

RAS/RTS

RAJASTHAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAM

REVISED STUDY MATERIALS

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND GENERAL STUDIES

PAPER - III

- (1. India and Global Perspective
2. Current Sensitive Issues
3. General & Administrative Management
4. Administrative Ethics)



Published By
Develop India Group

<http://www.developindiagroup.co.in/>

Published by

Develop India Media Group

Allahabad

Mobile : 08756987953

email : subscriptiondevelopindia@gmail.com

Edition : 2018

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INDIA AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Current Global Developments impeaching upon Society and Economy of India

Since the publication of the January 2016 Global Economic Prospects, weakness in the global economy has persisted and risks have become more pronounced. Among emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs), the divergence in economic conditions between commodity exporters and importers has widened. Some of the downside risks identified in January have materialized, including softer-than-expected growth in advanced economies and further declines in commodity prices that have only partially reversed in recent months. These developments have been accompanied by heightened political uncertainties, concerns about the effectiveness of monetary policy stimulus in some advanced economies, the pace of monetary policy normalization in the United States, and policy makers' ability or willingness to use expansionary fiscal policy if needed. In addition, for oil importers, the sizable positive terms of trade shock represented by falling prices has not translated into the large boost to growth initially expected, as other headwinds and uncertainties have held back activity.

Global growth this year is likely to remain unchanged relative to the disappointing pace of 2015. Growth for 2016 is now forecast at 2.4 percent, down 0.5 percentage point from January projections (Figure 1.1). EMDEs account for about half of this downward revision, in large part due to a significant downgrade to the growth forecasts for commodity exporters, amid heightened domestic uncertainties and a more challenging external environment.

Advanced economies are expected to expand by 1.7 percent in 2016, 0.5 percentage point below January projections. Investment continues to be soft amid weaker growth prospects and elevated policy uncertainty, while export growth has slowed reflecting subdued external demand. Despite an expected boost from lower energy prices, and the ongoing improvement in labor markets, growth is projected to level off in 2016 rather than accelerate.

EMDEs started 2016 with weaker manufacturing activity. Investment growth has also slowed substantially, especially in commodity exporters, partly reflecting tightened domestic policies and weak capital inflows. In China, a gradual domestic rebalancing is under way, with robust growth in services and

policy support measures mitigating the slowdown in industrial activity. Brazil and the Russian Federation are still mired in recession.

Global merchandise trade remains subdued, reflecting rebalancing in China and weaker demand from commodity exporters, which together contributed to an outright contraction in overall EMDE merchandise imports in 2015.

For 2016, EMDE growth is forecast at 3.5 percent, 0.6 percentage point below previous projections. However, these numbers mask ongoing divergences between commodity exporters and importers. Commodity exporting EMDEs—in particular energy exporters—are struggling to adjust to persistently low commodity prices. In 2015, this group grew at a 0.2 percent pace—the slowest since the global financial crisis—and, for 2016, their growth forecast has been reduced to 0.4 percent, 1.2 percentage points below January projections. In contrast, commodity importing EMDEs have shown resilience to headwinds, reflecting solid domestic demand. For this group, growth is expected to remain steady at 5.8 percent throughout the forecast period, a rate close to its long-run average.

Activity in commodity importing EMDEs excluding China has picked up and is expected to continue to accelerate.

In low-income countries (LICs), growth slowed to 4.5 percent in 2015. Although growth is projected to pick up to 5.3 percent this year, lower commodity prices and persistent security and political challenges have trimmed 0.9 percentage point from the previous forecast. While the difficult external environment confronting LICs will likely continue, projected growth is supported by resilience of domestic investment and the expected implementation of reforms.

Downside risks to the outlook have become more pronounced. Rising policy related and political uncertainties, geopolitical risks and eroding confidence in policy effectiveness could set back global growth and trigger financial market turbulence. A synchronous slowdown in major advanced or key emerging market economies could have large negative spillover effects across EMDEs (Figure 1.2), while the impact of financial market stress could be acute among EMDEs with elevated private sector debt. Prolonged stagnation in advanced economies and weaker growth potential in EMDEs could exacerbate protectionist sentiments. The materialization of some of these risks could slow