

Fiscal Deficit Hits 36.5% in H1 on Capex Push

FIGURE WATCH Capex rises 40%; total spending up 9.1% to ₹23.03 lakh crore as govt keeps revenue spending in check

Our Bureau
New Delhi: The Centre's fiscal deficit in the first half of 2025 hit 36.5% of the annual target, a year before, thanks to higher capital spending and lower net tax revenue. The deficit was 36.5% of the full-year target which had hit 38.1% of the full-year target until August.

Last month, economic affairs secretary Anurag Thakur had expressed confidence that the Centre would meet its target of containing the deficit.

However, in September alone, the data showed a fiscal surplus of ₹25,699 crore, against a deficit of ₹8,944 crore a year ago. This led to an improvement in the deficit which had hit 38.1% of the full-year target until August.

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Money Matters

(Figures as % of annual target)

	2024-25	2025-26
Fiscal deficit	33.4	36.5
Total spending	43.8	45.5
Capex	37.3	51.6
Revenue spending	45.7	43.7
Net tax revenue	49	42.3
Non-tax revenue	65.5	75.9
Total receipts (non-debt)	51	49.5

Source: CGA

The government, however, kept a lid on revenue spending—total spending just 1.5% to ₹17.20 lakh crore—so that the fiscal balance in (times of a contraction in net tax mop-up. Total spending, consequently, rose 9.1% to ₹23.03 lakh crore in the first half of this fiscal from a year before to ₹22.29 lakh crore. However, the contraction in net tax revenue narrowed from 7.3% until August, thanks to ₹1.75 lakh crore in net tax revenue in September.

The drop in net tax revenue was driven by a subdued 2.6% rise in gross tax revenues and sharp 16% increase in resource devolution to states. "With an asking growth rate of over 2% in H1 2025 to meet the 7% target, we are under pressure that taxes will underperform the budgeted target," said ICAI chief economist Aditya Bhatnagar. However, Bhatnagar does not see a "material" slip in the fiscal deficit relative to the target of 36.5% of GDP, expecting the typical trend of expenditure exceeding more than budgeted net tax revenue to absorb any shortfall in tax revenues. The data showed non-tax revenue jumped 33.5% to ₹6.67 lakh crore in the first half of this fiscal from ₹4.96 lakh crore by the central bank. Total receipts increased by 2.4% to ₹45.5 lakh crore.

Subdued retail and wholesale inflation are impacting the pace of growth in the tax collection and the volume of revenue. "The fiscal deficit will continue to be a concern," said ICAI director general and former ICAI president Parag Jain. "Everything hinges on how the GST rate of inflation continues to be managed in September alone, while capital spending rose almost 31% in September to ₹1.49 lakh crore, revenue expenditure dropped 4.5% to ₹2.76 lakh crore. Overall receipts rose 6.5% in September to ₹41.88 lakh crore.

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Industry Pushes for Long-term Maritime Infra Financing Options

Ship owners flag credit hurdles; port developers seek 30-50 year loans

Tweesh Mishra
New Delhi: Domestic shippers, long-term financing of ports and shipping assets need to evolve for the sector to grow in the country, according to industry representatives.

Speaking at the sidelines of the India Maritime Week 2025, ship owners raised concerns about the reluctance of banks to lend for their purchases while port infrastructure developers called for 30-50 year debt instruments for appropriately financing infrastructure.

"There are no viable long-term financing options readily available for port infrastructure development," the finance head of a large private infrastructure developer, told ET on condition of anonymity.

"Even infrastructure bonds tend to mature in 10 years," the official said, adding that loans of high interest rates are the only option in most cases. Maritime India Vision 2030 envisages ₹3.5 lakh crore of investments across shipping and inland waterways, and ₹1.5 lakh crore for port infrastructure.

To address the industry's concerns, the Centre has launched a ₹25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund (MDRF) to support the shipping and shipyard development.

"National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) is likely to be roped in for operationalising the MDRF," a senior government official said, adding guidelines are likely to be issued in the coming months.

NBFID was set up in April 2021 as a development finance institution (DFI). It is tasked with supporting development of long-term infrastructure financing and related matters in the country. Besides MDRF, more government-backed financing institutions are being set up for port infrastructure development. Sugarcane Finance Corporation (SMFC) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) have signed an agreement to raise ₹500 crore over the next decade to eligible public and private projects under the Sugarcane programme. This aims to enhance port development, reduce logistics costs, and boost India's maritime competitiveness.

Hudco, a Navratna, has also signed for monetisation of underutilised (Mou) assets with major port authorities to finance projects in India's port infrastructure.

CII Budget Wish List Tax Reforms Must Seek to Simplify, Stabilise & Digitise

Our Bureau
New Delhi: India needs to move towards principle-based, technology-enabled, and trust-anchored tax system, which is simple, stable, and digital, and digitalisation of tax administration is becoming a development economy by 2047.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said.

The industry body has submitted its set of tax reform suggestions for the next union budget for 2027, covering direct and indirect taxes, were submitted to the revenue secretary Anurag Thakur.

It has called for time-bound dispute resolution, rationalised tax deduction at source (TDS) regime, and digital economic transactions. "Simplification is not a concession; it is an investment in governance efficiency and when rules are clear and systems are digital, compliance becomes automatic and disputes become exceptional," CII director general Chandrasekhar Banerjee said.

CII expressed deep appreciation for the strong reform momentum created by the government in recent years, which led to more predictable, technology-enabled, and growth-oriented tax environment.

"The next stage of reform must ensure that taxation not only raises revenue efficiently but also acts as a catalyst for investment, innovation and competitiveness," Banerjee said.

The budget 2025 has truly modern, transparent and globally benchmarked tax regime. "He cited the example of GST 2.0 reform, saying the buoyancy in revenues and the ease of the fiscal consolidation path have demonstrated that India has the potential to progress economically together."

Talking of specific demands, CII said India's tax administration

must now shift from being dispute-driven to being dispute-preventive, with over 500,000 pending pending before courts, involving almost ₹18 lakh crore disputed demand.

CII recommended that all high-demand cases above ₹10 crore be fast-tracked for resolution within one year through multiple virtual hearings and other CDDT monitoring.

"Parallel bench proceedings should remain suspended until the main appeal is resolved, and final orders should be shared for actual verification before finalisation," the director said. It also sought the revival of the Authority for Advance Rulings, as an independent, quasi-judicial body headed by retired high court judges, empowered to deliver binding rulings within six months and open to applications from industry associations for sector-wide clarity.

Modernisation of customs, stronger validity for import rulings, and complete digitalisation of clearance systems were also its major indirect tax proposals.

CII also proposed a phased rationalisation of paper-based customs by 2027. "If we move more towards a digital and predictable as well as risk and fair, we will not only raise revenues more efficiently but also build the foundation of an economy that inspires confidence—both at home and abroad," Banerjee said.

Import Curbs on Stainless Steel Relaxed Till Dec 31

New Delhi: The government has relaxed import restrictions on stainless steel, allowing the sale of certain products made from BIS non-compliant steel till December 31. This relaxation has been extended due to inadequate domestic production of these grades.

The ministry has assured that stainless steel importers have made advance payments against the future orders, and the import duty revenue order will not disrupt their production.

But domestic stainless steel manufacturers have in a recent intervention to the steel ministry expressed concern about the exemption since importers are entering the market and also impact the ability to recover applied interest.

"The government should have consistent policy. If they keep granting exemption, we won't be able to recover investment," said a senior industry official who is also a member of the Indian steel industry association. "The government should have consistent policy. If they keep granting exemption, we won't be able to recover investment," said a senior industry official who is also a member of the Indian steel industry association.

The domestic stainless steel industry has also flagged to the ministry the continuing impact of these exemptions beyond their expiry date. "Even though the order expires on December 31, enough steel will be imported till then to last till June," added a person aware of the developments. Further, the exemption order allows steel mills outside India to continue using non-BIS compliant input materials to make products which will be exported to India, while "we will have to continue adhering to BIS," added the person.

The Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) has also stated that the exemption order will continue to impact the market. "Imports should be permitted only when the required products are unavailable within the country," ISSDA president Rajamani Krishnamurti said.

Textiles, Gems and Marine Exports to Non-US Mkts Up

PTI
New Delhi: India's exports of textiles, gems and jewellery and marine products recorded healthy growth in several non-US markets during January-September 2025, reflecting a rebound in demand from the country's outbound shipments, according to the commerce ministry data.

Exports from these sectors in destinations such as the UAE, Vietnam, Belgium, and South Africa recorded significant increases, driven by rising demand across Asia, Europe, and West Asia. The data showed that India's marine exports during January-September rose 15.8% year-on-year to \$1.83 billion, driven primarily by surging demand in several non-US destinations.

While the US continues to remain the top individual destination (\$1.1 billion), the

sharpest expansions have been seen in Belgium (100.4%), Thailand (61.4%), and a growing diversification of India's exports to emerging markets within Asia and Europe.

Titagarh Rail Bags ₹2,481 cr Mumbai Metro Contract

New Delhi: Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) has bagged a ₹2,481 crore contract for the design, manufacture, and supply of 132 Metro coaches, along with signalling for 32.9 km and telephon systems across 10 stations of the Mumbai Metro Lines. An official statement said the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority

(MMRDA) has awarded this tender. The contract covers both Phase 1 (Kandivli-Banarshi-Keshli-Dhankar) and Phase 2 (Dhankar-Naka-Banarshi-Kalyan APSC) of the Mumbai Metro Line 5 project. This is Titagarh's second major contract for the Mumbai Metro.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

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Phone: 2271 3000/4000 Fax: 2271 3874 Email: info@bharatpetroleum.in Website: www.bharatpetroleum.in

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Company has fixed Friday, 07th November, 2025 as Record Date to determine the eligibility of the Shareholders to receive an interim dividend of Rs. 7.50 per equity share of face value Rs. 10/- each for the Financial Year ending 2025-26, as declared by the Board of Directors.

The interim dividend will be paid to the eligible shareholders within the stipulated period of 30 days from the date of Board Meeting held on 31.10.2025.

Shareholders may note that the Income Tax Act, 1961, as amended by Finance Act, 2023, mandates that the dividend paid or distributed by the company is taxable in the hands of shareholders. The Company shall therefore be required to deduct tax at source (TDS) at the time of making the payment of dividend. In order to enable the Company to determine the applicable TDS rates, shareholders are requested to submit the relevant documents on or before Monday, 10th November, 2025. The detailed communication regarding TDS on dividend is provided on the link <https://www.bharatpetroleum.in/bharat-petroleum-for/investors/Procedure-Related-to-Investor-Services-requests/Tax-Forms.aspx>

For Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
Sd/-
(K. K. Kishore)
Company Secretary

Date: 31.10.2025
Place: Mumbai

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Emerging Lives. Emerging Naya Bharat.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

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EXTRACT FROM THE STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2025

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
		Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Half Year ended		Year ended		
		30.09.2025	30.06.2025	30.09.2024	30.06.2025	30.06.2024	30.09.2025	30.06.2025	30.09.2024	30.06.2025	30.09.2024	30.09.2025	
1	Total Income from Operations	121,570.00	129,577.89	117,917.43	251,148.79	245,990.23	500,371.25	121,604.70	129,614.69	117,940.79	251,219.99	246,055.14	600,517.48
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax, share of profit/(loss) of Equity Associated Investors, Exceptional and Extraordinary Items)	6,595.55	6,155.50	3,193.61	16,752.05	7,225.65	19,438.26	7,922.56	7,760.97	2,154.70	15,703.53	6,136.22	17,237.97
3	Share of profit/(loss) of Equity Associated Investors	-	-	-	-	-	587.90	1,158.10	853.79	1,746.00	1,035.14	1,322.74	
4	Net Profit for the period before tax including share of profit/(loss) of Equity Associated Investors (After Exceptional and Extraordinary Items)	6,595.55	6,155.50	3,193.61	16,752.05	7,225.65	17,664.33	6,244.55	6,871.69	2,093.67	17,216.28	6,892.57	18,162.30
5	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and Extraordinary Items)	6,442.53	6,123.93	2,937.23	12,566.46	5,412.00	13,276.26	6,191.49	6,830.02	2,257.23	13,030.51	5,138.78	13,336.55
6	Net Profit for the period after tax (After Exceptional and Extraordinary Items) attributable to Owners of the Company	6,442.53	6,123.93	2,937.23	12,566.46	5,412.00	6,191.49	6,830.02	2,257.23	13,030.51	5,138.78	13,336.55	
7	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	6,424.97	6,417.26	2,876.94	12,842.23	6,055.90	12,907.79	6,552.31	6,144.50	2,876.42	14,696.61	5,861.04	12,374.94
8	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)) attributable to Owners of the Company	6,424.97	6,417.26	2,876.94	12,842.23	6,055.90	6,552.31	6,144.50	2,876.42	14,696.61	5,861.04	12,374.94	
9	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value ₹10/- each)	4,272.58	4,272.58	4,272.58	4,272.58	4,272.58	4,272.58	4,272.58	4,272.58	4,272.58	4,272.58	4,272.58	
10	Other Equity (including revaluation reserve)	-	-	-	-	-	76,587.51	-	-	-	-	-	
11	Securities Premium Account	4,493.27	4,493.27	4,493.27	4,493.27	4,493.27	4,493.27	4,493.27	4,493.27	4,493.27	4,493.27	4,493.27	
12	Net worth (Face value Capital + Other Equity (including revaluation reserve))	91,670.36	67,377.35	76,244.49	91,670.36	76,244.49	80,950.09	93,935.44	80,516.81	77,038.02	93,935.44	77,106.82	81,394.06
13	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	12,261.86	10,708.95	21,528.94	12,261.86	21,528.94	23,277.72	43,072.27	39,451.77	49,188.52	43,072.27	49,188.52	
15	Debt Equity Ratio	0.13	0.12	0.28	0.13	0.28	0.29	0.46	0.44	0.54	0.46	0.63	
16	Earnings Per Share of ₹10/- each (Basic Earnings per share) (BEPAS)	15.08	14.33	5.61	29.41	12.67	31.07	14.49	16.01	5.96	39.50	12.03	31.21
17	Earnings Per Share of ₹10/- each (Diluted Earnings per share) (DEPAS)	15.08	14.33	5.61	29.41	12.67	31.07	14.49	16.01	5.96	39.50	12.03	31.21
18	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
19	Debiture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
20	Debt Service Coverage Ratio* (Times) (Not Annualised)	3.49	1.70	14.01	2.31	15.53	4.61	3.93	1.79	1.30	2.24	1.89	
21	Interest Service Coverage Ratio* (Times) (Not Annualised)	42.24	40.22	17.21	45.37	19.29	20.77	16.03	18.73	7.10	17.31	7.80	

* excluding impact of interest on lease liability and depreciation on ROU Asset

Notes:
a) The above Unaudited Results of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited for the Quarter and Half Year ended 30th September 2025 are approved by the Board of Directors held on 31st October 2025.
b) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly and Half Year ended Unaudited Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and Half Year ended Unaudited Financial Results are available on the Company's Website (<https://www.bharatpetroleum.in>) and Stock Exchange Websites (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and (<https://www.nseindia.com>).
c) The Board at its meeting held on 31st October 2025 has declared interim dividend of ₹7.50/- per Equity Share (Face Value: ₹10/- per equity share).
d) For the other items referred in regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s) (BSE and NSE) and can be accessed on the Stock Exchange Websites (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Place: Mumbai
Date: 31st October 2025

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Emerging Lives. Emerging Naya Bharat.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
VRK Gupta
Director (Finance), Whole Time Director
DIN: 0186847

