclear power generation capacity by 2047 compared to the current 8 Gw.

Nuclear energy projects

As NTPC targets at least 30 gigawatt (Gw) nuclear energy capacity by 2047, it is looking for land in 16 states for setting up plants, the official said.

This includes Madhya

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TCS loses valuation premium to Infosys, HCLTech after 14 years on top

end of December 2021.

After being the industry bellwether for more than a decade, information-technology (IT) major Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS') equity valuation has slipped below that of peers such as Infosys and HCLTech.

TCS is trading at a trailing price-to-earnings (P/E) multiple of 22.5X, lower than Infosys' 22.9X and HCLTech's 25.5X.

This is a reversal for the country's largest IT services exporter, which led industry valuation for nearly 14 years—between 2011 and early this year. In those years, TCS traded, on average, at a trailing P/E multiple of 25.5X, at nearly a 15 per cent premium to the industry average of 22.2X.

TCS' average valuation during 2011 and early 2025 was 18 per cent and 38 per cent higher than Infosys' and HCLTech's average P/E multiple in the period.

There has also been a sharp decline in the Tata group firm's heft in the industry and it only accounts for around 43.4 per cent of the combined market capitalisation of the top five IT services companies that are part of the Nifty 50 index, down from a high of 55 per cent in March 2020.

TCS on Wednesday closed with a market capitalisation of around Rs.11.3 trillion compared to the top five IT companies' combined market capitalisation of around Rs.26.1 trillion.

The IT services industry has suffered a valuation derating (or contraction) after a sharp rise following the pandemic, but TCS has been the biggest loser in the post-pandemic selloff. TCS has lost nearly 27 per cent of its market capitalisation from its life-time high reached in September last year.

In comparison, the combined market capitalisation of the big five is down around 20 per cent from its highs at the end of December. This has resulted in a much sharper decline in TCS' valuation metrics such as the trailing P/E multiple and the price to book value ratio compared to its peers.

TCS' market capitalisation was a record high of around Rs.15.44 trillion at the end of September last year.

For comparison, the big five's combined market capitalisation has declined to around Rs.26.1 trillion on Wednesday from Rs.32.67 trillion at the end of December last year.

This analysis is based on the company's market capitalisation at the end every quarter to align with companies' quarterly result cycle.

As a result, TCS' trailing P/E multiple has now declined to 22.5X from 32.6X at the end of September last year and a record high of 38.2X at the end of September 2021. For comparison, the average P/E multiple of the big five has shrunk to 23X from 30.4X at the end of September last year and a record high of 35.5X at the

final official print before the committee meets again from December 3 to December 5. After slashing the key interest rate by 100 basis points (bps) to 5.50 per cent between February and June, the MPC had chosen to keep interest rates unchanged for the second successive time at its last bi-monthly review which concluded on October 1.

October's price rise pace of near zero per cent is far below the central bank's inflation tolerance range of 2 per cent to 6 per cent. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected that inflation would average 1.8 per cent between October and December 2025 (Q3FY26), the same level it had projected for Q2. CPI inflation had averaged 1.74 per cent in Q2.

The RBI had lowered its inflation projection for FY26 to 2.6 per cent, with Q4 expected to clock a higher average of 4 per cent, but economists expect there may a downward revision in the MPC's inflation projections as well.

Along with the first full month impact of the GST rate cuts effected from September 2022, base effects played a crucial role in moderating retail price rise, as inflation was at a high 6.21 per cent in October 2024 when food prices had surged 10.87 per cent.

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Statement of Audited Financial Result for the Quarter and Half Year ended on 30th September, 2025

(Rs. In Lakhs except earning per share)

Sr. No	PARTICULARS	Quarter Ended 30/09/2025 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30/06/2025 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30/09/2024 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30/09/2025 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30/09/2024 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31/03/2025 (Audited)
I	Income:						
[a]	Revenue From Operations	1787.50	2227.97	2116.76	4015.47	3922.83	7265.30
[b]	Other Income	21.80	2.12	15.70	23.92	19.56	40.66
II	Total Income(a+b)	1809.30	2230.09	2132.46	4039.39	3942.39	7305.96
III	Expenses:						
[a]	Cost of materials consumed	1132.56	1478.30	1545.51	2610.86	2831.52	5099.53
[b]	Purchase of Stock in Trade	49.24	140.49	162.96	189.73	242.30	407.65
[c]	Changes in inventories of finished goods, work in progress and stock in trade	122.28	34.77	(58.24)	157.05	(93.99)	(70.48)
[d]	Employees benefits expenses	91.75	92.07	90.10	183.82	183.34	365.20
[e]	Finance costs	36.98	33.59	39.69	70.57	75.04	153.35
[f]	Depreciation and amortisation expenses	52.69	51.89	50.55	104.58	99.26	202.32
[g]	Other expenses	270.45	290.33	240.58	560.78	478.31	944.24
IV	Total Expenses	1755.95	2121.44	2071.15	3877.39	3815.78	7101.81
V	Profit / (Loss) before exceptional items and tax(II-IV)	53.35	108.65	61.31	162.00	126.61	204.15
VI	Exceptional Items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
VII	Profit before tax (V-VI)	53.35	108.65	61.31	162.00	126.61	204.15
VIII	Tax Expenses:						
(a)	Current Tax	14.25	44.75	8.99	59.00	8.99	8.99
(b)	Deferred Tax	3.01	(15.01)	7.58	(12.00)	25.51	36.59
(c)	Tax in respect of earlier years	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
IX	Total Tax Expenses	17.26	29.74	16.57	47.00	34.50	45.58
X	Profit / (Loss) for the Period from Continuing operations (VII-VIII)	36.09	78.91	44.74	115.00	92.11	158.57
XI	Profit / (Loss) for the Period from Discontinuing operations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
XII	Tax expenses of Discontinuing operations	0.00					

