

# ECONOMY

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹41,705	₹76.13	\$26.15	₹38,100

Note: Spot gold markets shut due to lockdown in major states. \*Indian basket as on March 19, 2020

SENSEX: 27,590.95 ▼674.36 NIFTY: 8,083.80 ▼170.00 NIKKEI: 17,820.19 ▲147 HANG SENG: 23,236.11 ▼43.95 FTSE: 5,446.04 ▼34.18 DAX: 9,595.79 ▲24.97

International market data till 1900 IST

## SLOWDOWN, COVID-19 PANDEMIC TAKE A TOLL

# First time in 20 yrs: Direct tax mop-up declines by over 8%

ANANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

AMID THE ongoing economic slowdown, the government's net direct tax collections have missed the downward revised target for 2019-20 by Rs 1.42 lakh crore at Rs 10,27,653 crore, a decline of over 8 per cent from previous year's receipts. The contraction in direct tax collections in the financial year, coming just ahead of the COVID-19 spread in India and resultant lockdown impacting business operations across the country, has been witnessed after a gap of 20 years. The Centre's direct tax receipts had last seen a year-on-year decline in 1998-99, when collections recorded a contraction of 3.5 per cent in that financial year.

All the major centres recorded a dip, with Mumbai seeing a fall of 12 per cent in its collections, while

THE DIP IN THE CITIES		
	NET COLLECTION (₹ CRORE)	% CHANGE
Mumbai	3,20,180	(-)12.0
Delhi	1,46,272	(-)9.0
Bengaluru	1,09,399	(-)10.1
Chennai	71,338	(-)5.0
Kanpur	24,086	(-)17.1
Hyderabad	56,911	(-)1.9
Kolkata	40,806	(-)6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,27,653</b>	<b>(-)8.0</b>

\*Includes data for all 18 zones across the country

Bengaluru and Delhi recorded a slide of 10.1 per cent and 9 per cent in collections, respectively. Kanpur and Bhubaneswar posted the steepest fall of over 17 per cent each among the 18 tax zones across the country.

In the Budget for 2020-21, presented in February, the govern-

ment had revised the FY20 growth target for direct taxes to 2.9 per cent in the revised estimates from the initial 17.5 per cent in Budget estimate. With this low level of tax collections, the targeted growth rate for the direct tax targets for the current financial year is now at 28.3 per cent, a sharp jump over the assumed growth rate of 12.7 per cent at the time of the presentation of the Budget.

On the indirect tax side too, the government has already missed its Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections target. A drop of 7.8 per cent in returns filing over last month, 4 per cent fall over last year in domestic revenue, and a sharp 23 per cent contraction in revenue from imports led to the fall in GST collections in March below the Rs 1 lakh crore mark, with the Centre missing its RE for 2019-20 by Rs 22,204 crore at Rs 5.90 lakh crore.

With slippages on the tax front, the government is likely to miss its revised fiscal deficit target of 3.8 per cent for 2019-20. As per the latest available data, the government's fiscal deficit during April-February increased to 135.2 per cent of the revised estimate for the fiscal year 2019-20.

## Centre releases ₹17,287 cr to states to aid fight against virus

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

AMID DEMANDS by states to release higher grants and relaxation in their borrowing limits, the Centre Friday released a total of Rs 17,287 crore in grants to states to enhance their financial resources during the COVID-19 crisis.

A total of Rs 11,092 crore has been released by the Centre towards State Disaster Response Mitigation Fund (SDRMF) to all states. Another Rs 6,195 crore has been released as post-devolution revenue deficit grant to 14 states — Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The revenue deficit grant is based on recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission.

Funds being transferred to states under SDRMF include Rs 1,611 crore to Maharashtra, Rs 966.50 crore to Uttar Pradesh, Rs

**The Centre contributes 75 per cent of SDRMF allocation for general category states/UTs and 90 per cent for special category states/UTs**

910 crore to Madhya Pradesh, Rs 708 crore to Bihar, Rs 802 crore to Odisha, Rs 740.50 crore to Rajasthan, Rs 559.50 crore to Andhra Pradesh, Rs 505.50 crore to West Bengal, Rs 247.50 crore to Punjab. The SDRMF is the primary fund available with states for responses to notified disasters. Last month, the Centre declared COVID-19 as a notified disaster.

The central government contributes 75 per cent of SDRMF allocation for general category states/UTs and 90 per cent for special category states/UTs, which include Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir. The central government releases its annual contribution in

two equal instalments under the Fund. In a video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday, many states sought extra grants and leeway in fiscal deficit limit to help combat the economic effects of COVID-19.

For the last fiscal, the Centre allowed states to borrow an additional amount of Rs 58,843.42 crore in 2019-20. This meant that states got an additional headroom to borrow over and above the 3 per cent fiscal deficit ceiling stipulated in their Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) laws to the extent of the extra devolution amount in 2018-19, conditional to them amending their respective FRBM laws.

The Centre had already used a 0.5 per cent escape clause for its fiscal deficit target, after which its fiscal deficit for FY20 increased to 3.8 per cent of the GDP. States have demanded relaxation in their fiscal deficit limit. Kerala, for instance, has sought an increase in the fiscal deficit cap to 5 per cent of the GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product).

## Fitch cuts 2020 GDP forecast to 30-year low of 2%

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, APRIL 3

FITCH HAS slashed India's GDP growth forecast to a 30-year low of two per cent for the year 2020 in the wake of business shut-down and lower consumer spending after the coronavirus breakout.

On the other hand, Acuite Ratings and Research has estimated that the 21-day lockdown will result in a loss of GDP of almost \$98 billion.

"Fitch now expects a global recession this year and recently cut our GDP growth forecast for India to 2 per cent for the fiscal year ending March 2021 after lowering it to 5.1 per cent previously, which would make it the slowest growth in India over the past 30 years," it said in a report on Friday.

Meanwhile, Asian Development Bank said in its outlook for financial year 2020-21 that India's economic growth is likely to slow to 4 per cent this fiscal on the back of the current global health emergency.

## Selling pressure continues: Sensex declines 674 points

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, APRIL 3

STOCK MARKETS Friday continued to reel under selling pressure and closed over 2 per cent lower on worries over the impact of lockdown and rise in COVID-19 cases. The Sensex lost 674 points to close at 27,590.95 and the Nifty 50 fell 170 points to 8,083.80.

The rupee settled 53 paise lower at 76.13 against the US dollar on Friday.

**EXPLAINED**

### Stemming cases key

INVESTORS REMAIN concerned over the accelerated rise in infections across the world and the potential economic fallout.

crude supply worldwide will emerge early next week. Brent crude futures jumped 9.7 per cent, or \$2.87, at \$32.81 a barrel by 12:59 p.m. EDT (1659 GMT).

## RBI cuts forex, money market trading hours

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
MUMBAI, APRIL 3

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has decided to shorten trading hours for foreign exchange and money markets products in the light of challenges posed by lockdown imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The shortened hours, from 10 am to 2 pm, will be in place from April 7-17. "The unprecedented situation created by the COVID-19 outbreak has necessitated lockdowns, social distancing, restrictions on move-

ment of people and non-essential activities, work from home arrangements and business continuity plans," the RBI said.

According to the RBI, the resultant dislocations have adversely impacted the functioning of financial markets. "The thinning out of activity is impacting market liquidity and increasing volatility in financial prices," the RBI said.

The new hours will be applicable to call/term money, market repo in g-secs, tri-party repo in g-secs, CP and certificates of deposit, repo in corporate bonds, foreign currency and rupee trades.

## 'Delivering over 60 lakh LPG cylinders daily'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

LPG PRODUCTS including cylinders are being delivered to customers across the country without interruption, according to a release by the Petroleum Ministry.

"Our team is doing great work in ensuring uninterrupted LPG supplies to all households in every corner of the country. More than 60 lakh cylinders are being delivered every day," said Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

## SC quashes ₹650-crore I-T notice sent to NDTV in 2015

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

IN A relief to New Delhi Television (NDTV), the Supreme Court Friday quashed a Rs 650-crore notice sent by the Income Tax Department and said it was beyond the four-year limitation period and thus did not stand the scrutiny of law.

The I-T department, in 2015, issued a notice to the company seeking reassessment of the company's income for 2008-09, and alleged that the company was involved in money laundering by round tripping funds from its UK subsidiary.

## BRIEFLY

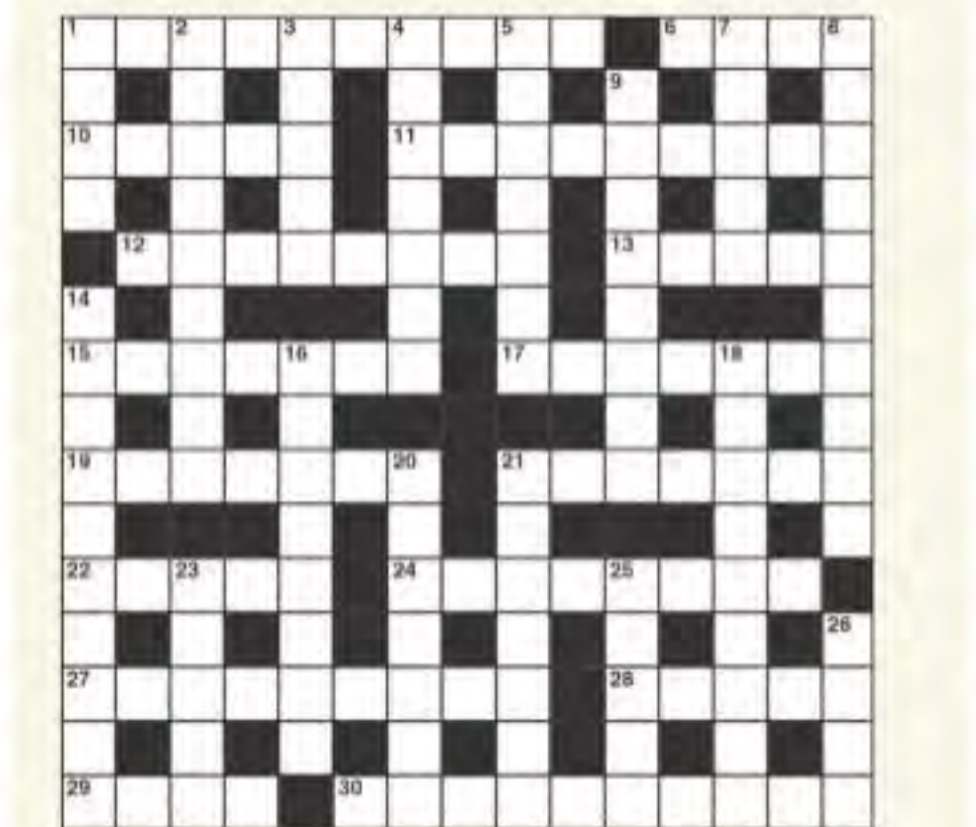
### US sheds most jobs in a decade

Washington: The US jobless rate rose to 4.4 per cent from a 50-year low of 3.5 per cent. The job loss of 7,01,000 was worst since the depths of the Great Recession in 2009. AP

### BDL contributes to PM-CARES

New Delhi: Bharat Dynamics has contributed Rs 9.2 crore to PM-CARES Fund. The aid has been raised via contribution of one-day salary by the staff and CSR funds. ENS

## CROSSWORD 4083



- ACROSS**
- 1 IST (10)
  - 6 Some letters put together show promise (4)
  - 10 Take off from the landing field (5)
  - 11 Proposes someone from Minnesota (9)
  - 12 The strength of the current? (8)
  - 13 The thanks one gets in a letter from Greece (5)
  - 15 May be consumed for the middle of the meal on board (7)
  - 17 Poet with no saving graces? (7)
  - 19 Mean to cut a vegetable? (7)
  - 21 Dad, after commercial, seen in study expressionless (7)
  - 22 With spirit, a sailor comes back to dance (5)
  - 24 Press one improperly for an answer (8)
  - 27 Tell people you've had enough, then keep quiet (3,2,4)
  - 28 All the players express mild disapproval before taking it back (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Argument in cabinet (4)
  - 2 Peter Frost enters within the boundary (9)
  - 3 Shelter for the brave (5)
  - 4 Badly leaking connection (7)
  - 5 Smirks that could be made to impress (7)
  - 7 Extravagant when out and about (5)
  - 8 Hopeless couple taken in by bad design (10)
  - 9 A song about a subject one can't stand (8)
  - 14 Opening words? (3,7)
  - 16 Stop in front of a humble building (8)
  - 18 He may take an interest in banking (9)
  - 20 Act according to type (7)
  - 21 Drop of French perfume (7)
  - 23 A month to live, perhaps (5)
  - 25 A sign that your car's not working? (2,3)
  - 26 Offers to take the lot? (4)

Solutions Crossword 4082: Across: 1 Buckram, 5 Pagan, 8 Flood tide, 9 Tug, 10 To-do, 12 Meantime, 14 Wisdom, 15 Knight, 17 Executor, 18 Snap, 21 Zip, 22 Incurious, 24 Siren, 25 Rumbled. Down: 1 Befit, 2 Coo, 3 Rode, 4 Maiden, 5 Preening, 6 Getting on, 7 Neglect, 11 Distemper, 13 Solution, 14 Wheezes, 16 Concur, 19 Posed, 20 Drum, 23 Owl.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

Take everything you like seriously, except — Rudyard Kipling (10)

LYEER      BEFMLU

SLOGS      CNOOVY

**SUDOKU 4169**

Difficulty Level 4s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 4168**

6	9	1	8	5	3	2	4	7
4	8	3	9	2	7	5	1	6
2	7	5	1	6	4	3	8	9
3	6	8	2	9	1	4	7	5
1	2	4	7	8	5	6	9	3
7	5	9	3	4	6	8	2	1
9	1	2	6	3	8	7	5	4
5	3	7	4	1	2	9	6	8
8	4	6	5	7	9	1	3	2

## DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
There's no point in making choices unless you do something about them. Decisions concerning home or family affairs must be translated instantly into action. Otherwise you will probably forget, or just lose interest. Unexpected news may prompt a change of course.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
The way forward is not always as clear as you'd like. Although it may sound slightly impractical, your best course of action may be to go for whichever option seems to be the most adventurous. Keep a weather-eye on delicate legal issues though, as you don't want disagreements at this stage.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
The heat has definitely been on lately, and only the most obstinate and stubborn Taurians have turned down certain dramatic blandishments. The best planetary influences relate to money, but your judgment will have to be nothing less than perfect. Now, there's a tall order.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
Of all the signs of the zodiac, yours is about to come closer to discovering the truth than any other. My best advice now is to stay cool and not be easily offended or dismayed. A last-minute financial rush may be good for you. Just for once, an instant decision might be the best.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
You are going to enjoy yourself more and more with every day that passes. But first there are certain hurdles to overcome, and these are probably more to do with self-knowledge than with actual events. In other words, if you know what you need, then you'll get what you want.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
You've done well. Nobody can deny that. Having stuck to your guns and made others realise just how tough you can be, you must now sit back and listen to them. Now is the worst time to imagine you can wind anybody up, or otherwise belittle their interests.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
There's no reason to push yourself too hard for no purpose. Time is on your side, mainly because you're only a part of the way through an enlightened ten-year cycle. Therefore, when other people have done their worst and given their best, you will still have more to offer.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
As the weeks go by, you will come to realise that a good friend was perhaps not all they seemed. Hidden depths should be the order of the day, so you may sit back and let your imagination be your guide. If you do a favour for someone, I am sure it will be repaid ten-fold.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
The past few months seem to have coincided with better personal relationships. Other people have been giving you fewer problems, and you seem to have become more confident. Today you may find time to relax and enjoy the fruits of your many emotional labours.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
There are extraordinarily powerful pressures to change, even when you don't want to. While aggravation at home may be a very powerful factor, those of you who have been experiencing professional pressures could suddenly realise that you can't go on as before.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
There are so many demands on your energy, that it scarcely seems possible that you'll have any space to rest or put your feet up, or otherwise wallow in your time off. For once, Pisces, you seem to have a purpose of your own. People who think you're their unpaid servant will have to back away.