

Financial Market**Rupee weakends (BL-6)**

The rupee weakended by 11 paise against the dollar, but came off the day's lows on Thursday following the upgrade on the outlook on India from negative to stable by international rating agency Standard and Poor's. The rupee opened at 45.39 tracking the firm dollar and weak Asian currencies.

Call rates move up (BL-6)

Call rates ended at 3.5-3.6 per cent, from the previous close of 3.2-3.3 per cent due to advance tax outflow.

Banking**CRR may be raised: /rangrajan (FE-2)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could absorb liquidity by raising the CRR from the market before raising interest rates to tame inflation, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council chairman C Rangrajan said here on Thursday. Cash Reserve Ratio or CRR is the slice of deposits bank need keep with RBI.

United Bank expects Rs 550-cr Govt funding (BL-6)

State-owned United Bank of India expects Rs 550 crore of capital from the Union Government by March-end and hopes to comfortably achieve the credit growth target of 18 per cent in 2009-10.

PNB unlikely to hike rates (BL-6)

Punjab National Bank is unlikely to revise its interest rates in the short-term, the Executive Director, Mr Mohan V. Tanksale said on Thursday.

Slow credit offtake may banks' profits (BL-6)

Faced with sluggish credit offtake and hardening yields, bottomline of most banks is expected to take a knock this year.

Top bank officials said that some banks are also likely to end with red-lined balance sheets with high provisions and low interest incomes.

Indian Economy**'Monetary policy should target investment' (BS-6)**

India's monetary policy should focus on increasing investments into productive sectors rather than on inflation targeting, according to Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Food inflation dips to 4-mth low of 16.30% (FE-2)

India's food inflation for week ending March 6 dropped to a four-month low of 16.30% largely on account of falling prices of vegetables, pulses and sugar. However, milk prices have become costlier by 15.31% during the week.

RBI**RBI hints at early policy measures to curb inflation (BS-6)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today did not rule out the possibility of interest rate hikes ahead of its April policy if inflation continued to rise from the current level of around 10 per cent.

Corporate**Carlos Ghosn says small car will be priced lower than Nanno (BL-1)**

The ultra low-cost car that the joint venture of the French car major Renault and Bajaj is working on may be priced below the 'Tata Nano' Mr Carlos Ghosn, Chief Executive officer of Renault and Nissan, said, on Thursday.

Articles**Enrich human capital in PSBs (BL-8)**
K.Kanagasabapathy**'Expect a big push on retail, SME loans' (BS-6)**
Bhaskar Sen

March 19, 2010

News Index

Page 2

A pointer to financial, Economic & Banking News

Food inflation may decline as commodity prices fall
(BS-II-2)

Dilip Kumar Jha

Worst over, economy is on path of resurgence
(FE-2)

Manpreet Singh Badal, FM, Punjab