FINANCE INDIA © Indian Institute of Finance Vol. XXX No. 1, March 2016 Pages – 31 – 64

State of the Indian Economy : An Overview¹

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, GOI*

Abstract

The global macroeconomic landscape is currently chartering a rough and uncertain terrain characterized by weak growth of world output. The situation has been exacerbated by; (i) declining prices of a number of commodities, with reduction in crude oil prices being the most visible of them, (ii) turbulent financial markets (more so equity markets), and (iii) volatile exchange rates. These conditions reflect extreme risk-aversion behaviour of global investors, thus putting many, and in particular, commodities exporting economies under considerable stress. Even in these trying and uncertain circumstances, India's growth story has largely remained positive on the strength of domestic absorption, and the country has registered a robust and steady pace of economic growth in 2015-16 as it did in 2014-15. The Indian economy is all set to register growth in excess of 7 per cent for the third year in succession.

I. Introduction

DESPITE GLOBAL HEADWINDS and a truant monsoon, India registered robust growth of 7.2 per cent in 2014-15 and 7.6 per cent in 2015-16, thus becoming the fastest growing major economy in the world. As per the estimates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), global growth averaged 3.1 per cent in 2015, declining from 3.4 percent registered in 2014. While growth in advanced economies has improved modestly since 2013, the emerging economies have witnessed a consistently declining trend in growth rate since 2010. It is against this background that the recent Indian growth story appears particularly bright.

II. India's Increasing Importance to global growth

India has made striking progress in its contribution to the global growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms.

¹ Reproduced from Economic Survey 2015-2016, Volume II, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, North Block, Delhi 110001, INDIA

^{*} The Economic Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, North Block, Delhi 110001, INDIA.