

Economic crisis? Pak allocates Rs 2,100bn for defence in budget, a 19% hike over 2023

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Cash-strapped Pakistan's exigency of securing a bailout from the IMF dominated the political discourse Wednesday as the new Shehbaz Sharif-led govt presented its first federal budget, worth a projected Rs 18.5 trillion, in the National Assembly.

Last month, IMF linked any future deal with Islamabad to the passage of the 2024-25 budget in parliament. Even with depleted foreign reserves and an economic crisis, the govt allocated Rs 2,100 billion to defence in the federal budget, a 19% increase over the previous year. IMF hasn't demanded cuts in defence spending so far.

Pakistan has been in talks with the IMF for a loan estimated to range from \$6bn to \$8bn as it seeks to avert a default in the face of its economy growing the slowest among all countries of the region. Islamabad entered into a \$6.5bn three-year

deal with IMF in 2019. It got a final \$3 billion under a standby arrangement last year.

The finance ministry and IMF were reportedly locked in last-minute talks as the global lender presented some more tough conditions last week to include in the budget. A ministry official said the IMF's demands include a higher tax

revenue target, withdrawal of subsidies, taxes on agriculture sector, increased taxes and levies on the power, gas, and oil sectors, privatisation of sick



govt organisations and units, and improved administration.

Despite Pakistan's pursuit of economic diplomacy to improve trade and investment ties with other nations, finance minister Muhammad Aurangzeb said there were no alternatives to IMF at present.

A day earlier, the govt unveiled its 2023-24 economic survey, which showed the economy failed to meet most of its targets set in the previous budget.

Govt plans to import additional chana from Aus to check prices

Fall In Output & Increased Consumption Have Led To More Import

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New Delhi: As rise in price of pulses and fall in production of chana (bengal gram) remain a concern, govt is looking at importing 11 lakh tonne of chana from Australia soon. This will be in addition to the import of 16 lakh tonne of yellow peas used as substitute of chana in the past six months since govt did away with the import duty.

Sources said govt has sounded out Australia about the plan to import more chana in the next few months to increase availability and check prices. Chana has 50% share in pulse production in the country and is widely consumed. Reduction in availability of chana impacts the prices of other pulses.



SPIKE ALERT: As per Union consumer affairs ministry data, average retail prices of chana increased from Rs 74.7 per kg a year back to Rs 85.8 on June 13 and on Wednesday it stood at Rs 87.6

As per consumer affairs ministry data, the average retail prices of chana has increased from Rs 74.7 per kg a year back to Rs 85.8 on June 13 and on Wednesday it stood at Rs 87.6 per kg. Price of tur dal

has also increased by around 27% in the past one year, from Rs 126.4 a kg to Rs 160.3 on Wednesday. Similarly, urad dal price has increased by 13.5% in the past one year. However, there is a minor rise

in retail prices of masur dal.

Trade sources said govt's intention to import more chana from Australia has sent the right signal to growers there and this will result in an increase in seeding this year.

As per the agriculture ministry estimate, gram production in the 2023-24 crop year (July-June) is estimated at 116 lakh tonne, lower than previous year's 123 lakh tonne. But traders expect the actual harvest to be lower.

Fall in pulses production and increased consumption has resulted in import of more pulses during the current financial year. Sources said the import has increased to 3.7 lakh tonne in the past two months compared to 3.1 lakh tonne during the corresponding period last year.

App to help roll out new criminal laws in capital

Hectic Meetings On With 15,000 Personnel Already Trained

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A NEW ORDER TAKES SHAPE

What Won't Be There

- Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act

What Will Be There

- FIRs will now be registered under provisions of **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**
- Prosecution and trial will proceed as per **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)**
- Evidence will be recorded under **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)**

Highlights Of BNS

- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** retains most offences from IPC
- It adds community service as a form of punishment
- Terrorism is listed as an offence, cops need not rely only on current UAPA
- Petty organised crime is also an offence now

Mob Lynching
BNS adds offence of murder or grievous hurt by five or more people on specified grounds like race, caste, sex, language

Sedition is no longer an offence, replaced by 'acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India'

Delhi Police And BNS

Delhi Police will roll out new laws from July 1

A committee was constituted for training and implementation

Training of personnel carried out in batches

In the beginning, cops may use both sections for listing for clarification

Over 15,000 personnel have been trained for new laws

BNS & Crimes

Section 95 | Deals with hiring or employing a child to commit an offence

Section 48 | Abetment outside India for offence in India

Offences that attract death penalty | Rape, gang rape, repeat rape offence, murder

Section 77 | Deals with the act of watching, capturing, or disseminating private images of a woman without consent

Section 78 | Deals with offence of stalking

Section 191 | Rioting — whenever force or violence is used by an unlawful assembly

Section 152 | Act endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India

Section Change For Major Crimes (NOT IPC, IT'S BNS NOW)

| Crime | Before (IPC) | After (BNS) |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Murder | 302 | 101 |
| Rape | 376 | 63 |
| Gang rape | 376-G | 70 (various provisions from 63-70) |
| Robbery | 394/397 | 307 |
| Snatching | 379/256 | 302 |
| Attempted murder | 307 | 109 |
| Prohibitory orders | 144 | 187 |
| Cheating | 420 | 316 |
| Waging war against country | 121 | 149 |
| Defamation | 499 | 356 |
| Terrorism | UAPA | 113 |
| Organised crime | NA | 111 |
| Causing death due to negligence | 304A | 106 |

How cops were taught new laws

Reading material, compendiums and use of master trainers

24 personnel were picked from each police station.

In the first phase, 1,100 policemen trained simultaneously

Training sessions were held at Wazirabad, Dwarka, Jharoda Kalan and Barakhamba Road police station hall

Classes were of 1.5 hours duration, four classes held in a day



New Delhi: Delhi Police is working on an app that will help investigating officers in fulfilling the requirements of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which is set to be rolled out on July 1. The app will help the cops in filming the crime scene and preserving recordings besides submitting all this to courts.

The app is likely to handle videos, audio recordings and pictures from the crime scene and allow the investigating officers to directly upload these, sources said.

With barely two weeks left for the rollout of the new laws, the police brass is learnt to be fine-tuning the app with the help of technical experts. The focus is on preserving the sanctity of digital evidence, something which Union home minister Amit Shah was keen on, said an officer.

On July 1, Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Evidence Act will cease to exist and all FIRs of criminal offences will be registered under BNS. Instead of Indian Evidence Act, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam will kick in as well. CrPC will be replaced by Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita which defines the updated procedures and time-limits for criminal investigation and trial and needs full digital integration of all arms of the criminal justice system, including courts.

The police brass has imparted the training for implementation of the new laws to over 15,000 personnel, including assistant SIs and SIs, who function as IOs and even SHOs and ACPs.

Most cops at the police station level have either received training or have been acquainted with the new laws through a booklet. The police brass seems confident of rolling out the new laws with special CP Chhaya Sharma handling training

and the two law and order chiefs — Ravindra Yadav and Madhup Tiwari — having been tasked with ensuring seamless transition at the police station level.

While a key review meeting is to be held on Saturday where the police brass will take stock of the preparations, a

series of meetings, including with the ministry of home affairs and LG, are lined up for the next two weeks.

While BNS retains most offences from IPC, some of the features stand out. For example, it adds community service as a form of punishment. Organised crime is an

offence and so is petty organised crime. Sedition is no longer an offence and has been replaced by a broader offence which comes under 'acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India'. Terrorism is also listed as an offence and cops need not rely only on UAPA.



Modi to come face to face with Trudeau at G7, may take up separatist issue

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With PM Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau set to come face to face at the G7 summit in Italy on Friday, the govt reiterated that India's main issue with Canada remained the political space given to anti-India elements who advocate violence and extremism.

Modi will arrive in Italy on Thursday for what will be his fifth consecutive participation in the summit of the economically most advanced nations as the leader of an invitee country. He will look to address issues related to the Global South while underlining the significance of dialogue and diplomacy for resolving the Russia-Ukraine war,

Gandhi statue vandalised in Italy, MEA protests

MEA said Wednesday that it has raised the issue of vandalism of a Mahatma Gandhi statue by pro-Khalistan activists in Italy, just ahead of PM Modi's visit. "We have seen reports and taken it up with the Italian authorities. We understand that a suitable rectification has already been made..." FS Vinay Kwatra said. **P 14**

an issue high on the G7 agenda along with the Gaza conflict. He will participate in the G7 outreach session on Friday and is also likely to have bilateral meets with G7 leaders.

► Continued on P 14

CRPF jawan, 2 terrorists killed in 15-hr Jammu op

Jammu: A CRPF constable from MP and two suspected Pakistani terrorists were killed in a 15-hour operation that began late Tuesday in the border village of Seda Sohal in Kathua district of Jammu division, where an alert about a likely fidayeen strike was sounded Wednesday. Terrorists have struck at four places in the region, beginning with Sunday's ambush on a bus in Reasi district that left nine dead and 41 wounded, reports Sanjay Khajuria.

In Doda district, five Rashtriya Rifles troopers and a special police officer were wounded in a terrorist attack on a checkpoint near Chattergala

PTI



Weapons and cash recovered from terrorists in Kathua district

mountain pass on Bharderwah-Pathankot highway around 1am Wednesday. The busy road has been closed and additional forces deployed to intensify an operation to track down the attackers.

► **Related report, P 18**

India slips 2 notches to 129 in WEF global gender gap index

Closed 64.1% Of Gap In '24, Score For All 146 Countries Is 68.5%

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New Delhi: India ranked 129 out of 146 countries, two ranks lower than the previous year with a marginally lower score (0.17 points), in the Global Gender Gap Report 2024 released by World Economic Forum on Wednesday. With a population of over 1.4 billion, India closed 64.1% of its gender gap in 2024.

The global gender gap score in 2024 for all 146 countries stands at 68.5%. "The lack of meaningful, widespread change since the last edition effectively slows down the rate of progress to attain parity. Based on current data, it will take 134 years to reach full parity — roughly five generations beyond the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target," the report highlights. The Gender Gap Index shows that while no country has achieved full gender parity, 97% of the economies includ-



While no country has achieved full gender parity, 97% of economies have closed more than 60% of their gap, compared to 85% in 2006

ed in this edition have closed more than 60% of their gap, compared to 85% in 2006.

Last year, India ranked 127 on the index showing an improvement by 1.4 percentage points and eight positions from 135 in 2022. India had closed 64.3% of the overall gender gap, the 2023 report had observed, marking a partial recovery towards India's 2020 (66.8%) parity level.

On India dropping two rungs in the latest index, the

report highlights that "this slight regression is mainly the result of small declines in educational attainment and political empowerment, while economic participation and opportunity slightly improves."

The report noted that parity in educational attainment is well underway, but challenges remain. Updated figures in educational attainment bring India's parity levels slightly down from

prior scores. "While the shares of women are high in primary, secondary and tertiary education enrolments, they have only been modestly increasing, and the gap between men and women's literacy rate is 17.2 percentage points wide, leaving India ranked 124th on this indicator," it is stated in the report.

In the political empowerment subindex, while India scores within the top 10 on the head-of-state indicator (40.7%), the country's scores for women's representation at the federal level, in ministerial positions (6.9%) and in Parliament (17.2%), remain relatively low.

The index ranked India's neighbours Bangladesh at 99, China at 106, Nepal at 117, Sri Lanka at 122, Bhutan at 124 and Pakistan at 145. Iceland (93.5%) is again ranked first and has been leading the index for a decade and a half. Of the remaining nine economies in the top 10, eight have closed over 80% of their gap.

India will be main driver of global oil demand: IEA

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New Delhi: India will become the main driver of global oil demand growth in the second half of the decade on the back of expanding transportation of fuel consumption, driven by rapid economic growth and growing population, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday.

The agency's Oil 2024 report and forecast till 2030 saw India's oil demand rising 1.3 million bpd (barrels per day), or 3.2%, from 5.4 million bpd in 2023 to 6.7 million bpd by 2030. This increase will be higher than any country other than China between 2023 and 2030, it said. In contrast, the report said, "demand in China, long the single most important driver of global growth in oil use, is set to reach a plateau at close to 18 mb/d (1.4 mb/d higher than 2023) by the end of the decade."

India's oil consumption growth will be underwritten by increasing demand for transport fuels, growing economy and population besides "underlying demand outpacing deployment of clean energy technology".