

Income scheme will be rolled out in phases: P Chidambaram

Agency
New Delhi, March 27,

The Congress party's minimum income guarantee scheme will be rolled out in phases and the five crore beneficiary families will be covered in phases, senior leader P Chidambaram said on Wednesday. Addressing a press conference here, the former Finance Minister said 'enough' economists and experts in the subject had been consulted and they broadly agreed that India has the capacity to implement the scheme. Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has said the implementation of the scheme is possible, Chidambaram added. "Our calculation shows that it will not cross 2 percent of the GDP, it will be 1.8 per cent of the GDP at any given point of time," he said. "The scheme will be rolled out in phases and we will cover the five crore families in phases," he said. The senior party leader

said the scheme has to be tested in the field and then rolled out. An expert committee will be set up for its implementation and it will design the scheme at every stage and "we will consult the committee before we move to the next stage," he said. There is enough data to identify the five crore families, Chidambaram said. When the 100 days employment scheme (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) was implemented in 2009, BJP leader Arun Jaitley had said it was not possible to implement the scheme. Jaitley, however, forgot to say that doubling income for the farmers was not possible when Modi announced it, he said. "I don't wish to reply to anyone who criticises a programme intended to wipe out poverty," he said answering a question on criticism of the scheme. "MNREGA eradicated hunger income scheme will root out poverty." The Congress alone cannot be blamed for not eradicating poverty, he said adding the party had

taken several measures to root it out and succeeded in several of them as well. "To eradicate poverty, a minimum income is needed otherwise poverty will not end." Like the Minimum Wages Act which stipulates minimum wages, every family should have a minimum income and the government cannot provide the entire income and that was why the scheme is called the "Minimum Income Support Scheme." An amount of Rs 72,000 a year, a standard amount Rs 6,000 per month is proposed to be transferred to the account of beneficiaries if the Congress is voted to power in the coming Lok Sabha elections. He said his party was aware of the challenges involved in implementing the scheme and added that "we will overcome these challenges." "We will insist that every family should open an account in the name of the woman in the family and the money will be transferred to her account."

Amit Shah to go on roadshow in Tripura

Agency
Agratata, March 27,

On Thursday evening, BJP national president Amit Shah is scheduled to hold a roadshow for West Tripura Lok Sabha candidate Pratima Bhowmik. The visit of Shah is significant as BJP's ally in the Tripura government, IPFT, has entered the fray in both the Lok Sabha seats of the state

separately. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also scheduled to hold a rally on April 6 next at Udaipur seeking votes for the BJP candidates of the state. Sources said the presence of health minister Sudip Roy Barman, who was made the in-charge of West Tripura constituency poll management committee, was almost nil in the campaigning. Similarly, food, civil

supplies and sports minister Monoj Kanti Deb and a number of MLAs, who had come from Congress, were also found to be not active in the poll process. Health minister Roy Barman, a popular leader among anti-Left parties, was allegedly sidelined by the BJP state leadership which accused him of opposing the chief minister and a few decisions of the party.

India successfully tests anti-satellite missile capability

ANI
New Delhi, March 27,

Prime minister Narendra Modi has announced that India has demonstrated anti-satellite missile capability by shooting down a live satellite on a Low Earth Orbit. In his address to the nation, Mr Modi said, an Anti-Satellite Missile (ASAT) destroyed the live satellite within three minutes. He said, this Mission

Shakti operation was a difficult target to achieve which was completed successfully. The Prime Minister said, with this, India has registered herself as a space power today and till now only US, Russia and China have achieved this. He said, now India is the fourth country to achieve this feat. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu also congratulated Indian

space scientists for Mission Shakti. In a tweet, he said, with the successful launch of anti-satellite missile, the country has emerged as a space superpower in the world. The Vice President said, everyone is proud of the achievement of Indian space scientists. Congress President Rahul Gandhi also congratulated DRDO and said he is extremely proud of its work.

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