

“Govt mulls using GST, UPI data for GDP calculation”

1. What is happening?

India's government is **updating the way it calculates key economic indicators** like:

- **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)** – a measure of the total value of goods and services produced in the country.
 - **CPI (Consumer Price Index)** – a measure of inflation based on retail prices of goods and services.
 - **WPI (Wholesale Price Index)** – inflation based on wholesale prices.
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2. Why is this being done?

- To make the economic data **more accurate, modern, and reflective of the current economy**.
 - The **current methods are outdated**, using old base years (2011–12 for GDP/WPI and 2012 for CPI).
 - Newer technologies like UPI, e-commerce, and OTT platforms have become important in daily life and economy, but aren't yet fully reflected in economic indicators.
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3. What will change for GDP?

- **New base year:** GDP will shift from **2011–12 to 2022–23**.
 - **Release date:** New GDP series will be released on **Feb 27, 2026**.
 - **New data sources to be used:**
 - **GST portal:** For real-time business and tax data.
 - **e-Vahan portal:** For vehicle registration info.
 - **UPI transactions:** To reflect digital payments activity.
 - **Still includes traditional sources:** like RBI, CGA, MCA-21.
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4. What will change for CPI (Retail Inflation)?

- **New base year:** CPI will shift from **2012 to 2024**.

- **Release timeline:** Expected in **Q1 of 2026**.
- **Changes include:**
 - More items in the price basket.
 - Updated weights based on the **2023–24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey**.
 - **New data sources:**
 - Online platforms for **air and rail fares**
 - **OTT platforms** (Netflix, etc.)
 - **Fuel price records** from administrative databases.
 - **E-commerce and scanner data** for product pricing.

5. What about WPI (Wholesale Inflation)?

- **WPI base year** will also change from **2011–12 to 2022–23**.
- A **working group has been formed** by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- They will also **update the commodity basket** used for WPI.

6. New surveys to be launched

To gather more detailed data:

- **National Household Travel Survey** – to study how people travel (modes, frequency).
- **Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey** – to track how much people spend on travel, transport, and hotels.

Salient Points Summary

Topic	Update
GDP	Base year → 2022–23; using GST, UPI, e-Vahan data; release in Feb 2026
CPI (Inflation)	Base year → 2024; more items, web data; release in Q1 2026
WPI	Base year → 2022–23; basket revision underway
New Surveys	For travel and tourism expenditure
Goal	Improve accuracy and relevance of official statistics

Let me know if you'd like a visual infographic or a comparison with older methods.