



FORTNIGHTLY MACRO REVIEW

17th August 2026

BONANZA WEALTH

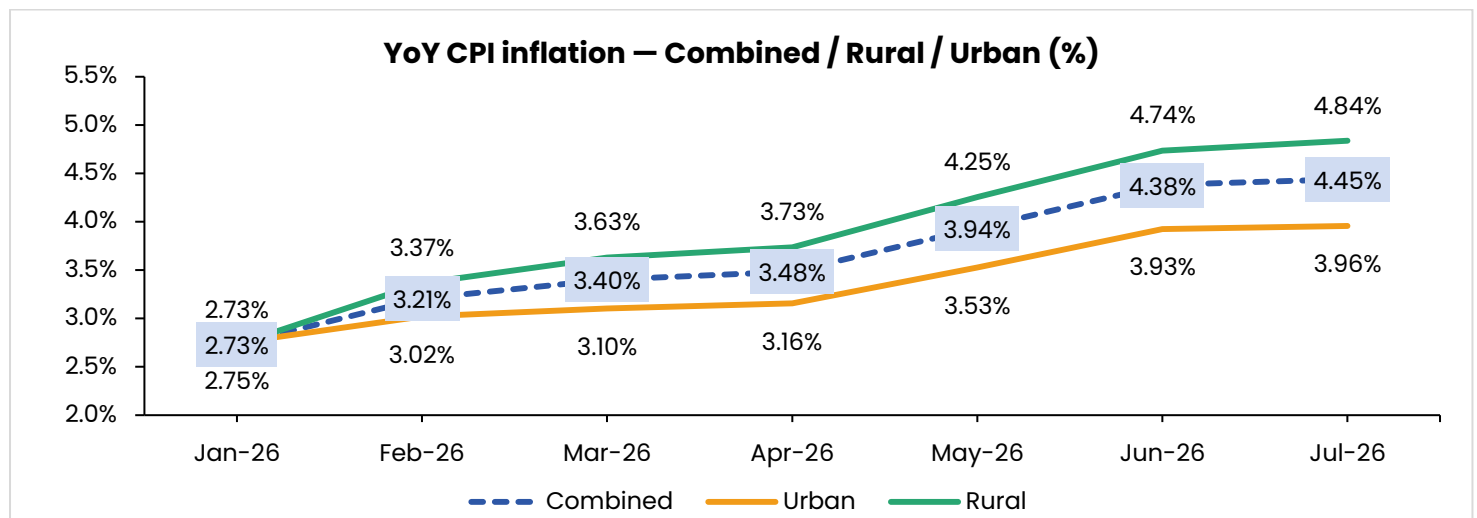


CPI INFLATION

Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation increased to 4.45% (Provisional) in Jul-26 from 4.38% (Final) in Jun-26. This marks the second consecutive month that headline inflation has remained above the RBI's medium-term target of 4.00%. The increase was largely driven by higher food prices with food inflation rising to 5.52% in Jul-26 from 5.32% in Jun-26. The corresponding rural and urban inflation rates stood at 4.84% and 3.96%, respectively.

Housing inflation stood at 2.22% (Provisional) in Jul-26 compared with 2.10% in Jun-26. Across the CPI basket, inflation remained elevated in Food & Beverages at 5.24%, Transport at 4.43% and Restaurants & Accommodation Services at 7.72%. Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods & Services also remained elevated at 14.77%.

High inflation was observed in Silver Jewellery (109.84%), Ginger (83.62%), Garlic (35.36%), Gold/Diamond/Platinum Jewellery (32.98%) and Onion (22.54%). Low inflation was recorded in Potato (-16.56%), Motor Car & Jeep (-6.72%), Lady's Finger (-5.52%), Peas (-5.27%) and Tomato (-4.59%).



Among states with a population of more than 50 lakhs as per Census 2011, highest inflation was recorded in Telangana at 6.32% followed by Andhra Pradesh at 5.72%. Tamil Nadu came in third by recording 5.44%. Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka recorded 4.91% and 4.89% respectively.

Core inflation remained steady at 4.16%. Core inflation (excluding precious metals) stayed mild at 3.05%. This suggests that the recent inflationary pressures are largely supply-driven, offering some comfort to the RBI's MPC.

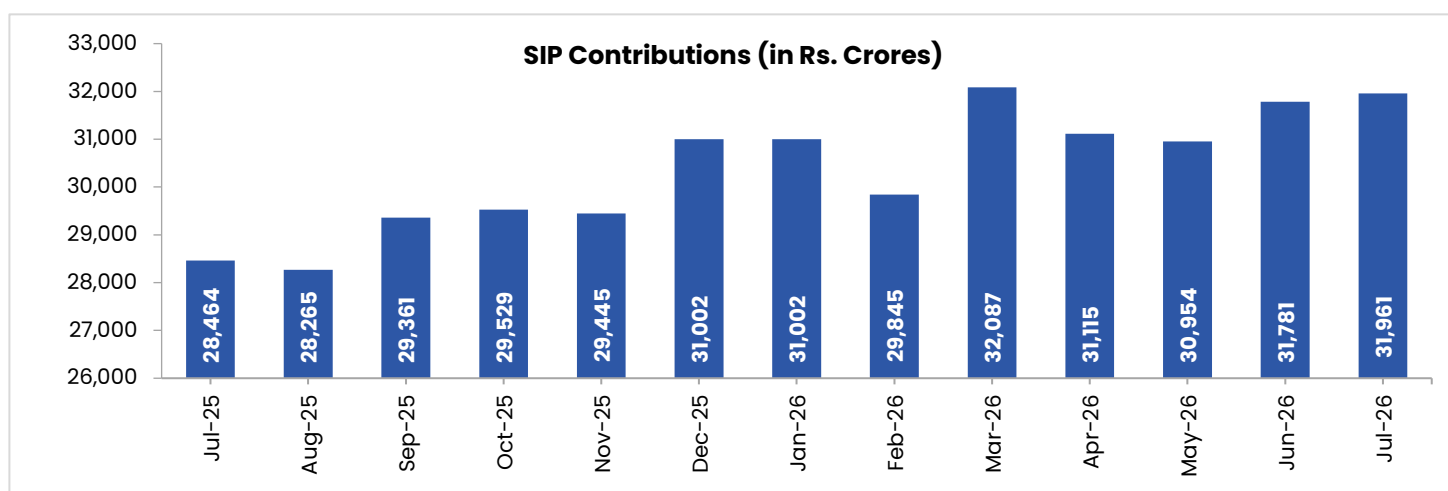
Overall, the inflation outlook remains exposed to external and weather-related risks. Uncertainty around the Strait of Hormuz continues to keep global energy prices volatile. On the domestic front, below-normal rainfall remains a key concern despite an improvement in sowing activity. Going ahead, edible oils remain a key area of concern as India relies heavily on imports amid elevated global prices. The trajectory of food inflation will largely depend on the distribution of rainfall across regions in the coming months.

RETAIL PARTICIPATION

The Indian mutual fund industry recorded net inflows of Rs. 2.36 lakh crore in Jul-26 as against net outflows of Rs. 52,949 crore in Jun-26. The sharp turnaround was largely driven by strong inflows into debt-oriented schemes.

The inflows into active equity mutual funds moderated by 14.8% MoM to Rs. 24,697 crore in Jul-26 from Rs. 28,973 crore posted in Jun-26. Despite the decline, equity mutual funds continued to attract fresh investments. SIP inflows hit a four-month high of Rs. 31,961 crore during the month in comparison to Rs. 31,781 crore in the previous month. This marks the fifth consecutive month where the SIP inflows have crossed the Rs. 30,000 crore level. The industry's net assets under management (AUM) rose to Rs. 85.76 lakh crore from Rs. 82.22 lakh crore in Jun-26.

Open-ended equity mutual funds maintained a positive streak for the 65th consecutive month. Within the open-ended equity fund category, small-cap funds emerged as the highest inflow category with Rs. 7,768 crore during the month registering a 38.7% MoM rise. This was followed by mid-cap funds which attracted Rs. 6,192 crore with a marginal 1.7% MoM increase. Large-cap funds witnessed net outflows of Rs. 1,322 crore compared to net inflows of Rs. 2,067 crore in the previous month. Flexi-cap funds remained among the bigger recipients of fresh money, although inflows fell by 10.0% MoM to Rs. 5,231 crore in Jun-26 as against Rs. 4,709 crore in Jul-26.



On the other hand, debt funds witnessed a sharp turnaround with net inflows of Rs. 1.88 lakh crore in Jul-26 as against net outflows of Rs. 1.09 lakh crore in Jun-26. Liquid funds accounted for the largest inflows of Rs. 1.19 lakh crore followed by Overnight funds with Rs. 40,413 crore and Money Market funds with Rs. 21,180 crore, respectively. The turnaround was concentrated heavily in shorter-term categories and was led by strong flows into liquid, overnight and money market funds. Importantly, the recovery was not uniform across debt categories. Corporate bond funds continued to see withdrawals, although outflows narrowed sharply to Rs. 785 crore from Rs. 7,557 crore in Jun-26. Long-duration, dynamic bond, banking and PSU, and gilt funds also remained in negative territory.

Gold ETFs recorded net inflows of Rs. 1,559 crore during the month compared to Rs. 3,443 crore in Jun-26. The latest numbers have remained in positive territory for the second consecutive month after witnessing outflows in May-26.

The mutual fund SIP stoppage ratio fell to 81.9% in Jul-26 from 91.2% in Jun-26. However, it remained higher than the 62.7% recorded in Jul-25. Overall, Jul-26 marked a sharp recovery in mutual fund flows led by debt schemes. Furthermore, steady SIP contributions and continued equity participation indicate that retail participation remains healthy.

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