



IBS VIGYAN

VISIONING BANKERS



Evangelistically Speaking

Dear Stakeholders,

As we present the last edition of IBS Vigyan for the year 2025, it gives me immense pride and satisfaction to reflect on the journey we have undertaken over the past twelve months. This year has been marked by growth, learning, resilience, and a renewed commitment to delivering excellence in banking education. Every milestone we achieved was made possible by the collective efforts of our faculty, staff, students, and partner institutions who encompass the IBS community.

Throughout 2025, we continued to strengthen our reputation as a trusted centre for banking and financial learning. Our courses—ranging from JAIIB and CAIIB to DRA, MSME, Trade Finance, Digital Banking, and various promotion programs—saw tremendous participation and positive outcomes. We enhanced our content quality, expanded our delivery channels, improved the IBS Vigyan platform, and ensured that our learners received relevant, practical, and exam-oriented guidance aligned with the evolving needs of the industry.

This year also marked significant progress in our roadmap to introduce more specialised certifications. I am pleased to share that IBS is steadily expanding its portfolio of IBS Certified Courses, offering learners deeper, career-enhancing expertise. Our launch of Courses for Certified Programmes in Foreign Exchange, Credit and Treasury have been well patronised by the career aspirants. We will soon be launching our newest

certified program—Compliance in Banks—by the end of this month. With compliance becoming one of the vital operational pillars in modern banking, this course is designed to equip professionals with essential regulatory and risk-based insights that are increasingly demanded across institutions.

As we bid farewell to 2025, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our internal teams whose dedication ensured smooth operations, academic excellence, and continuous improvements throughout the year. IBS Vigyan stands today as a testament to our shared belief in quality, innovation, and learner success.

As this year's Certification examinations are drawing to a close, let me wish all the candidates for success in their endeavours. Let me also urge everyone to continue your upskilling saga by attempting more specialisation certifications. Let us welcome 2026 with positivity and purpose. On behalf of the entire IBS TEAM, I wish each of you a joyful, prosperous, and fulfilling year ahead.

Warm wishes for a successful and inspiring 2026!

Looking forward to a sustaining engagement with all.

Sincerely yours

Satheesh Kumar. S
Managing Director

Curated Cube

India's Inflation: 2025 Review and Outlook for 2026

India's inflation trajectory through 2025 has been a story of steady correction, policy discipline, and resilience against global economic uncertainties. At the beginning of 2025, retail inflation (CPI) hovered close to 5.7%, elevated primarily due to food price volatility, high vegetable and cereal prices, and supply-side disruptions that carried over from late 2024. Core inflation remained relatively moderate, but the persistent rise in food components kept the overall inflation slightly above the RBI's medium-term target of $4\% \pm 2\%$.

As the year progressed, multiple favourable factors contributed to a gradual easing. Improved agricultural output following better monsoon distribution, stabilisation in global commodity prices, and the government's swift supply-side interventions helped moderate food inflation. By the end of 2025, CPI inflation is estimated to have softened to around 4.6%–4.8%, returning comfortably within the tolerance band. Core inflation continued its benign trend due to muted demand pressures, stable fuel prices, and cautious corporate pricing behaviour. This has strengthened consumer sentiment and supported a more predictable business environment.

Looking ahead to 2026, inflation prospects appear broadly optimistic, though not without risks. The Reserve Bank of India is expected to maintain a vigilant stance, keeping monetary policy conditions aligned with its inflation-targeting framework. If agricultural output stays steady and global crude prices remain stable, inflation could average between 4.3% and 4.7% in the coming year.

However, certain challenges require attention. Any resurgence in global geopolitical tensions, unexpected supply shocks, or volatility in food prices may create temporary upward pressures. Additionally, strong domestic demand driven by growth in consumption and investment could put mild pressure on core inflation in the latter half of 2026.

Overall, the outlook suggests a year of stable and manageable inflation, supported by calibrated monetary policy, strengthening supply chains, and improving macroeconomic fundamentals. As India continues its growth momentum, maintaining price stability will remain the cornerstone of economic confidence and financial sector health in 2026.

(Cube gives a third dimension in geometry. Curated Cube endeavors to conflate events in the market over the past month.)

JAIIB/CAIIB - MAY/JUNE 2026 BATCH - ADMISSION STARTED

START YOUR JAIIB/CAIIB PREPARATION AT THE EARLIEST WITH IBS

Zoom platform live classes, Recorded sessions, Online Mock Tests, Whatsapp interaction, & Study materials

FOURTH PILLAR

TIME LIMIT & COMPENSATION UNDER COVERAGE OF INTEGRATED OMBUDSMAN SETTLEMENT OF DECEASED DEPOSITOR'S ACCOUNT TO NOMINEE: SCHEME 2021:

A bank shall settle a claim in respect of deposit accounts of a deceased customer within a period not exceeding 15 calendar days from the date of receipt of all the required documents associated with the claim. If any deposit related claim is not settled within the timeframe stipulated, then the bank shall communicate the reasons for such delay to the claimant(s). Further, in cases of delay attributable to the bank, compensation shall be paid by the bank in the form of interest, at a rate not less than the prevailing Bank Rate + 4% per annum, on the settlement amount due for the period of delay.

TIME LIMIT & COMPENSATION UNDER SETTLEMENT OF A DECEASED'S SAFE DEPOSIT LOCKER/SAFE CUSTODY TO NOMINEE:

In case of safe deposit locker/articles in safe custody, the bank shall, within 15 calendar days of receipt of all the required documents, process the claim and communicate with the claimant(s) for fixing the date for making inventory of the locker/articles in safe custody. The bank shall be required to pay compensation to the claimant(s) at the rate of ₹5,000 for each day of delay of settling the claim.

ADDITIONAL FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (AFA) FOR UPI TRANSACTIONS:

To further enhance customer convenience, security, and user experience, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in collaboration with the RBI, has decided to introduce additional factor authentication (AFA) methods to supplement existing options. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)'s Face Authentication system will now be available as an additional option for users while setting or resetting their UPI PIN. This feature can be used in lieu of existing methods such as card credentials or Aadhaar OTP. The integration with UIDAI's secure biometric infrastructure ensures both authentication accuracy and user convenience, especially for individuals who may find OTP or card-based verification cumbersome.

In exercise of powers under Section 35-A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Reserve Bank of India has directed that in public interest, the State Co-operative Banks and Central Co-operative Banks (as defined in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949) shall also be treated as "Regulated Entities" for the purposes of the RBI - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme, 2021. RB-IOs, 2021. Now the scheme covers all Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Co-operative Banks, Central Co-operative Banks, Scheduled Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks, and Non-Scheduled Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks with deposits size of Rs.50 crore and above as on the date of the audited balance sheet of the previous financial year.

"UPI-HELP ASSISTANT" – AI-POWERED SUPPORT FOR UPI PAYMENTS:

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched "UPI Help Assistant", designed to enhance user experience and efficiency in handling UPI-related queries. The assistant leverages NPCI's proprietary financial domain-specific language model, enabling it to understand and respond intelligently to users' questions on digital payments, transaction tracking, and dispute resolution. As part of the UPI grievance redressal and dispute management framework, the UPI Help Assistant will also assist issuer banks by providing relevant contextual data and transaction insights to enable faster and more informed decision-making during dispute resolution.

REVISED PF WITHDRAWAL RULE BY EPFO:

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's new rule states that an individual who loses employment can now withdraw up to 75% of their EPF balance immediately after separation from service. The remaining 25% may be withdrawn only after 12 consecutive months of unemployment, provided the person has not secured re-employment during that period.

(Fourth Pillar strives to position beyond the three pillars of Basel and is culled from the Four Estates)

INQUISITIVELY SPEAKING

1. As per the Scheme for Facilitating Accelerated Payout, what is the maximum payout a Bank can receive for reactivating or settling an bank account that has been inoperative for more than 10 years?

- a) 5% of the amount or ₹10000 whichever is less
- b) 6.5% of the amount or ₹15000 whichever is less
- c) 7.5% of the amount of ₹25000 whichever is less
- d) 8% of the amount or ₹20000 whichever is less.

2. Which among the following is correct as far as the Tax benefit available under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)?

- a) No Tax benefits on withdrawals
- b) Tax deduction is limited within Sec 80 C
- c) Full tax exemptions on Employer's contribution portion
- d) Deductions available under 80 CCD(1) & 80CCD(2), and exemptions on partial withdrawals and corpus transfers, similar to that available under NPS

3. NABARD has introduced Centralised Digital Lending Platform for Regional Rural Banks, which is primary aimed at:

- a) Increase the number of RRBs from 28 to 43
- b) Replace the MGNREGA funding with digital loans in rural areas
- c) Enhance competitiveness of RRBs and support the One State One RRB consolidation policy

d) Provide Tax exemption under Sec 80 CCD for RRBs

4. For making Credit Card Bills payment through UPI, the per transaction and daily aggregate limit is set at:

- a) ₹2 Lakh & ₹4 Lakh b) ₹5 Lakh & ₹6 Lakh
- c) ₹5 Lakh % ₹10 Lakh d) ₹1 Lakh & ₹5 Lakh

5. If someone wants to make the payment of Insurance premium through UPI, what is the maximum amount that can be paid?

- a) ₹1 Lakh b) ₹2 Lakh
- c) ₹4 Lakh d) ₹5 Lakh

6. As per RBI's Directions on Nomination Facility in Deposit accounts, Safe Deposit Lockers & Safe Custody of Articles, what is the "Threshold Limit" amount?

- a) ₹5 Lakh for all Banks
- b) ₹5 Lakh for Coop Banks & ₹10 Lakh for other Banks
- c) ₹10 Lakh uniformly for all Banks
- d) ₹5 Lakh for Coop Banks & ₹15 Lakh for other Banks

ANSWER KEY

1.c 2.d 3.c 4.c 5.d 6.d

Stretch n Speak

SPD: Standalone Primary Dealer

WACR: Weighted Average Call Rate

NDDC: Non-Deliverable Derivative Contracts

FBIL: Financial Benchmark India Limited

BaaS: Blockchain as a Service

NBF: National Blockchain Framework