



**WORLD P8**  
**WHITE HOUSE WANTS FED TO REVERSE RATE HIKES**

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**AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE CRACK DOWN ON ONLINE MEDIA WITH NEW LAWS**



PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM BENGALURU, KOLKATA, MUMBAI AND NEW DELHI

## I-T, GST OFFICES OPEN TODAY TO HELP IN YEAR-END COLLECTION

Income-tax and GST offices will remain open on Sunday to try and meet their revenue collection targets. "According to past practice, all field offices of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs will remain open during the last weekend of the current financial year for assisting taxpayers," the CBIC said. The Central Board of Direct Taxes asked its field offices to facilitate filing of tax—returns by taxpayers by opening additional receipt counters, wherever required, on Sunday. The Centre has pegged goods and services tax collection target at ₹11.47 trillion for the current fiscal year, while the same for direct tax mop-up is ₹12 trillion.

## BACK PAGE P12 NYAY, PM KISAN aren't good quasi-UBI schemes: Ex-CEA

The government's flagship PM KISAN scheme and the Congress' proposed NYAY scheme do not meet the necessary conditions of being good targeted universal basic income schemes, former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian said.



## DEMOCRACY AT WORK 'It is a decisive year for being in India'

HELENA LERSCH, global public policy director of TIKTok, tells Neha Alawadhi & Karan Choudhury about the challenges facing the Chinese content platform.



## IN DEPTH How unpaid work keeps women poor and unequal

The burden of unpaid work falls on women in India because tasks, such as cooking, are highly gendered, and patriarchal norms entrench women's unequal social status

## BACK PAGE Meet Nirav Modi's A-Team

How did fugitive jeweller Nirav Modi pull off what he was accused of, without an army of trusted lieutenants, while keeping his moves under wraps? PAVAN LALL writes

## ED attaches Delhi Aerocity hotel in PMLA case

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday attached hotel Holiday Inn, valued at ₹120 crore, located in the upscale Aerocity area in the Capital, in connection with a money-laundering case against aviation lobbyist Deepak Talwar. Talwar "beneficially owned" Wave Hospitality, which, the ED alleged, used tainted money to construct the hotel.

## COMPANIES P2 IPO activity sees a slump in FY19

The initial public offering market witnessed a huge slump during 2018-19. Funds raised by way of IPOs were down 82 per cent year-on-year to ₹14,674 crore. The number of issues to hit the market was just 14 — the lowest since FY15 — compared to 45 in FY18. SAMIE MODAK writes

# Market, economists see policy rate cut

All 15 participants in a BS poll say they expect at least 25 bps cut in April 4 meeting

ANUP ROY  
Mumbai, 30 March

Economists and bank treasurers are almost certain that the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will cut the policy repo rate by at least a quarter percentage point in its April 4 review meeting.

All the 15 participants in a *Business Standard* poll, comprising three top bank treasurers and 12 senior economists, said they expected at least a 25 basis points (bps) cut. Some even said they expect 50 bps cut, or even a cut in the cash reserve ratio as growth dives, even as heavy government borrowing meant liquidity conditions should be kept easy. Inflation is not a real concern now, the participants concluded, but falling growth certainly needs a careful watch.

Gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow at about 7 per cent, or slightly lower, in the current fiscal year. Employment generation has also fallen, which makes growth a must consideration for the RBI. The Index of Industrial

## BS MONETARY POLICY POLL

● Rate action expected ● Policy stance

**Saugata Bhattacharya**, Chief economist, Axis Bank  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Jayesh Mehta**, Treasurer, Bank of America ML  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Siddhartha Sanyal**, Chief economist, Barclays  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Samiran Chakraborty**, Chief economist, Citibank  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Madan Sabnavis**, Chief economist, Care Ratings  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Harihar Krishnamoorthy**, Treasurer, First Rand Bank  
● 25 bps cut ● Accommodative

**Ashish Parthasarthy**, Treasurer, HDFC Bank  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Aditi Nayar**, Principal economist, ICRA  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Indranil Pan**, Chief economist, IDFC Bank  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Soumyajit Niyogi**, Economist, India Ratings and Research  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Gaurav Kapur**, Chief economist, IndusInd Bank  
● 25 bps cut +50 bps CRR cut ● Neutral

**A Prasanna**, Chief economist, ISECPD  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Upasna Bhardwaj**, Chief economist, Kotak Mahindra Bank  
● 25 bps cut ● Neutral

**Rupa Rege Nitsure**, Chief economist, L&T Finance  
● 50 bps cut ● Neutral

**Soumya Kanti Ghosh**, Chief economist, SBI  
● 25 bps cut ● Accommodative

Note: Bps is basis points; one basis point is equivalent to 1/100th of a per cent

Production (IIP) grew at just 1.7 per cent in January, much lower than 7.5 per cent recorded a year ago. The consumer price-based index (CPI), the key gauge of

inflation, meanwhile, was at 2.57 per cent, well below the RBI's medium-term target of 4 per cent. Therefore, it makes sense for the central bank to frontload

its rate cuts. An assurance by the central bank to continue with its open market operations (OMO), under which it buys bonds from the secondary market, is perhaps a must. Also, banks are really not passing on the past rate cuts, and therefore ensuring transmission of rates is also imperative.

The tone of the policy would predictably be dovish, said the participants. "I expect the RBI to frontload the rate cuts and reduce the repo rate by 50 bps on April 4 to give a clear cut signal of policy easing. This is needed to kick-start transmission," said Rupa Rege Nitsure, chief economist, L&T Finance. "A change in stance to accommodative combined with a 25 bps cut is also a possibility. Post elections, whichever government comes to power will adopt fiscal prudence in the initial years. Uncertainties on account of El Nino, expiry of Iran crude oil waiver and elections, etc, would prompt the RBI to frontload the rate cuts in the first half of fiscal 2019-20," Nitsure said, adding aggregate monetary demand, too, had slowed as reflected in M3 (broad money) to GDP (gross domestic product) ratio slipping below 80 per cent.

She is not alone in her assessment of a sharp rate cut.

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Pilots' union says there'll be no flying unless airline provides a road map

## Jet clears Dec salary, pilots say not enough

ANEESH PHADNIS  
Mumbai, 30 March

Jet Airways on Saturday cleared the pending salaries for December, but pilots maintain they would stop flying from April 1 if full dues are not settled. The pilots' union has called for a meeting on Sunday to decide further steps.

The airline is yet to pay full salaries for January and February to its pilots, engineers and senior management. So far, only 12.5 per cent of December salary was paid and on Saturday the airline credited the remaining 87.5 per cent for the month.

"The board of directors and the management team are working as fast as possible to implement the resolution plan agreed with the consortium of Indian lenders to quickly restore the much-needed stability to our operations and build a sustainable future for the airline," chief executive officer Vinay Dube said in an email to staff. Stating that these are complex processes and that it has taken longer than expect-

ed, Dube wrote, "We are only able to remit your remaining salary for December 2018".

Founder Naresh Goyal stepped down as chairman of Jet Airways on March 25 as lenders agreed to provide ₹1,500 crore in emergency funding as part of a resolution plan. His wife, Anita, too, resigned as director on the Jet board.

"We realise that this remittance does not lift the financial hardship that each of you are facing and we do not take your sacrifices for granted. We continue to work on additional funding on an urgent basis and shall advise you about the release of the remaining salary arrears as the funds come in," Dube has told the Jet staff in his latest email communication.

The pilots' union has made it clear that the partial payout is not acceptable. "There will be no flying unless the company pays us substantial salaries and provides a road map," the National Aviators Guild, the pilots' union, said in a message to its members.

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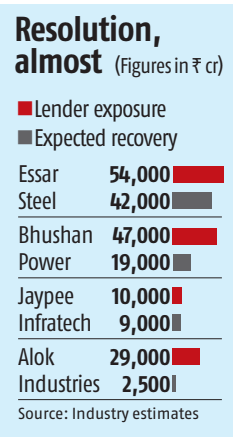
## Banks face higher provisions over resolution delays

NAMRATA ACHARYA & ABHIJIT LELE  
Kolkata/Mumbai, 30 March

Four big-ticket National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cases — Essar Steel, Bhushan Power and Steel, Jaypee Infratech, and Alok Industries — will see their resolution getting pushed to the next financial year (2019-20), increasing the provisioning burden on lenders. It will also postpone the benefit of reversal of money set aside as provisions.

These cases were in advanced stages of resolution, and their settlement was expected by the end of the March quarter of 2018-19. This would have brought relief to lenders in the form of release of provisions made, which could have been used for some other stressed accounts.

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## Shanghai is world's first 5G district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Beijing, 30 March

Shanghai said on Saturday it had become the world's first district using both 5G coverage and broadband gigabit network, as China seeks to establish lead over the US and other countries in the race to develop next generation cellular mobile communications.

5G is the next generation of cellular technology with download speeds that are 10 to 100 times faster than 4G LTE networks.

Shanghai has developed what it claims to be the first district boasting both 5G coverage and a broadband



5G is the next generation of cellular technology with download speeds that are 10 to 100 times faster than 4G LTE networks

PHOTO: REUTERS

gigabit network, the state-run *China Daily* reported.

Trial runs of the 5G network, backed by state-run telecom carrier China Mobile, officially started the serv-

ice in Shanghai's Hongkou on Saturday, where 5G base stations had been deployed over the last three months to ensure full coverage, the report said.

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# The final minutes of Ethiopian Airlines' doomed Boeing 737 MAX

New details paint a picture of a catastrophic failure that quickly overwhelmed the flight crew

MATINA STEVIS-GRIDNEFF & YONATHAN MENKIR KASSA  
Addis Ababa, 30 March

It took less than six minutes to deepen one of the gravest crises in the history of Boeing Co.

At 8:37 a.m. on March 10, Captain Yared Getachew and First Officer Ahmed Nur Mohammed were accelerating an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 MAX along runway 07R of Addis Ababa's highland airport.

The flight conditions were perfect — warm and cloudless — at 8:38 as the jet lifted above the hills to commence the one-hour and 40 minute shuttle to Nairobi.

Something almost immediately went wrong. At 8:39, as the jet reached an altitude of 8,100 feet above sea level, just 450 feet above ground, its nose began to pitch down.

Mr. Mohammed radioed the control

tower, his crackling voice reporting a "flight-control problem." The tower operators asked for details as Mr. Getachew, a veteran with 8,000 flight hours, fought to climb and correct the glide path. By 8:40, the oscillation became a wild bounce, then a dive.

"Pitch up, pitch up!" one pilot said to the other, as the Boeing jet accelerated toward the ground. The radio went dead.

At 8:44, the airliner crashed into a field just 30 miles from the runway. All 157 people on board were killed instantly.

This reconstruction of the final moments of Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET302, described in new detail by people close to the crash investigation, airline executives and pilots, paints a picture of a catastrophic failure that quickly overwhelmed the flight crew.

It appears to support a preliminary conclusion reached by Ethiopian officials and international investigators,

who believe an automated flight-control feature activated before the plane nosedived into the ground, according to people familiar with the matter.

This emerging consensus — relayed during a high-level briefing at the Federal Aviation Administration on Thursday and reported soon after by *The Wall Street Journal* — represents the first findings based on data retrieved from the flight's black boxes. It is the strongest indication yet that Boeing's misfiring system was at the heart of both the Ethiopian Airlines crash earlier this month and a Lion Air flight in Indonesia, which crashed less than five months earlier. Both doomed jets were Boeing 737 MAXs. The two disasters claimed 346 lives. A report from Ethiopian authorities is expected within days.

The Justice Department and other U.S. federal agencies are investigating whether Boeing provided incomplete or misleading information to regulators and airline customers about the 737 MAX

aircraft to get the jetliner certified as safe to fly. The focus on disclosures is part of a broader investigation into how the plane was developed and certified.

Pilots flying the 737 MAX around the world were alerted to the stall-prevention system only after the Lion Air crash, and saw almost no mention of it in manuals, according to the pilots and industry officials. Most didn't have visible cockpit warnings that would have alerted pilots to a malfunctioning sensor, and they had no access to simulators that could replicate the kinds of problems that doomed Lion Air Flight 610.

In that crash, the stall-prevention system, based on erroneous sensor information, repeatedly pushed the plane's nose down and, according to a preliminary report, the pilot battled the flight controls while facing a cacophony of alarms before losing control and plunging into the Java Sea, killing all 189 people on board.

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American civil aviation and Boeing investigators search through the debris at the scene of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight ET 302 plane crash near the town of Bishoftu in Ethiopia on March 12

PHOTO: REUTERS