

● V ANANTHA NAGESWARAN, CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER

# 'Nominal GDP in FY26 may grow at 10-10.5%'

While striving for 8% growth on a sustained basis, India should focus as much as possible on domestic drivers of growth given global uncertainties, chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran told Prasanta Sahu in an interview. The governments should be examining whether the use of social media below 16 years should be banned given the adverse impact on the mental health of the youth, he added. Edited excerpts:

You have suggested a host deregulation to unleash the animal spirits. Are we going to see a slew of measures in this direction?

I have given my proposals that are not just applicable to the Union government. My preface also makes it very clear it's applicable to governments across the system. So, who will act on it, when and what, speed, etc. is not for me to determine.

There is a big lag often between policy-making and implementation, which undermines the utility of the policies...

That is one part of the situation. But it's also true that sometimes you may have rules and regulations and laws and practices that were created for a different era, different context, and we could change them also. So, it's not just implementation. It's also a question of looking at whether some of the laws, policies, rules, regulations and practices continue to remain relevant or not, and the unintended consequence that they might have. Sometimes implementation issues arise only if a particular law or rule is in place. If it is not necessary, and can be removed, then the question of implementation does not arise. So, both problems may exist at the same time.

The Survey talks about the need to grow around 8% for a decade or two to achieve Viksit Bharat dreams. By

when do you think India could break into this phase of growth from around 6.5% now and how feasible it is?

I think that's difficult to say because the global environment is unpredictable. It is evolving as we speak. These are not something that is conducive to modelling, basically. So, we cannot be very precise about these things, and we need to take advantage of opportunities as they arise in the external environment, be the investments or trade flows. So right now, we need to focus as much as possible on domestic drivers of growth, and that is what the Survey attempts to do.

What is the nominal GDP growth do you expect for FY26?

Given the projection that we have, I think the nominal GDP growth should be somewhere between 10 and 10.5%.

Given that private investment has been a mixed bag, do you think more areas should be actively promoted under PPP and roll out the next phase of National Monetization Pipeline?

That's a possibility. But private sector capital formation need not necessarily have to wait for that. In fact, private sector investment and capital formation are something they can actually generate themselves, if firms were to relook at their compensation and hiring practices. That, in turn, can generate income growth and demand in the hands of households, which in turn can lead to a need for higher capacity and investment by the private sector.

Given the importance of the mental health of youth on the future of economic growth, do you think the use of social media by children below 16 years like in Australia?

I think it is something that we should be examining and seeing whether that will be necessary step. But I think at the moment, I understand that in some states, schools are already taking that step. But it is also not something that only policy can achieve. We can also be a conscious choice made by schools and parents, etc.

As far as the need to increase wages by corporations in tandem with the rise in their income is concerned, should the government nudge only, or take affirmative action?

I think we have done that in the July budget. We incentivised hiring. It's too early to judge their impact. Whether the government needs to take specifications of carrot and stick to induce them to hire, would be problematic in some sense. I think if the corporate sector sees weak aggregate demand and is able to connect its hiring and compensation practices to the weak aggregate demand, and it will take action themselves.

IT'S NOT JUST (SLOW) IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES, IT IS A QUESTION OF LOOKING AT WHETHER SOME OF THE POLICIES... CONTINUE TO REMAIN RELEVANT OR NOT



# Salary growth is not keeping pace with profit surge: Survey

● Wages need to be indexed to inflation, not profit: India Inc

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO & URVI MALVANIA  
Mumbai, January 31

CORPORATE INDIA IS riding a wave of record-breaking profits, but employees have been left out, the Economic Survey has said. The Survey highlights a widening gap between corporate profits and wages, raising concerns about income distribution, productivity, and long-term economic stability.

Corporate India, however, appears to have a different take. While some said it's been "hyped up" unnecessarily, others like CII President and ITC chairman Sanjiv Puri said, "wages need to be indexed to inflation, not profitability. When inflation goes down, wages don't go down."

Added Nadir Godrej, chairperson, Godrej Industries Group, "Wages will grow slower than the economy, in part, because the demand environment remains challenging and capacity utilisation is not optimal at the moment." He also pointed out that while different sectors will have to look at wage growth and hiring, one has to keep in mind that there are constant attempts at improving productivity with the use of digitalisation and AI. "So, I am not sure that a lot of hiring will happen as a result of the productivity initiatives undertaken by companies," he explained.

Kartik Narayan, CEO, TeamLease Services said that a large part of the corporate tax cuts in 2019, which was expected to go into wage increases, has instead gone into the bottom line of companies. "Just before the pandemic, there was slowdown and this action (tax cuts) was taken."

However, due to the pandemic, government and corporates faced multiple issues. Post that, consumer inflation and lack of growth has stagnated wage growth, as companies continue to tighten their belts and corporate investment has not taken off at the rate it was expected to. These are the reasons due to which wage stagnation has happened," he added.

The Survey said in FY23 as well, corporate profitability saw a strong rise, driven by post-pandemic recovery, increased exports, and improved

**SANJIV PURI, CII PRESIDENT & ITC CHAIRMAN**  
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**NADIR GODREJ, CHAIRPERSON, GODREJ INDUSTRIES**  
Wages will grow slower than the economy, as the demand environment remains a challenge and capacity utilisation is not optimal



**LEFT OUT**  
There are constant attempts at improving productivity using digitalisation and AI, says Godrej

operational efficiencies. However, wage growth remained subdued, reflecting companies' focus on productivity gains and automation rather than expanding payrolls. The pattern continues in FY24, further widening the gap between profits and wages.

"Corporate profitability soared to a 15-year peak in FY24, fuelled by robust growth in financials, energy, and automobiles," the Survey states. The profit-to-GDP ratio of Nifty 500 companies jumped from 2.1% in FY23 to 4.8% in FY24, the highest since FY08. Large corporations, particularly in non-financial sectors, outperformed their smaller peers, solidifying their market dominance.

17% in FY23 - highlighting a sharp focus on cost-cutting over workforce expansion," the survey said.

The Survey pointed out that despite Indian companies achieving a stable Ebitda margin of 22% over the last four years, wage growth has moderated. This uneven growth trajectory raises critical concerns, it said. "Wage stagnation is pronounced, particularly at entry-level IT positions."

"Sustained economic growth hinges on bolstering employment incomes, which directly fuel consumer spending, spurring investment in production capacity," it added. "It is in the enlightened self-interest of the Indian corporate sector, swimming in excess profits, to take its responsibility to create jobs seriously," the Survey noted.

The Survey also highlights a troublesome trend: corporate profits are increasingly concentrated among large firms. "While the labour share of GVA shows a slight uptick, the disproportionate rise in corporate profits—predominantly among large firms—raises concerns about income inequality," it noted.

# Kohli's 1st Ranji knock in 13 yrs lasts 15 balls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, January 31

VIRAT KOHLI'S FIRST Ranji Trophy innings in 13 years lasted all of 15 balls, extending his lean run and fuelling the raging debate over his form.

For the 5,000-odd crowd that assembled here to watch Kohli (6 off 15 balls), it was fun while it lasted but when he had his off-stump uprooted by Railways pacer Himanshu Sangwan in the 28th over of Delhi's first innings, a majority of them took no time to exit the Arun Jaitley Stadium.



The frequent chants of 'RCB, RCB' and 'Kohli, Kohli' dried up as the superstar took the long walk back to the dressing room, giving Railway employee Sangwan the most prized scalp

of his career. Ahead of his first domestic red-ball appearance since November 2012, Kohli had trained with former India coach Sanjay Bangar to iron out

flaws in his batting that crept up on the tour of Australia.

More specifically, it was the ball outside the off-stump that haunted the former India captain on

the two-month long tour Down Under.

Kohli came out to bat to a loud reception following the leg before dismissal of Yash Dhull at about 10.30am local time, which was an hour into day's play.

It was left-arm pacer Rahul Sharma who first got to bowl at the cricketer icon and with a spring in his stride, he bowled a yorker down the leg-side only to realise that he had overstepped.

Considering the batter in front, Rahul went for the ball outside his following ball and it turned out to be another no ball.

## EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Profit after tax jumps 70% YoY to ₹4,876 Crore

Highest ever 3rd quarter EBITDA of ₹11,284 Crore, + 30% YoY

(₹ in Crore except as stated)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2024 (Audited)
1	Revenue from operations	38,526	110,936	34,968	141,793
2	Net Profit for the period (before exceptional items, taxes, non-controlling interests and share in jointly controlled entities and associates)	6,661	18,352	4,105	17,560
3	Net Profit for the period after exceptional items and share in jointly controlled entities and associates (before taxes and non-controlling interests)	6,661	20,220	4,105	20,365
4	Net Profit after taxes, non-controlling interests and share in jointly controlled entities and associates	3,547	11,505	2,013	4,239
5	Total Comprehensive Income after non-controlling interests [Comprising Profit (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	3,537	11,835	2,088	2,360
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of ₹1 each)	391	391	372	372
7	Earnings per share after exceptional items (₹)				
	Basic	9.09	30.07	5.42	11.42
	Diluted	9.02	29.84	5.38	11.33

Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves as at 31 March 2024 was ₹30,350 Crore.

**Notes:**

1 Additional information on standalone financial results is as follows:

(₹ in Crore, except as stated)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	Nine months ended 31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31.03.2024 (Audited)
1	Revenue from operations	18,814	53,204	17,526	69,663
2	Profit before tax	2,337	18,045	3,344	13,735
3	Profit after tax	1,783	16,519	3,084	6,623
4	Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	1,970	16,772	3,045	6,634
5	Securities Premium Account	27,425	27,425	19,009	19,009
6	Net worth (Total Equity)	73,940	73,940	65,371	65,536
7	Outstanding Debt	42,153	42,153	42,494	42,232
8	Debt Equity Ratio (in times)*	0.57	0.57	0.68	0.64
9	Earnings per share after exceptional items - Basic and Diluted (₹)	4.56	43.09	8.29	17.80
10	Capital Redemption Reserve	3,125	3,125	3,125	3,125
11	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (in times)*	1.12	1.54	2.21	1.29
12	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (in times)*	3.07	4.84	3.80	3.12

Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserves as at 31 March 2024 was ₹65,164 Crore.

\*Not annualised except for the year ended 31 March 2024

2 The above results of Vedanta Limited ("the Company") for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2024 have been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Management Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meetings held on 30 January 2025 and 31 January 2025 respectively. The statutory auditors have carried out a limited review on these results and issued an unmodified conclusion.

3 The above is an extract of the detailed format of the financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 and 52, as applicable, of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges, www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.vedantalimited.com. These can also be accessed by scanning the QR code provided.



SCAN TO VIEW THE FULL RESULTS



By the Order of Board  
Arun Misra  
Executive Director  
(Whole-time Director)

ALUMINIUM | ZINC, LEAD & SILVER | IRON, STEEL & FERRO ALLOYS | OIL & GAS | COPPER | NICKEL | POWER | ELECTRONICS

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