## India in a Globalizing World Some Policy Dilemmas

Distinguished Speaker Series

Cornell University

Ithaca, New York

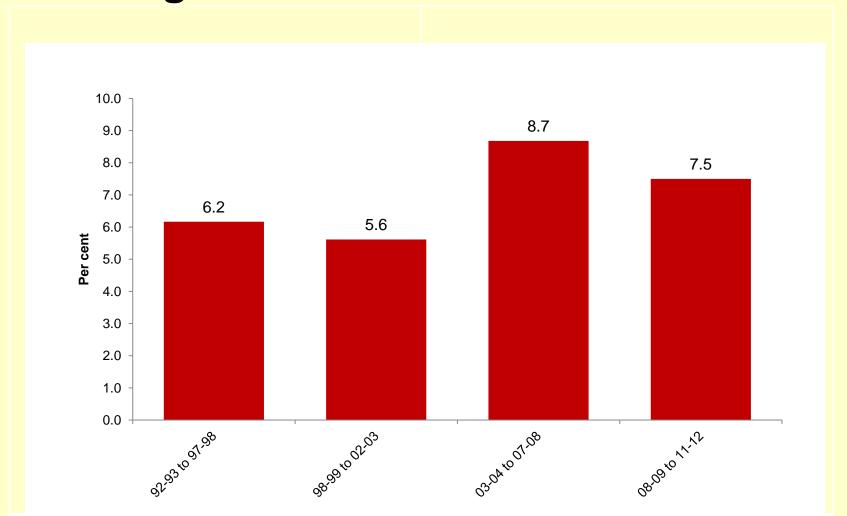
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## India Macroeconomic Situation

Cause for Concern?

## India - Macroeconomic Situation Long Term Trends in Growth Rate



### **India Growth Story**

What drove India's growth in the pre-crisis period?

### **India Growth Story**

Started fraying, beginning with the global financial crisis of 2008/09

### From One Crisis to Another

 Just as we were recovering from 2008/09 crisis, the eurozone crisis hit us.

 Policy space to respond to the crisis is much less now than in 2008/09.

## India Current Macroeconomic Situation

- Growth has moderated
- Inflation is high and persistent
- Balance of Payments under stress
- Twin deficits (fiscal deficit, current account deficit)
- Investment has decelerated
- No policy space for stimulus

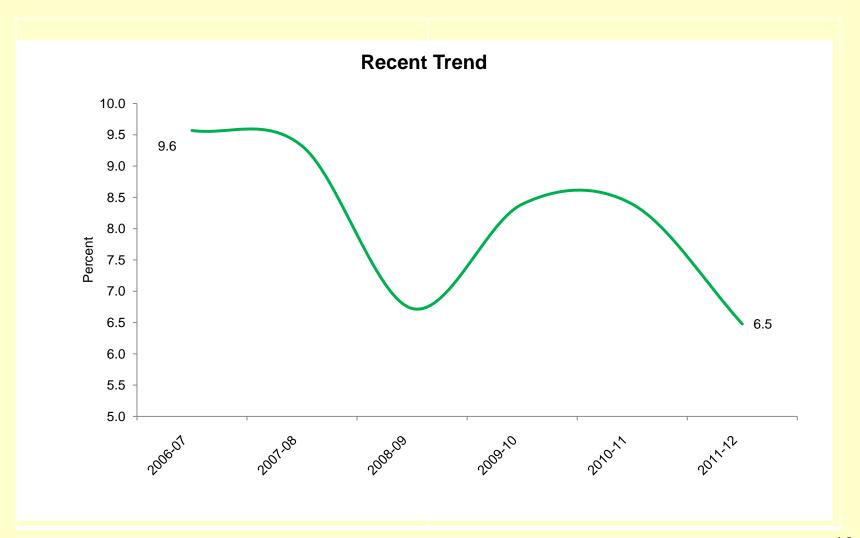
### **Three Policy Dilemmas**

- 1. How do we manage the growth-inflation dynamics?
- 2. External Sector how do we manage the short-term trade-offs without compromising long-term sustainability?
- 3. Fiscal Consolidation how to manage the political economy constraints?

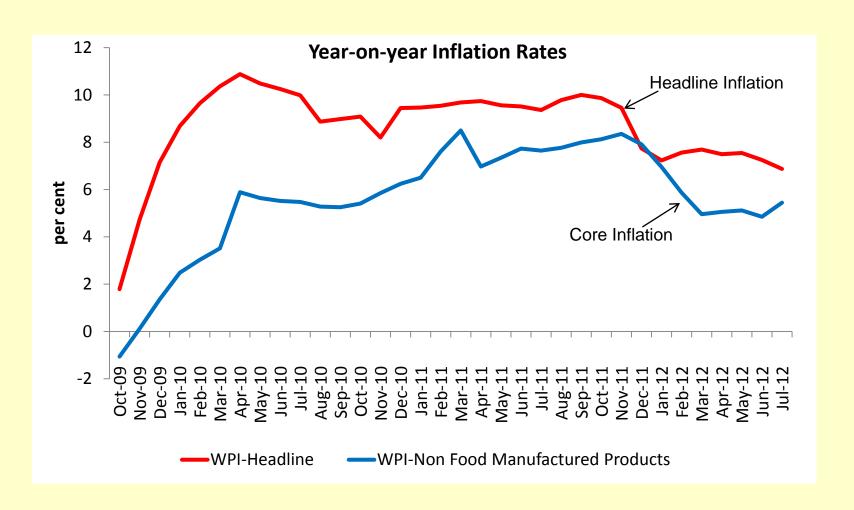
### Dilemma - 1

How do we manage the growth-inflation dynamics?

### Why has growth slowed?



### What is the inflation story?



### What is driving Inflation?

- Food (cyclical + structural)
- Global commodity prices + depreciation
- Fiscal deficit
- Demand pressures

### Inflation and RBI

What has RBI done to control inflation?

Has RBI succeeded in controlling inflation?

### **Growth - Inflation Risks**

- Global Uncertainty
- Commodity Prices
- Fiscal Deficit
- Monsoon Performance
- Supply Response

### Dilemma - 1

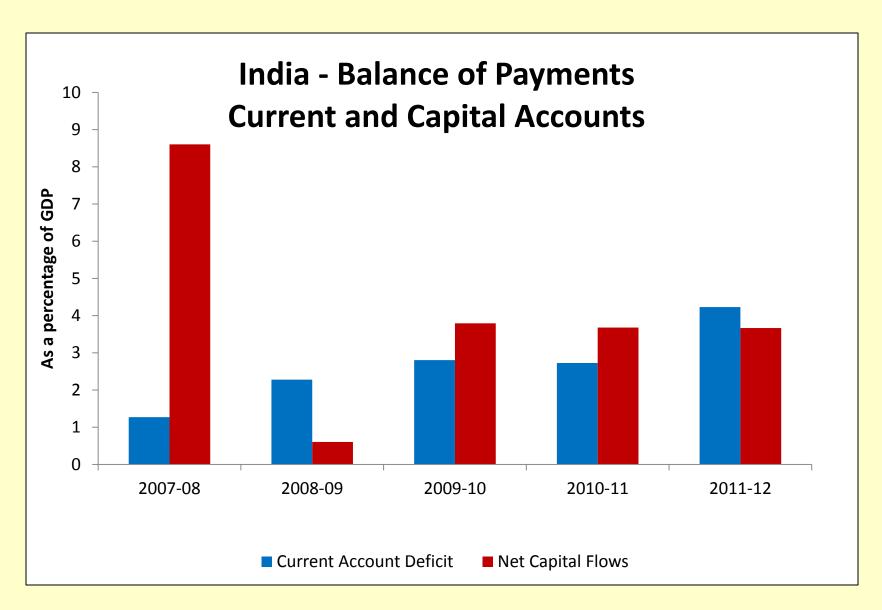
How do we manage the growth-inflation dynamics?

### Dilemma - 2

External Sector - how do we manage the short-term trade-offs without compromising long term sustainability?

## What is the external sector problem?

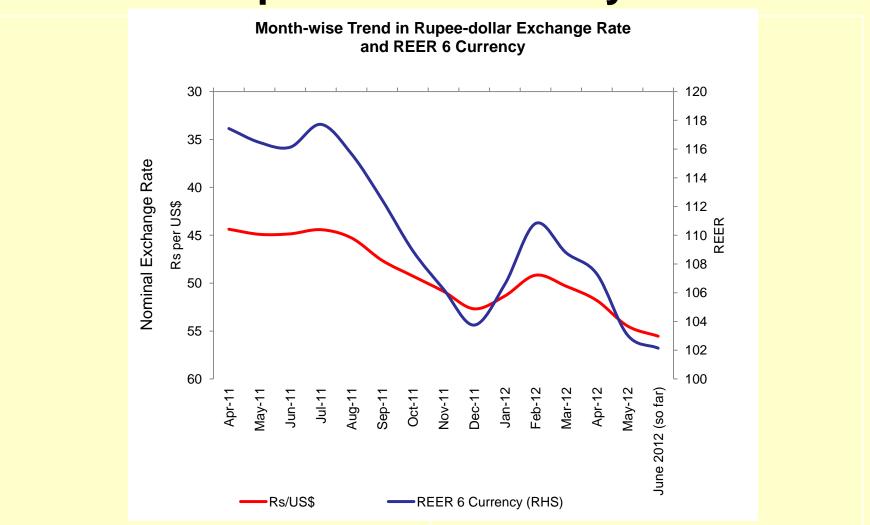
- Large current account deficit (CAD)
- Financing the CAD with stable flows



### **External Sector Problem**

- Why has current account deficit (CAD) increased?
- Why have capital flows thinned?
- What has been the result of this?

### How much has the rupee depreciated and why?



### Rupee Depreciation?

What is the impact of rupee depreciation?

# What has RBI done to contain volatility in the exchange rate?

### What is the 'Capital Flows' problem?

- We want capital flows just equal to CAD
- But they are invariably either too much or too little
- And they are volatile

## Capital Flows - How volatile? Quickly Reversing Trends

Pre-Crisis (2005/08) - Great Moderation - Volatile Inflows

Crisis (2008/09) - Safe Haven - Outflows - Sudden exit

Post-Crisis (2010/11) - Volatile inflows - 'Currency Wars'

**Eurozone Crisis (2011)- Confidence Effect - Outflows** 

### **Managing Capital Flows**

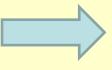
Change in world view on capital controls from precrisis to post-crisis

### **Managing Capital Flows**

- Two options
  - Capital Controls
  - Exchange Rate Management
- No option is totally benign

### **Managing Capital Flows No Benign Options**

### Capital inflows



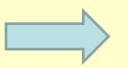
Do not intervene Currency appreciation

Intervene but but do not sterilize



Inflationary pressure

Intervene and sterilize



Upward pressure on interest rates

### **External Sector Management**

What is RBI's policy

- on capital account?
- on exchange rate?

### **External Sector Management**

#### Sustainable Solution

- Reducing CAD in the medium term
- Financing CAD in the short-term

### Policy Dilemma - 3

How to manage the political economy of fiscal consolidation?

### **Fiscal Deficit**

# Why is fiscal deficit a problem?

### India's Fiscal Deficit

- What is India's fiscal deficit problem?
- What are the challenges in fiscal consolidation?

### Why 2012 is not 1991?

### **India and China**

# Is the "India Growth Story" still credible?