

Fiscal deficit hits 74.5% of full-yr target by Jan-end

The Centre's fiscal deficit reached 74.5 per cent of the annual target by the end of January 2025, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Friday.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit — the gap between expenditure and revenue — stood at ₹11,69,542 crore during the April–January 2024–25 period. In the corresponding period last year, the deficit was 63.6 per cent of the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2023–24.

The CGA data showed that the central government's net tax revenue was ₹19.03 trillion, or 74.4 per cent of the RE for 2024–25, compared to 80.9 per cent in the same period of the previous financial year. Total expenditure stood at ₹35.7 trillion, or 75.7 per cent of the RE, slightly higher than the 74.7 per cent recorded in the year-ago period. In the Union Budget presented in Parliament, the fiscal deficit for 2024–25 has been pegged at 4.8 per cent of GDP, slightly lower than the earlier estimate of 4.9 per cent, and at 4.4 per cent for 2025–26. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit for the financial year ending March 2025 is projected at ₹15.69 trillion.