

Tax mop-up will surely exceed BE, says Revenue Secretary

Shishir Sinha
New Delhi

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj is confident that both direct and indirect tax collections will exceed Budget Estimates.

"I can say without any doubt at this stage, that yes, definitely in both direct as well as indirect taxes, we will exceed the Budget Estimates. In direct taxes, we may exceed by a big margin as compared to indirect taxes because in indirect taxes, we reduced the excise duty," Bajaj told *BusinessLine*.

For FY23, the Budget has set a target of ₹14.2-lakh crore and ₹13.37-lakh crore from direct and indirect taxes, respectively.

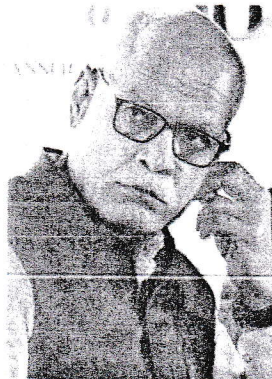
'BIG ACHIEVEMENT'

On Sunday, the Finance Ministry had said the gross collection of direct taxes for FY23, as on September 17, rose 30 per cent to over ₹8.36-lakh crore from over ₹6.42-lakh crore in corresponding previous period.

During the same time frame, the net collections (gross minus refund) topped ₹7-lakh crore as against ₹5.68-lakh crore, represent-

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Revenue Secretary



ing an increase of 23 per cent. "The difference between gross and net is also because of very high refunds. I feel, refunds will normalise in the next six months and net would move closer to the gross. So, even if we grow 27-28 or 30 per cent in the current year, we would almost double our direct tax revenue in two years, which is big achievement," he said.

Bajaj said that collection from Securities Transaction Tax during April-September grew 8.5 per cent. The government mopped up around ₹11,500 crore as against ₹10,600 crore during the year-ago period.

STT is levied on purchase

and sell of equity and debt instruments.

GST COLLECTIONS

On GST, Bajaj reiterated his expectation of ₹1.5-lakh crore or more collection from the month of November.

"First, the festival season should contribute to GST collections. Second, the economy is bouncing back. We have also done away with IDS and brought in reforms. And, third, we are gradually and quietly working on compliance management and people have now realised that it is better to comply than to dodge the tax administration," he said.