



# The Economy Observer

# **General govt. capex contracts 12.7% in 1HFY25**

High chances that the govt. may undershoot its FY25 capex target

- The Government of India (GoI) continued to focus on improving the quality of expenditure by raising its total capital spending (including loans & advances, L&As) by 17.1% YoY to INR11.1t in FY25BE. The spending surged 3.3x in just five years from INR3.4t in FY20. Excluding L&As, the Center's capital expenditure (capex) has been budgeted at INR9.2t in FY25BE (Exhibit 1). Based on the unaudited provisional data, The Center's capex declined 13.5% YoY in 1HFY25, achieving only 39.1% of BEs in 1HFY25, compared to 50% each in the last two years and the lowest during the corresponding period in the past decade (except 1HFY21, Exhibit 2).
- This, however, was clearly a story of two halves capex fell more than a third in 1QFY25, while it increased 14.6% YoY in 2QFY25 (Exhibit 3). Interestingly though, it grew only in Apr'24 and Jul'24, while declining in four of the last six months. One of the reasons behind slower capex in 1H, thus, could be general elections (which took place in Apr-Jun this year). In any case, it means that the Center's capex has to grow by 50% YoY in 2HFY25, following 22% YoY in 2HFY24 (Exhibit 4). This is not impossible but certainly a tall task since the Center's capex growth was < 25% in the last five years (barring FY22, when it grew 57%) and it averaged ~17% in the last ten years and 29% in the last four years. Therefore, we believe that the Center's actual capex this year could be only ~92-95% of BE (INR8.5-8.7t), undershooting the target by INR500-700b.
- It is no surprise that such contraction is visible in defense, roads & railways, since they account for 75-80% of the Center's capex. Defense capex was down 15.2% YoY and was only 31% of BEs in 1HFY25, compared to a growth of 6.2% YoY and an achievement of 39% of BEs in 1HFY24. Capex in railways and roads also dropped 4.8% and 10.1% YoY in 1HFY25, respectively, and were lower at 50-55% of BEs vs. ~60% each in 1HFY24 (Exhibits 5 and 6).
- At the same time, capital spending of all states has also more than doubled to INR10.1t in FY25BE from INR4.6t in FY20.
  Nevertheless, unlike the GoI, which usually meets its budget estimates (BEs), states' actual capital spending was only 83% of BEs over the past decade. Therefore, states' targets must be taken with a big pinch of salt (Exhibits 7 and 8).
- Excluding loans and advances (L&As), capital expenditure (capex) of all states was budgeted at INR9.2t in FY25BE.

  Assuming that states achieve 85% of BEs in FY25 (last 5- or 10-year average was 77-78%), it implies a target of INR7.8t and muted growth of just 3.7% YoY this year (Exhibit 9).
- Based on the provisional/supplementary data of 18 states<sup>1</sup>, all states' capex is estimated to have fallen 11.5% YoY in 1HFY25, reaching 26.7% of BEs, lower than 31.8% in 1HFY24, but in line with 26-27% achieved during the corresponding period in the past decade (*Exhibit 10*).
- States' capex declined in four of the six months in 1HFY25; it picked up in Jul'24 and Aug'24 but contracted again in Sep'24. Consequently, the contraction was modest in 2QFY25 vs. 1QFY25. Our estimates suggest that states' capex dipped 20.8% YoY in 1QFY25, followed by a decline of 5.7% YoY in 2Q (Exhibits 11 and 12).
- An analysis of individual states suggests that nine out of 18 states witnessed a reduction in capex in 1HFY25 vs. four in 1HFY24 (Exhibit 13). Further, as many as seven states have achieved less than a quarter of its annual targets vs. five in 1HFY24 (Exhibit 14).
- Overall, the total capex of the general government (GG, Center + states) declined 12.7% YoY in 1HFY25, following a CAGR of 25% during the corresponding period in the last four years (Exhibit 15). Fiscal capex, thus, was only 32.9% of BEs in 1HFY25, compared to an average of ~39% in the last two years (Exhibit 16) and lower than the past decade's average.
- It is very likely that fiscal capex will pick up in 2HFY25; however, elections cannot explain such weak growth in 1HFY25, especially for states. Assuming ~40% YoY growth in the Center's capex and ~20% YoY growth in states' capex in 2HFY25, combined capex could grow about 30% YoY in 2HFY25, following 17% growth in 2HFY24. It would then be 90% of BEs in FY25, similar to that in the last two years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>These states account for 85-90% of all states' Budget. The states/UT covered in this report are Andhra Pradesh (AP), Assam (AS), Bihar (BH), Chhattisgarh (CT), Haryana (HR), Himachal Pradesh (HP), Jammu & Kashmir (JK), Karnataka (KA), Kerala (KL), Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra (MH), Punjab (PB), Rajasthan (RJ), Tamil Nadu (TN), Telangana (TS), Uttarakhand (UK), Uttar Pradesh (UP), and West Bengal (WB).



Exhibit 1: Total capital spending of the Central Govt. budgeted at INR11.1t in FY25....

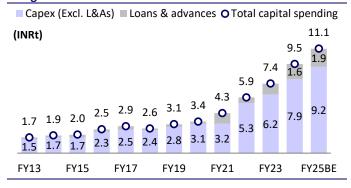


Exhibit 3: Center's capex increased 14.6% YoY in 2QFY25, following a contraction of 35.4% YoY in 1QFY25...

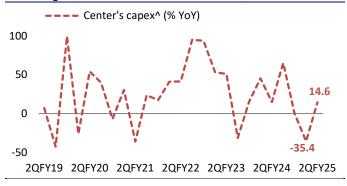


Exhibit 5: Defense and roads capex declined 15.2% and 10.1% in 1HFY25...

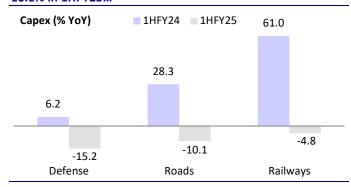
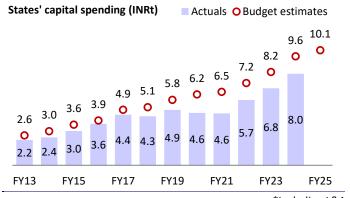


Exhibit 7: States' capital spending\* budgeted at INR10.1t in FY25BE vs. an actual of INR4.6t in FY20



\*Including L&As

Exhibit 2: ...but it declined 13.5% YoY in 1HFY25, reaching only 39.1% of FY25BE

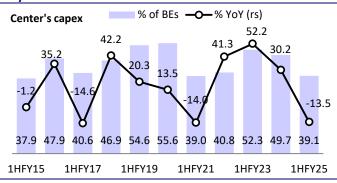


Exhibit 4: ...which implies that it must grow at 50.5% YoY in 2HFY25 to achieve the full-year target

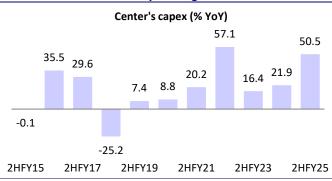
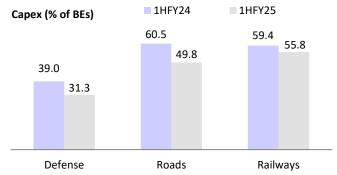


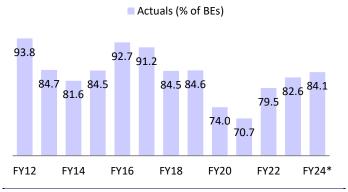
Exhibit 6: ....achieving only 31% and 50% of BEs in 1HFY25, respectively



Source: Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), CEIC, MOFSL

^Capital expenditure excluding loans & advances

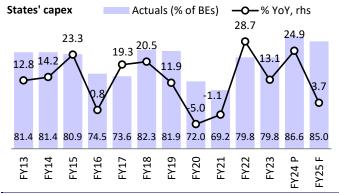
Exhibit 8: States' actual capital spending was only 83% of BEs over the past decade



FY24 data based on provisional/supplementary monthly data Source: State budget documents, CAG, MOFSL

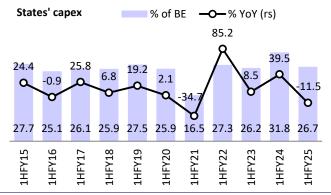
# EC@SC@PE

Exhibit 9: States' capex# to grow only 3.7% in FY25, assuming the same achieves 85% of BEs



#Excluding L&As

Exhibit 10: States' capex contracted 11.5% in 1HFY25, achieving only 26.7% of BEs



FY25F: Assuming states achieve 85% of FY25BEs Source: State budget documents, CAG, MOFSL

Exhibit 11: States' capex fell in four of the six months in 1HFY25...

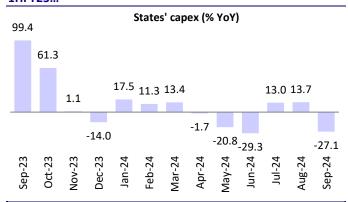
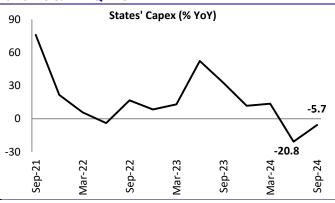
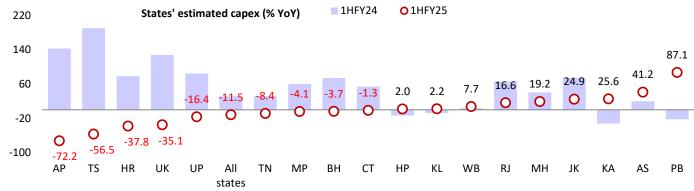


Exhibit 12: ...and contracted 5.7% YoY in 2QFY25, following a fall of 20.8% in 1QFY25



Source: State budget documents, CAG, MOFSL, ^Excluding L&As

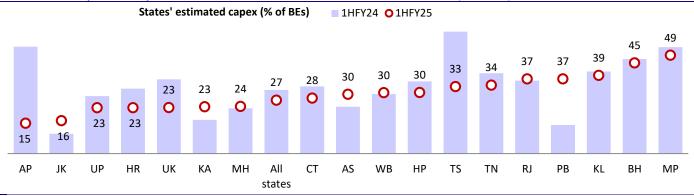
Exhibit 13: Comparison of provisional fiscal deficit of states in 1HFY24 and 1HFY25 (% YoY)



Source: State budget documents, CAG, CEIC, MOFSL



Exhibit 14: Comparison of provisional fiscal deficit of states in 1HFY24 and 1HFY25 (% of BEs)



Source: State budget documents, CAG, CEIC, MOFSL

Exhibit 15: GG capex declined 12.7% YoY in 1HFY25 vs. a growth of 33.8% in 1HFY24...

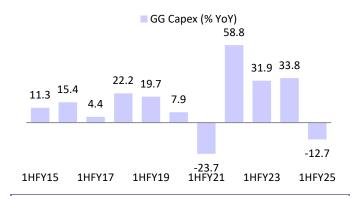
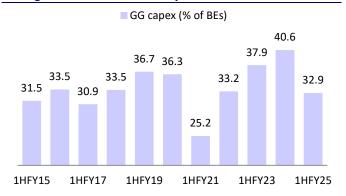


Exhibit 16: ...achieving only 32.9% of BEs in 1HFY25 vs. an average of 39% in the last two years



Source: State budget documents, CAG, MOFSL, ^Excluding L&As

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