

DEKHO, BUDGET AAYA!



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WATER WATER EVERYWHERE... STILL NO DROP TO DRINK

To provide 'water security for all by 2024', the government has allocated 3.6 lakh crore for the Jal Jeevan Mission to recharge water sources, improving water harvesting and to provide piped water supply to every household. Cities with over one million population will also be encouraged to meet this objective during the current year.

"It was good to hear that government is working towards water harvesting. Cities in India is already struggling with the water issue. I remember last year when students in Chennai (my student also) were being asked to leave the city and to go back to their home, as there was a water shortage," shares Rajesh Sharma, a 55-year-old civil engineer.

While in the case of other pollution hazards like air pollution, the government has allocated ₹4,400 crores for clean air schemes.

HEALTHY WEALTHY

The government has allocated Rs 69,000 crore, inclusive of ₹6,400 crore already directed towards the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The scheme will be implemented in 1,000 more hospitals in India.

"This has bought some good news for the healthcare sector. The allocation of this amount (₹69,000 crores) to healthcare in the new financial year is a heart-

ening measure. We are also pleased with the increased coverage announced under the PMJAY, which seeks to improve access to quality healthcare and insurance in Tier II and III cities as well. Sitharaman has also addressed the shortage of qualified doctors, a major concern for the healthcare segment, and the announcement of setting up new hospitals with tax generated from the sale of medical devices, is a welcoming move," shares Dr Babit Kumar, radiologist, Motherland Hospital.

WHO RUNS THE WORLD? ...GIRLS!

There is every reason to smile for women who want to start a business as the government plans to allot ₹28,600 crores to women related schemes.

"The budget gives a leg-up to start-ups by announcing an investment clearance cell. This should help clear roadblocks in the ways of attaining funds for budding entrepreneurs, shares, Malini Saba.

Aashmeen Munjaal, makeup expert further points out that it is a very good step for women, she shares, "Exemption is increased. Basically, for instance, if I seek in an amount of ₹2 lakh, we are getting ₹75k in savings. So it is friendly for women, especially who want to pursue in their careers and want to grow their businesses. It's really appreciating and encouraging for women on the basis of new provisions."