

Six pointers from BJP's poll manifesto that could find way into budget

Agency
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Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her first budget — also the first of the Narendra Modi government's second term — on Friday. The government will see this budget as a continuation of its past five years in power. At the same time, the magnitude of the mandate to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies may encourage the government to go for bold decisions. The budget also comes months before the states of Maharashtra and Jharkhand go to polls and as the prospect of a drought looms large in many parts of the country. One useful source for what to expect in this year's budget is the BJP manifesto for the 2019 elections. Here are six pre-election promises that could find their way into the budget:

1 Interest-free loans for farmers

The manifesto promises short-term new agriculture loans up to Rs 1 lakh for one to five years through Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) on the condition of prompt repayment of the principal amount. Currently, such loans are collateral free but attract a 7% rate of interest. There are almost 70 million KCCs in India, according to a report by the government to a question in the Rajya Sabha in 2018.

2 Collateral-free credit up to Rs 50 lakh for entrepreneurs. This will work on the basis of the government guaranteeing 50% and 25% of the loan for female and male entrepreneurs. This will be a big boost to the existing Mudra scheme, which the government claims has given a big boost to entrepreneurship.

3 Creating 10,000 farmer cooperatives

The manifesto promises that the government will enable

creation of 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) by 2022. This is accompanied by a promise that the government will help these bodies to directly market their output in big cities. This could help farmers in getting better prices and also allow the BJP to take on parties such as the Nationalist Congress Party in Maharashtra, which have a strong presence among farmers' cooperatives.

4 Bringing back sugar under the public distribution system (PDS)

The beneficiary manifesto families promises at Rs to 13/kg. offer According per kg sugar to a every December month 2018 to PDS statement by the government, PDS had at least 800 million beneficiaries in India. Given the average household size of 4.3, this comes to around 186 million households. If all of these households were to be given

12 kg sugar every year, it will result in a distribution of 2.2 million tons of sugar through the PDS. The wholesale price of sugar in 2018-19 was Rs 35.2 per kg. At these prices, the government will be buying sugar worth around Rs 78000 crore every year. This will help both consumers, who will get it cheaper than market rates, and the crisis-ridden sugar industry and sugar cane farmers.

Gunman opens fire at Lahore airport, 2 killed

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Two persons were killed as a gunman opened fire at Allama Iqbal International Airport in Lahore on Wednesday. The suspect opened fire in the airport lounge. He was later nabbed by the authorities, Dunya News reported. Police said that the incident took place due to personal enmity. Security has been beefed up at the airport. There is a heavy deployment of police and rangers. Entry to the airport has been stopped. Further investigation is underway.

Proper hydration is the key to prevent stone



Dr. S.S. Sibia, Director and Consultant, Sibia Medical Centre, Ludhiana
From a Correspondent
New Delhi July 3,

Urinary stone (calculus) are one of the most painful medical conditions. Calculus is solid crystallized mass present mainly in the kidneys but may also be in the ureters, bladder or urethra. "Prevention is always better than cure and proper hydration is the key to prevent stone formation. We recommend drinking up to 12 glasses of water daily. Mayo Clinic advocates passing 2.5 liters of urine a day to flush the kidneys. Water can be substituted with ginger ale, lemon-lime soda and fruit juice. Eating oxalate-rich foods in moderation and reducing intake of salt and animal proteins can also lower the risk of kidney stones," said Dr. S.S. Sibia, Director and Consultant, Sibia Medical Centre, Ludhiana. Diet advice depends on the type of stone. Patients with calcium oxalate stones are

advised to eating fewer oxalate-rich foods such as potato chips, peanuts, chocolate, beets, and spinach. Uric Acid stones develop when urine is too acidic and for this it is best to avoid fish, shellfish, and meats.

Your doctor may prescribe medications to help prevent the formation of calcium and uric acid stones and for pain relief or infection.

According to Dr. S.S. Sibia Urinary stones form more in men especially in those who are chronically dehydrated due to less water intake so as to produce less than one liter urine per day. Kidney stone disease may run in the family. Over weight, high-protein diet, hyperparathyroid condition and certain medications like diuretics, anti-epilepsy and antacids containing calcium can enhance urinary stone formation.

Kidney stones are frequently silent and cause no pain. Pin starts when they move down the urinary track. Kidney stones pain can be very severe. It comes in waves on one side of the back or abdomen and can radiate to the groin. Kidney stones can also cause reddish urine due to blood in the urine, vomiting, chills and fever. When stone passes from the kidney into the ureters it can block the passage and obstruct the flow of urine leading to kidney infection and kidney damage. Kidney stones can be

diagnosed by its typical pain and a physical exam. Tests include blood tests for urea, creatinine, electrolytes, calcium, phosphorus, uric acid, urinalysis, ultrasound, x-ray and intravenous pyelogram (IVP). MRI and CT scan may be required in few patients. When stones pass out they can be analysed to determine what type of stones they are.

Treatment depends on the site and size of the stone and the status of the kidneys. Small stones less than 4 mm can often be made to pass out by drinking six to eight glasses or more of water a day to increase urine flow.

Extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy removes stones with rays without surgery. The sound waves break up large stones so they can more easily pass down the ureters into the bladder and out of the body with urine. It requires no surgery, cuts or hospital stay and usually with little uncomfortable rarely requiring anesthesia. It is the treatment of choice in most patients having 10 to 16 mm stones.

Some patients may require surgery — either Percutaneous Nephrolithotomy stone removal through a small hole made in the back or open surgery with a large cut. Doctor may remove a stone stuck in the ureter or is in the bladder with an instrument called ureteroscope.

Germany's Ursula von der Leyen nominated to lead EU Commission

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European Union (EU) leaders have put forward their nominations for the bloc's top jobs, with a woman proposed as European Commission Chief for the first time. German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen has been nominated for the post to replace Jean-Claude Juncker. The nomination came after the main front-runners were

rejected. Ursula was backed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel but there was resistance to her nomination within the German coalition.

Chief of International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde has been nominated as the first woman to head the European Central Bank.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel is nominated to replace European Council President Donald Tusk, while Spain's

Foreign Minister Josep Borrell is proposed as Foreign Policy Chief.

In all, EU leaders were tasked with nominating five people for the top jobs.

The fifth key role - President of the European Parliament - is to be chosen tomorrow. Possible candidates include German centre-right MEP Manfred Weber and Bulgarian socialist Sergei Stanishev. Most of the roles must be ratified by Parliament.

About 2.5 lakh new jobs to be created in IT sector in coming months: Govt

Agency
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Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey has said, about 2 lakh 50,000 new jobs will be created in the IT sector in the coming months through the comprehensive skill development

programme. Addressing a function in New Delhi yesterday, Mr Pandey said, transforming the world's largest youth force into a truly skilled force is the vision of the NDA government. He said rapid advances made in the digital technology in the country can take this sector to the

tune of 7.2 billion dollars from 2.5 billion in 2018. The Minister also expressed hope that in coming years, India will stand shoulder to shoulder with the most advanced countries in the IT sector. He called upon the youth to lead the fourth industrial revolution through modern knowledge and skill.

Govt adopts multi-pronged approach to check infiltration of illegal migrants

Agency
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The government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to ensure effective surveillance and domination of international borders to check infiltration of illegal migrants. In a written reply to a question

in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs, G. Kishan Reddy said, physical infrastructure like border fencing, floodlighting, construction of border roads and establishment of border outposts has been created. He said the Home Ministry has issued instructions to

States and Union Territories advising them to ensure that no Aadhaar card is issued to illegal migrants. Mr Reddy said state governments have further been advised to cancel other state-level identification documents fraudulently obtained by illegal migrants.

7 people die, 24 missing after Dam breach in Maharashtra

Agency
New Delhi July 3,

Seven people died and 24 people were missing after Tiware Dam wall at Chiplun taluka in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra breached last night.

The district administration has informed that at least 13 houses were washed away due to flooding. Civil administration, police, volunteers and NDRF teams have reached the spot and rescue operations are still on. Officials fear the toll and number of missing might rise. In Mumbai, though rains have

taken a halt since today morning, the suburban train schedule on Central railways is yet to become normal while the trains on Western line has come to normalcy.

The Central authorities have informed that they are implementing Sunday's suburban train time-table today.

This has led to extremely heavy rush at all stations in Mumbai on a working day as commuters, including office-goers and students are stranded at various railway stations.

The roads are choc-a-block with bumper to bumper traffic

on Western Express Highway. At the Mumbai airport, the runway will remain closed till tomorrow for operations. Several flights have been cancelled. About 34 people have lost their lives in various rain-related incidents across the state.

The rescue operation is still on at the site of Malad wall collapse in suburban Mumbai incident in which 21 were killed.

The NDRF team was put into service for vacating the water-logged low-lying areas at Kurla in Mumbai, Tuesday early morning. There was no casualty in the area.

Infiltration from Bangladesh

PIB
Imphal: July, 3,

The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to ensure effective surveillance and domination of international borders to check infiltration of illegal migrants. Physical infrastructure like border fencing, floodlighting, construction of border roads and establishment of border outposts has been created. Vulnerable border outposts are regularly reviewed and strengthened by deploying additional

manpower, special surveillance equipments and other force multipliers. A technological solution in the form of Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) has been implemented in some vulnerable border areas.

Border guarding forces conduct regular patrolling, lay nakas and establish observation posts and carry out anti-tunnelling exercises to stop illegal infiltration. However, some illegal migrants are able to enter in a clandestine and

surreptitious manner, mainly due to difficult riverine terrain in parts of the long international borders with Bangladesh. There is no accurate central data regarding exact number of such illegal immigrants and any demographic change in North Eastern states.

Ministry of Home Affairs has issued instructions to State Govts./UTs advising them to ensure that no Aadhaar card is issued to illegal migrants. State Governments have been further advised to cancel

other state level identification documents fraudulently obtained by illegal migrants viz. voter card, driving license, ration card etc. and initiate deportation proceedings as per provisions of law. The States/UTs have also been advised to share with the UIDAI the particulars of those illegal migrants who have wrongfully obtained Aadhaar Cards for appropriate legal action. This was stated by the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri G. Kishan Reddy in a written reply to question in the Lok Sabha Yesterday.

Assam Rifles conducts security Meet with saves Snake bite victims

IGAR (South)
Imphal July 3,

Keithelmanbi Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a security meet at Keithelmanbi Garrison. The security forum was attended by the ward councilors, pradhans and youth club members along with locals of the area.

During the meet various aspects concerning security in the area were discussed and the locals were sensitized on current situation existing in the area of responsibility. An interaction was carried out on necessary measures to be undertaken for maintaining a strict vigil against illicit activities in the area. In addition to the security issues, future action plan in respect of civic action projects like medical camps, recruitment in Assam Rifles and Army and career counseling for youth



were also discussed during the meet. The locals expressed their gratitude and appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles for conduct of such security meetings and ensuring peace in the area and assured their commitment and assistance in maintaining the same. The security meet concluded with tea and refreshments for all the attendees.

Tuliha Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) provided timely medical treatment to two snake bite victims. In two separate incidents, a 22 year girl of Kimbi Terakhong village and a 27 yrs old woman of Kanchikhul village were bitten by poisonous snakes. Both the snake bite victims were evacuated to the Unit

Hospital located at Tuliha where they were readily attended by the medical team under Regimental Medical Officer and was administered necessary life saving treatment.

The locals expressed profound gratitude and appreciation for the noble gesture and prompt response of Assam Rifles at a crucial time to save the precious lives.