

## CATCHING UP

# Fiscal deficit at 17.2 % of target

The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of the first four months of the current financial year touched 17.2 per cent of the full-year target, government data showed on Friday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit — the gap between expenditure and revenue — was ₹2.76 trillion as of July-end, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The deficit stood at 33.9 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) in the corresponding period of 2023-24.

In the Budget, the government projected to bring down the fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in the current 2024-25 financial year.

The deficit was 5.6 per cent of the GDP in 2023-24.

In absolute terms, the government aims to contain the fiscal deficit at ₹16.13 trillion during the current financial year. Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government for the first four months of 2024-25, CGA said the net tax revenue was ₹7.15 trillion or 27.7 per cent of the BE for the current fiscal.

The net tax revenue collection was 25 per cent at the July-end 2023.

The government's total expenditure in the four months through July stood at ₹13 trillion or 27 per cent of BE.

The expenditure was 30.7 per cent of the BE in the year-ago period. Of the total expenditure, ₹10.39 trillion was in the revenue account and ₹2.61 trillion was in the capital account.