



# TRENDS &TIDES

RBI MPC August 2023 maintains repo rate at 6.5%, announces temporary liquidity withdrawal

## RBI maintains hawkish pause as it looks through food price shocks

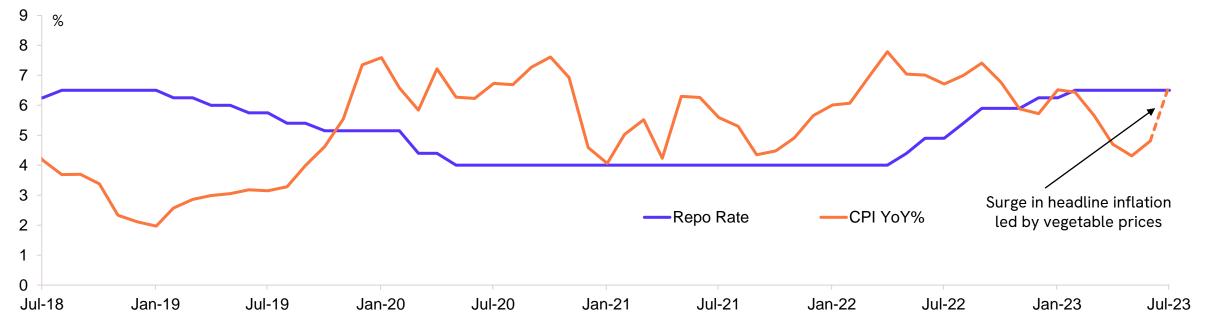
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Remains firmly focused on aligning inflation to the 4% target, as bringing inflation within the tolerance band not enough

Monetary policy stance retained at 'focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target, while supporting growth'

Governor Das reiterates commitment to align CPI inflation to the 4% target on a durable basis. Prepared to look through idiosyncratic shocks (such as the recent rise in vegetable prices), but ready to act if the shocks persist

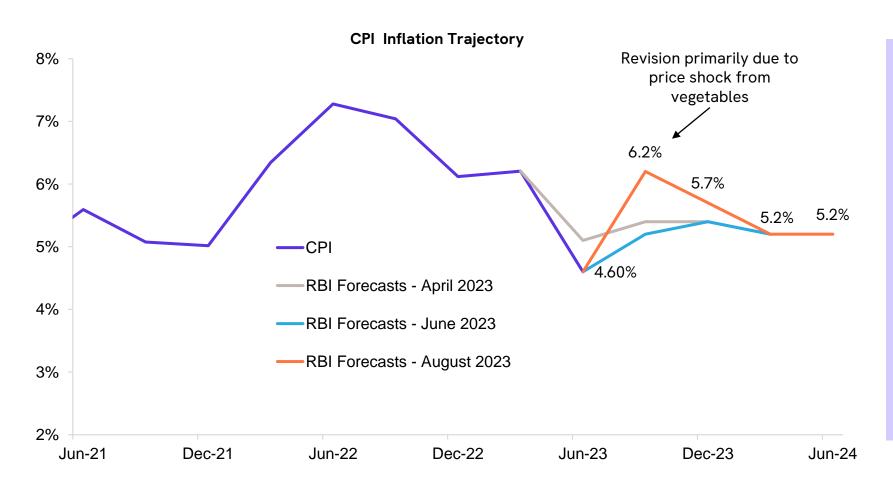
RBI announces an **incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) of 10 per cent** on the increase in scheduled banks' net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) between 19<sup>th</sup> May and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to absorb surplus liquidity in system. I-CRR will be reviewed on or before 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023



## RBI revises inflation trajectory significantly upwards

**asset 360 Z** 

RBI projects average headline inflation of 5.4% YoY in FY24, up from 5.1% YoY in the last policy



#### **RBI** inflation outlook:

Spike in vegetable prices, led by tomatoes, would exert sizeable upward pressure on the near-term headline inflation trajectory. Vegetable prices, however, are likely to correct with fresh market arrivals

Significant improvement in the progress of monsoon and kharif sowing in July, but uneven rainfall distribution warrants careful monitoring

Manufacturing, services and infrastructure firms expect input costs to ease but output prices to harden

Upside risks from the impact of skewed monsoon, a possible El Niño event and upward pressures on global food prices due to geopolitical hostilities

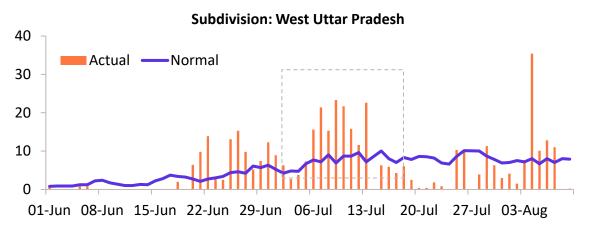
Source: MOSPI, RBI, 360 ONE Asset Research

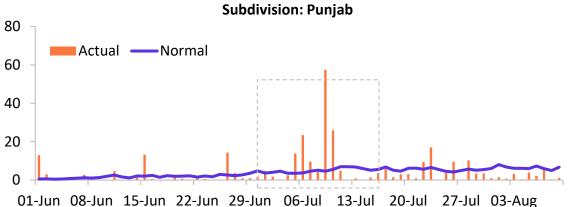
## Temporal and spatial distribution of monsoon has been uneven

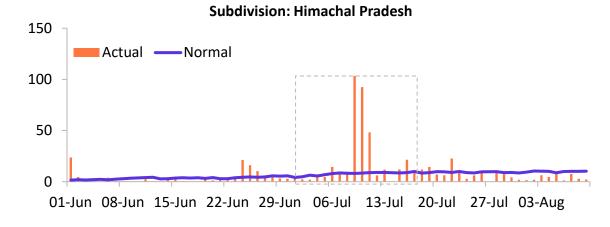
**360 Z** 

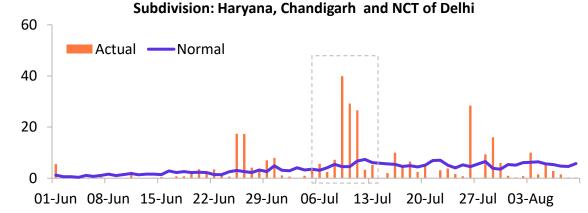
Intense and concentrated rainfall in Northern India has resulted in the flooding of agricultural fields

#### Daily Average Rainfall









Source: CMIE, IMD, 360 ONE Asset Research

## RBI retains FY24 GDP growth forecast at 6.5% YoY



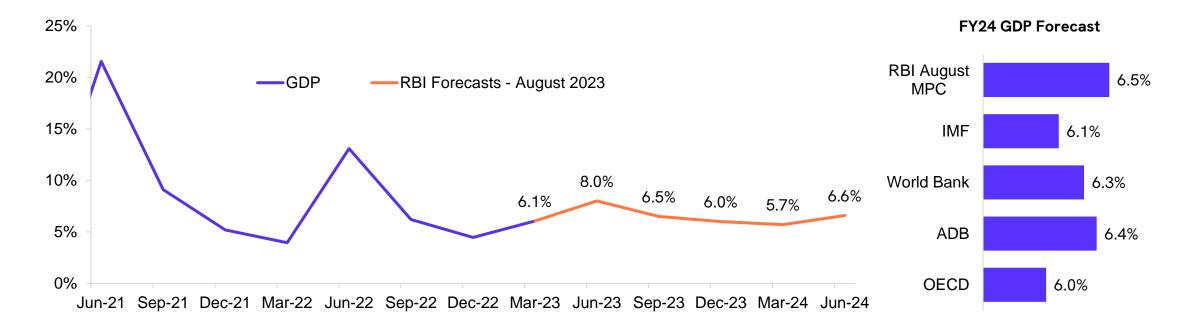
Economic activity holding up well, supported by domestic demand despite drag from weak external demand

#### **RBI** growth outlook:

Recovery in kharif sowing and rural incomes, the buoyancy in services and consumer optimism should support household consumption

Healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates, supply chain normalization, business optimism and robust government capital expenditure are favorable for a renewal of the capex cycle which is showing signs of getting broad-based

Headwinds from weak global demand, volatility in global financial markets, geopolitical tensions and geoeconomic fragmentation pose risks to the outlook



Source: MOSPI, RBI, CMIE, 360 ONE Asset Research

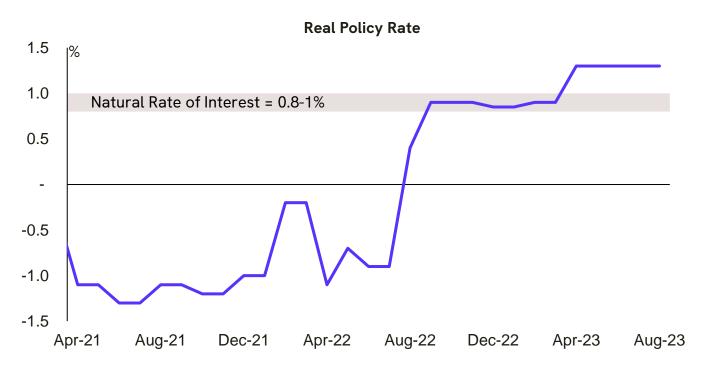
## Outlook: RBI likely to maintain the reporate at current levels in 2023

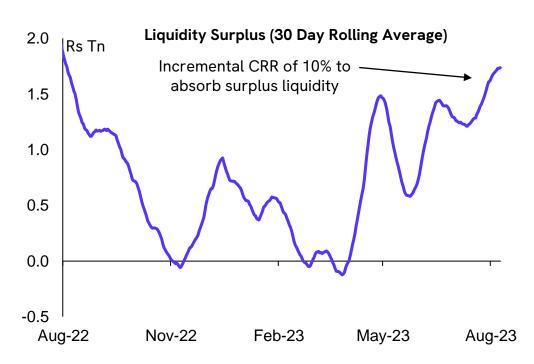


Recent increase in vegetable prices likely to be short lived, but uneven rainfall could impact kharif crop yields

RBI MPC expected to adopt a 'wait and watch' approach to assess the complete impact of the monsoon season on food inflation

Liquidity conditions improved on withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination notes and RBI Fx intervention. However, conditions are expected to tighten on account of incremental CRR (expected impact above Rs 1 Tn) and higher currency demand around the festive season





Note: The natural rate of interest—the real interest rate that neither stimulates nor contracts the economy Revisiting India's Natural Rate of Interest (RBI Bulletin Jun'22) estimated natural rate for the post-pandemic period in the range of 0.8 to 1% for Q3FY22

Source: MOSPI, RBI, CMIE, 360 ONE Asset Research

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