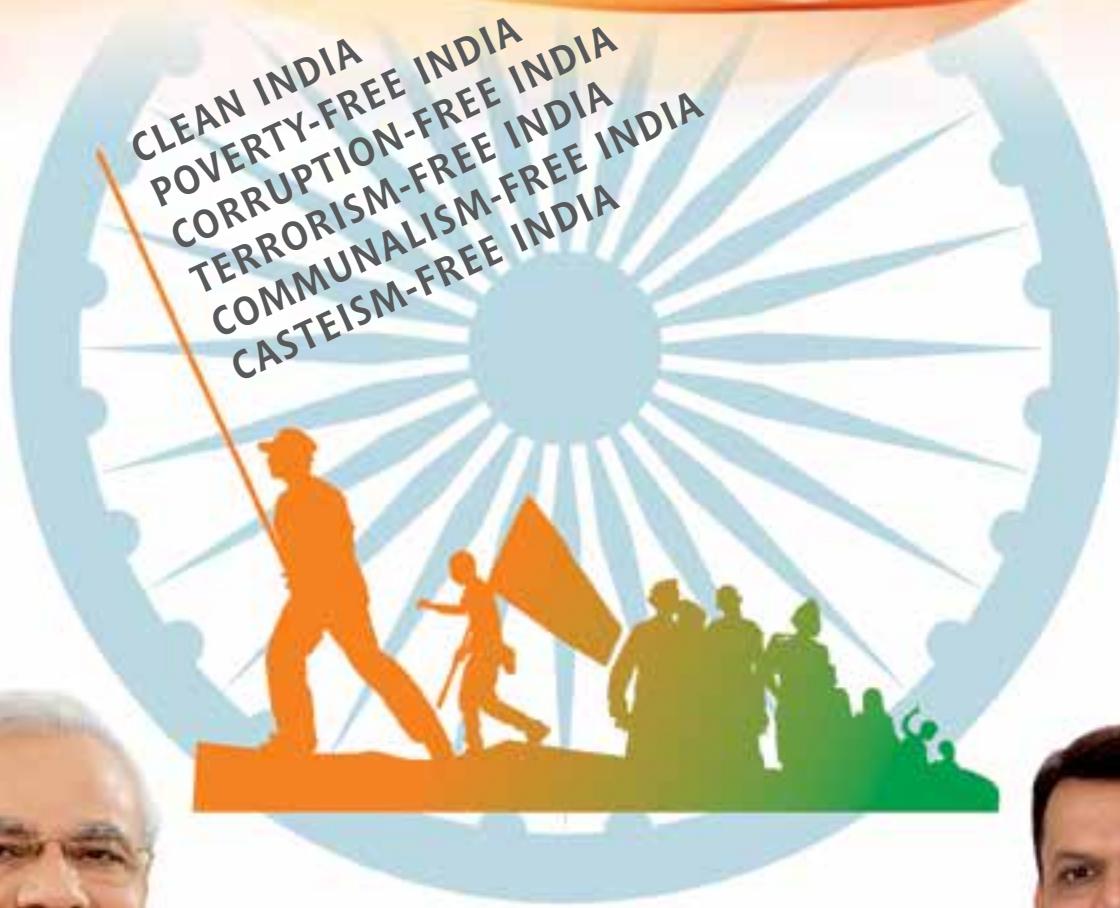


Maharashtra Ahead

VOL.6 ISSUE 10 ■ OCTOBER 2017 ■ ₹50 ■ PAGES 76



**SANKALP
SE SIDDHI**
ATTAINMENT THROUGH RESOLVE

Maharashtra Contributes to Build A New India 2017-2022

Attainment Through Resolve

Building a New India (2017-2022)

**125 crore Indians take pledge to build
New India 2022**





05 ADDRESS PRIME MINISTER

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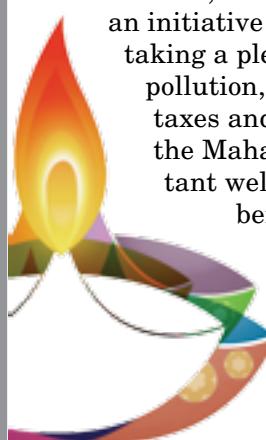
**Directorate General of Information
and Public Relations,
Government of Maharashtra**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

LET'S PLEDGE TO BECOME THE BEST

Encouraging the Nation and people to reform, perform and transform, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a call 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' (attainment through resolve). The objective of the pledge to build new India by 2022 is to free India from poverty, terrorism... The Prime Minister has given five years to build this New India that is strong, prosperous and all-encompassing. This movement has been launched on the 75th anniversary of Quit India movement. Let us all pledge to work shoulder to shoulder and dedicate ourselves to creating a New India.

Taking a leaf from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concept of New India, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has launched an initiative to lay the foundation of a New Maharashtra by taking a pledge to make the State free from debt, drought, pollution, unclean surroundings, complex web of various taxes and arbitraries of builders. In the last three years, the Maharashtra Government has taken many important welfare decisions on these social challenges for the benefit of the people. In the month of October, the State Government completes three years in office. The special issue of 'Maharashtra Ahead' marks this occasion and observes the pledge by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for New India.



The current issue has information about various programmes, decisions, schemes and policies to be implemented during the 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' programme by the Centre and Chief Minister's pledge for New Maharashtra. The edition also has details of functioning and achievements by various ministries and progress in their respective departments. We are sure that you will find the edition interesting and rich with information.

On the occasion of Diwali, we wish our readers, subscribers, writers and everyone whose contribution is invaluable to the issue a very Happy Diwali to.

Brijesh Singh
Editor-in-Chief



NEW INDIA MOVEMENT 2017-2022

Encouraging every Indian to come forward and participate in India's glorious journey from attainment through resolve, **PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI**, in his address in the Parliament cited the next five years as the years of change and participation. We present this edited excerpt from the speech



Honourable Speaker Madam, I express my gratitude to you and all the respected members in the House on the occasion of 75th anniversary of August Kranti. Many of us remember the events unfolding on August 9, 1942. Even after years, the memory of such major events is a source of inspiration for people. Remembering such important events gives a new boost to our lives and strength to the nation. It is our duty to ensure that this message reaches out to our new generations. Every generation is responsible for bequeathing the legacy and the glorious history of their times, atmospherics, sacrifices of great men, duty and power to the future generations.

In the history of our freedom movement, the 9th August movement has been such an important, extensive and intense movement that even Britishers could not imagine. Mahatma Gandhi and all senior leaders were put behind bars. This was the time when many new leaders came to the forefront—Lal Bahadur Shastri, Ram Manohar Lohia, Jaiprakash

Narayan, while many youth joined the movement to give it the desired momentum. Such historical movements should be seen as new inspiration, new energy, new resolve and spirit of innovation among the people.

MILESTONES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE
India became a free country in 1947. The period between 1857 and 1947 was a witness to different stages in our freedom movement, as many people laid down their lives for the nation and there were several ups and downs. The movement in 1942 was in a way the final mass struggle that the fellow citizens were waiting for. The movement set the stage of our independence. We may recall the freedom struggle of 1857 when every corner of the country was reverberating with the call for freedom. Mahatma Gandhi's return from abroad, Lokmanya Tilak's call for Poorna Swarajya (total self-governance) and "Swarajya is my birthright" represent the sentiments of that time. It was followed by Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March in 1930. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army inspired the



“Bapu tried to take Quit India movement to a great height, and the result of that was that India was liberated from the slavery of the British.”

people, while many youth like Veer Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru, Chandrashekhar Azad, Chapekar Bandhu, laid down their lives for the motherland. All these events gave momentum to freedom movement; it was a situation of ‘now or never’. Gandhiji’s words were the guiding force; the slogan of ‘Quit India’ was on everyone’s lips.

One of the most striking features of August Kranti was that the sentiments of people were altogether different from Gandhiji’s thoughts, contemplation and ethics. The key words of this great man were, “We shall do or die”. The words were unique for the nation. Gandhiji had said, “From today onwards, everyone should consider himself as an independent woman or a man and should act accordingly. I am not going to be content with anything less than complete independence. We will do or die.” Bapu also clarified that he had not left the path of non-violence. However, the situation and the pressure were such that even Bapu had to adapt to people’s emotions, while assuming the leadership.

All sections of society, villages, farmers, labourers, teachers, students joined this movement with the slogan ‘Do or Die’. Bapu even used to say, “Whosoever becomes martyr because of the violence perpetrated by the British, one should write this slogan on his body that he was a martyr of this freedom movement”. Bapu tried to take this

movement to a great height, and as a result that India was liberated from the slavery of the British. The country was desperate for that freedom, be it a leader or an ordinary Indian, there was no difference in the intensity of this feeling. I believe that when the country stands united and when there is a power of unity, when the goal is set, the target is set, then the people can walk towards that direction.

CHARGED ATMOSPHERE

Within five years, i.e. between 1942 and 1947, Mother India became free. At that time, Rambriksh Benipuri had written a book titled *Zanjire Aur Diware* wherein he wrote, “There is a wonderful atmosphere throughout the country. Every person became a leader and every cross-road became the centre of ‘Do or Die’ movement. The country put itself inside the oven of revolution. The flame of revolution was engulfing the country. Bombay led the way. All means of transport were stopped. The Court proceedings were stalled. The news of the bravery of the people of India and the brutality of British Government was reaching every corner. The public had well placed the Gandhian mantra of ‘Do or Die’.”

It is true that British colonialism began in India and also ended in India. India’s freedom became a source of inspiration for colonies in Africa and Asia. Gradually, all these countries became free. This was a good evidence of India’s determination. The lesson for us is that, when we are determined to do something, we gradually move towards the desired goal. Then it becomes the strength of the country and we take the country out of the crisis, and the country can be prepared for the new goals. At that time, the poetry of the national poet, Sohan Lal Dwivedi vividly described the power of Bapu and the time and movement. In his poem he said,

*Chal pade jidhar do dag, mag main
Chal pade koti pag usi or
Gad gayi jidhar bhi ek drishti
Gad gaye koti dag usi or*





This poem means that the path walked by Mahatma Gandhi was taken by millions of people, and the goal where Gandhiji's eyes were fixed, the eyes of millions were also set. But today, in 2017, we do not have a Gandhi; we have the strength of 1.25 crore Indians. If we all try together, it will not be a difficult task to fulfil the

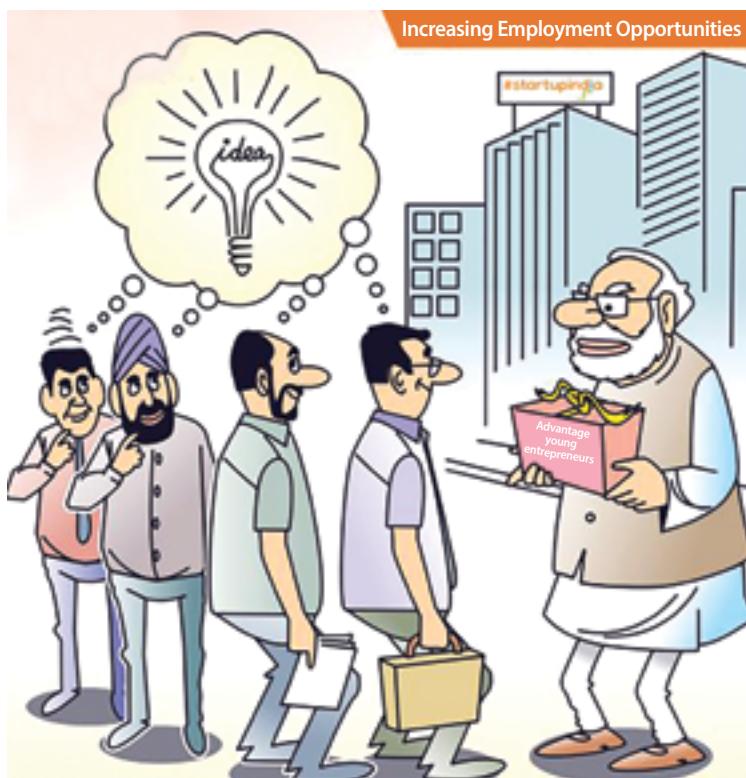
dreams of Gandhiji and freedom fighters. Today, we have the opportunity of enabling a situation like that in 1942. The world is undergoing a crisis today. Just like in 1942, we can once again become the source of inspiration for the world.

CHALLENGES OF TODAY'S INDIA

Poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy are the challenges in front of us. Today's time demands that we take the opportunity to free the country from these issues. Breaking rules has become our way of life. Even the smallest incidents take us to violence. As a law-abiding citizen, we must be dutiful.

Toilets and cleanliness are not a matter of mockery. Mother and sisters have to wait for the darkness to relieve themselves. The country should bear the burden of at least a class of people, which includes women and sisters of this country. Their strengths can give us strength. In the freedom movements of Mahatma Gandhi, many of these mothers and sisters led and made equal contribution. Even today, they have as much contribution to the nation. We should move forward with the duty of providing them toilets.

From 1857 to 1942, the freedom movement passed through different stages; there were ups and downs; different turning points, new leadership; sometimes it was violent, then non-violent. Sometimes there was an atmosphere of confrontation between the two streams; sometimes both the streams complemented each other. This whole period was incremental in a way. Gradually growing, slowly spreading, people were slowly connecting. But from 1942 to 1947, it was not an incremental change. There was an environment of disruption,



A DIALOGUE WITH DISTRICT COLLECTORS

On August 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the district collectors across the country via video-conference on the theme of New India-Manthan on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement. Aiming change at the grassroots level, the Prime Minister encouraged the officers to take up the objective of Sankalp se Siddhi (Achievement through Resolve).

The Prime Minister described the collectors, as not just representatives of their districts, but also the youth of the regions who must decide where they want to see their districts in 2022, what challenges they must overcome and what services must they ensure.

The Prime Minister noted that some districts have always lagged in basic services such as electricity, water, education and health, and when the socio-economic conditions improve in the 100 most backward districts, it would give a big boost to the overall development of the country. Narendra Modi encouraged replication and scaling up of best practices from districts where good results are being achieved in a particular field or scheme. He asked the collectors to seek help from colleagues, intellectuals of the district and students of schools and colleges, to prepare a vision document or resolution document for their district. The document should include those 10 or 15 objectives that they believe should be achieved by 2022.



which forced the British to finish all the equations and give us freedom. From 1857 to 1942, everything was proceeding slowly, but between 1942 and 1947 this was not so.

If we look at the history of society of the last 100, 200 years, the journey of development was incremental. Slowly the world was moving; gradually the world was changing itself. But in the last 30-40 years, there was a sudden change in the world and life. Technology played a greater role. No one could imagine this change. We can feel a positive change with this disruption.

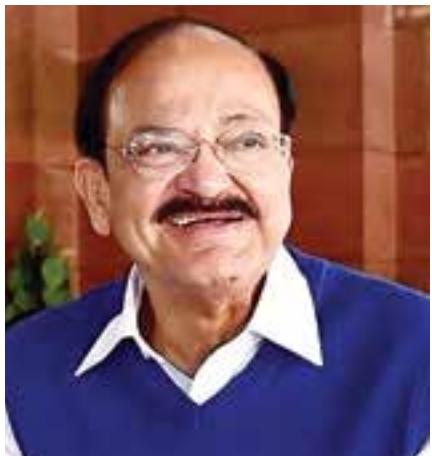
I believe, 2017 and 2022, 75 years of Quit India and 75 years of independence respectively, within these five years, the same mood that existed between 1942 and 1947 shall prevail. In 2022, we will celebrate 75 years of independence, by that time we should fulfil the dreams of the heroes of the freedom struggle. We will carry forward our resolve. I am confident that we can do a lot of work with consensus on certain issues.

We just saw that with GST. The success of GST is the result of the willpower of the people

sitting in this House. Whether sitting here or anywhere, it goes to all the States, goes to the general merchant of the country.

Mahatma Gandhi gave us the slogan of 'do or die'. Today, in 2017, if we take this resolution that by 2022, India will get rid of corruption, we all have to come together to give the poor their rights. Together we will give young people more opportunities of self-employment. Together we will end the problem of malnutrition. We will all end and eliminate the hindrances that stop women from moving ahead. Together we will eradicate illiteracy from the country and will continue to do it.

In next five years, we should fulfil the dreams of freedom fighters. Today, on August Revolution Day, remembering those great men, remembering their sacrifices, penance and seeking their blessings, let us all get together and lead the country by agreeing on a few things – making the country free from all the problems for the fulfilment of dreams, power, strength and goal. With this expectation, I once again express my gratitude to you Madam and pay my obeisant to the freedom fighters. M



Vice President of India

CLEANLINESS IS SERVICE

With the Prime Minister taking the lead, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has acquired momentum in the last three years, says

M. VENKAIAH NAIDU

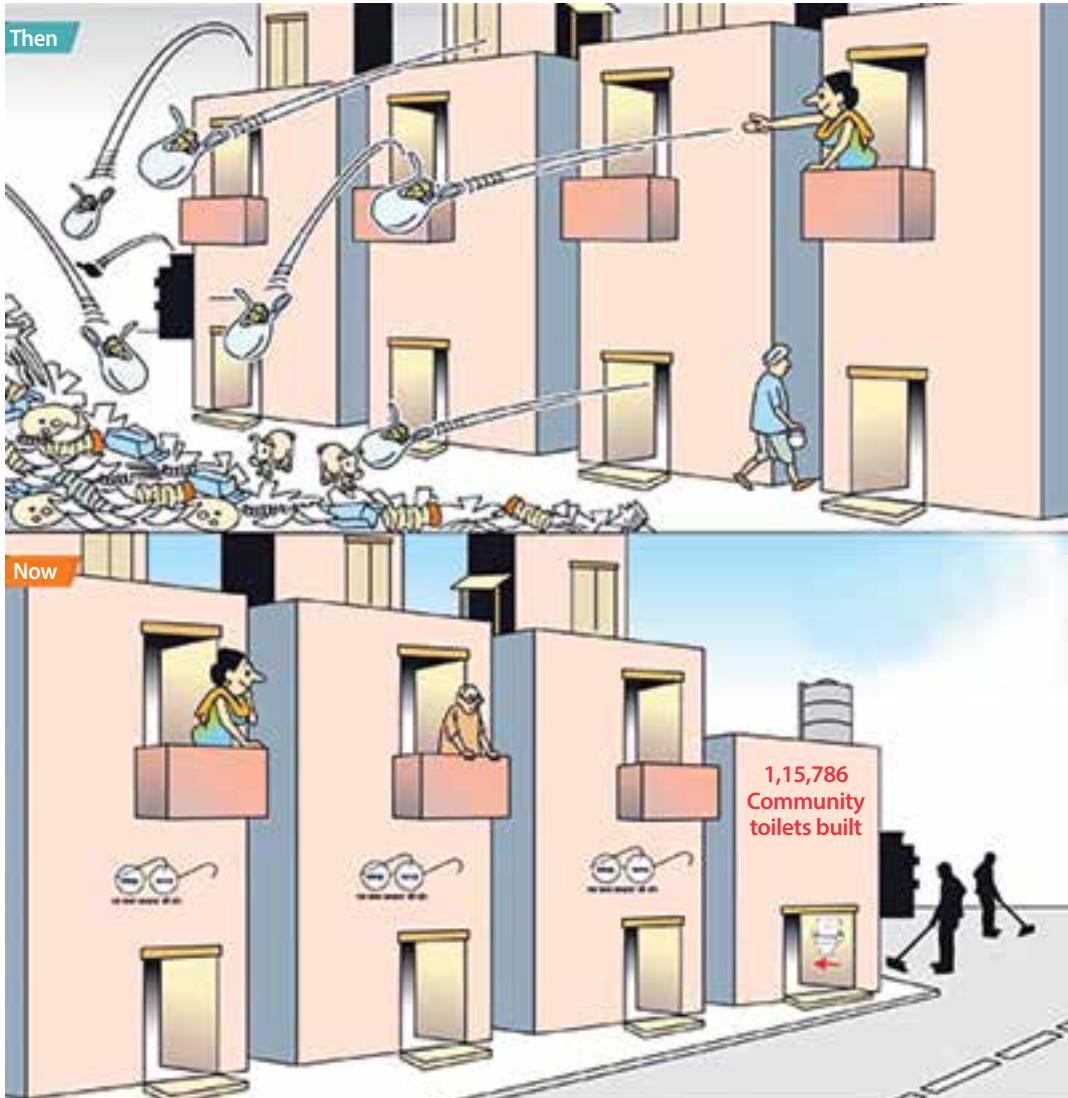
Le's join the Swachhta Hi Seva mass campaign, a massive, fortnight-long campaign kick-started all over the country with a missionary zeal so that the goal of a Clean India is achieved by October 2, 2019—the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The President, Ram Nath Kovind, participated in the national launch of the campaign at Kanpur Dehat.

Mahatma Gandhi accorded highest priority to sanitation and cleanliness and had famously said, "Sanitation is more important than political freedom". He was also dismayed at the 'defilement' of the holy Ganges in the name of religion during Kumbh Mela. Observing that a lavatory must be as clean as a drawing-room, the Father of the Nation had also pointed out that "the cause of many of our diseases is the condition of our lavatories and our bad habit of disposing of excreta anywhere and everywhere".

I have recalled these telling statements made by Gandhiji to drive home the point that the dream of the Father of the Nation could be realised through Swachh Bharat Abhiyan if everybody, from celebrities to the common man, selflessly participate and take ownership of the programme, rather than treating it as a government-driven campaign.

SANITATION STATISTICS

According to UNICEF, good sanitation can save Rs 50,000 per year per family. Over 1,00,000 children die every year in India due to diarrhoea. Lack



According to UNICEF, good sanitation can save Rs 50,000 per year per family. Over 1,00,000 children die every year in India due to diarrhoea. Lack of sanitation also leads to physical and cognitive stunting in children. Besides, women and girls face a serious threat to their safety when they resort to open defecation.

of sanitation also leads to physical and cognitive stunting in children. Besides, women and girls face a serious threat to their safety when they resort to open defecation. These are all serious issues and can no longer be ignored by adopting a status quoist mindset.

A World Bank report had said that lack of sanitation costs over six per cent of our GDP.

I am again reminded of what Gandhiji said, "So long as you do not take the broom and the bucket in your hands, you cannot make towns and cities clean."

CLEAN INDIA 2019

Ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Swachh Bharat Abhiyan with a call to achieve Clean India by 2019, there has been tremendous response from different sections of the people as well as various State Governments, local bodies, public representatives, NGOs and local communities.

It has definitely acquired momentum in the last three years as about five crore household toilets have been constructed in both urban and rural areas. It is also estimated that the number of Indians defecating in the open has come down from 55 crore in 2014 to 30 crore now. Sanitation coverage has gone up from 39 per cent to over 67 per cent since the launch of the mission. More than 2.35 lakh villages, including all Namami Gange

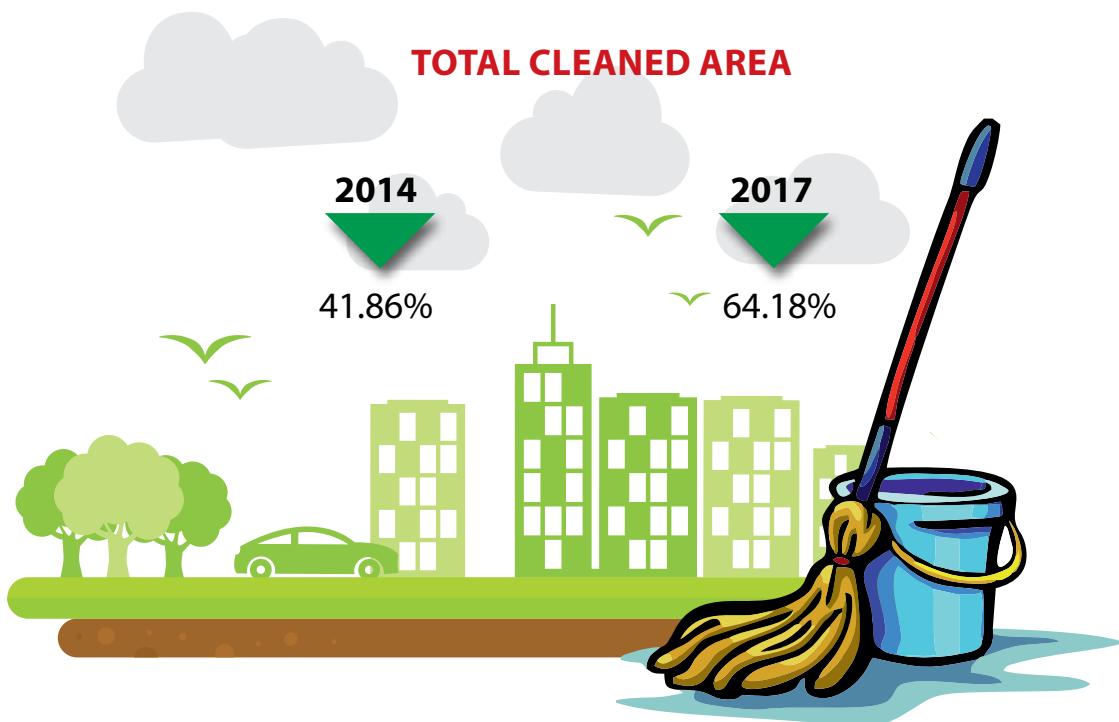
villages, about 1,300 cities, 200 districts and five states have been declared open-defecation free (ODF), and another 10 states are set to be ODF by March next.

CLEANLINESS IS SERVICE

Swachhta Hi Seva campaign gave a big thrust to the momentum of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, as Government functionaries at all levels, youth groups, women, school children, defence personnel, celebrities, NGOs, and others took part in the shramdan for construction of twin-pit toilets and cleaning of public places like bus stands, railway stations, hospitals, parks, schools, markets, and other places.

Special cleanliness drives were taken up during the fortnight at 15 iconic places, including temples, heritage sites and beaches. These places are expected to serve as models for others to replicate. While Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, MPs, MLAs, and other dignitaries played a leading role in the campaign, the cleanliness drive is bound to pick up in the days and months ahead with the participation of all sections of people, as we march towards realising a totally transformed and Clean India by October 2, 2019. M

The column, written by the Honourable Vice-President of India, appeared in DNA newspaper on September 15, 2017, on the launch of Swachhta Hi Seva campaign.





CLEANLINESS NEEDS OUR PARTICIPATION

Indians' indifference towards cleanliness has led the country to avoidable uncleanliness, diseases and social menaces. Cleanliness is a responsibility every citizen must undertake, says DR. APPASAHEB DHARMADHIKARI



There are certain essential factors that we all keep in mind for good health of our family. Unfortunately, we are not so alert when it comes to social life. This indifference towards cleanliness over the years has led to avoidable uncleanliness, diseases and social menaces across the country. The problems built a setting where it was required to take one of the most important national decisions ever. The Government of India's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, today running on a large scale at Centre and State levels, has definitely brought advantages to people. While the Government is on the job, there is a lot the citizens have to do.

THE PROBLEM AT HAND

Epidemics such as cholera, gastroenteritis, typhoid and others spread due to uncleanliness. Many types of mosquitoes proliferate on rubbish and give us lethal diseases like

malaria and dengue that take away many lives. Environmental pollution is another issue. Besides, the trash makes our villages and cities dirty and filthy.

People staying at clean and tidy homes are frustrated with the dirtiness of the surrounding area and express anguish. However, these persons also inadvertently contribute to making the area dirty. We ourselves throw household waste out. Thus, a controversy is observed in humans between cleanliness at home and the area around. Observing the unclean area around, a frustrated man asks questions such as "What is the Government doing?" and "Is the Municipal Council aware of this or not?" The fact is that the Government is always carrying out its duties. A small number of local self-government employees are clearing wastes created by majority of the people. A man, however, places everything on them and absolves himself.

Dr. Appasaheb Dharmadhikari flanked by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and other dignitaries at a cleanliness drive programme.



Cleanliness drive
at Bheemeshwar
Lake, Nagaon

The Government continues to take up remedial measures such as essential rules, Acts and penal action with utmost responsibility and also strives hard to implement these. Still we find that this carelessness has started to increase day by day. The main reason is lack of self-discipline in social life, which a human follows in his personal life. While placing the blame on the Government, a man conveniently neglects his own social duties.

DUTIES OF A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN

As a responsible citizen, we have our own duties. Maintaining cleanliness in public and social life is a sign of excellent citizenship. In western and other countries, we find that the citizens are extremely cautious about maintaining cleanliness. They consider cleanliness consciousness as an integral part of their daily life. This has become so much of their second nature that they consider it as a prominent constituent of patriotism and their love for their country. From their viewpoint, creation of turbidity and wastes at public places amounts to a social and National crime.

Public cleanliness is maintained spontaneously through self-discipline. We are astonished as the same is adored and admired on

our side. However, one does not find practical imitation of the same. The main reason for the same is the inner conflict in our attitude and nature.

NEED OF THE HOUR

Our consciousness about cleanliness should not just be limited to us individually or our home. This consciousness needs to receive comprehensiveness and vastness. We should be able to view the fact that it is our duty to keep surroundings clean so as to maintain excellence of our health. Our society is a family and I am a responsible constituent of the same. Therefore, a realisation of my social duty should also come up.

For this to happen, we should take an initiative on our own for keeping the area cleaner. Then other citizens will also come forward for

cleanliness. The village will then be clean with participation of everyone and a preventive remedy will be in place for maintaining public health.

From this perspective, it is the need of the hour to organise and implement cleanliness drive and the same is impossible without self-inspiration. More than what society or Government is doing for me, the realisation what I should do for society or country should gather momentum. There is no doubt that a conscious point of view will help in enhancing love for the Nation and patriotism.

In order to bring this to life, Dr. Nanasaheb Pratishthan has been organising people-oriented initiatives from the last decade and has been implementing cleanliness drive in a comprehensive manner. The Cleanliness Drive organised on November 16, 2014 was recorded in the *Limca Book of Records*. Lakhs of citizens participate in the cleanliness drive organised by Pratishthan.

An honest attempt from the Pratishthan will be made with a small contribution at the Cleanliness is Service drive by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, October 2, 2017. With cooperation from all of you, the resolve will definitely be achieved. ■



ECONOMY TAKES A NEW DIRECTION

The Government of India managed the 50 days of demonetisation with effective administration, addressed the challenges it threw in the path of economic growth, and silenced its critics. The economy is now on a new path of growth. The objectives of preventing black money and boosting economy are being achieved now, says **ANIL BALUNI**

Fresh statistics presented by the Reserve Bank of India show that the historic, bold decision of demonetisation taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in the interest of the country and common man. The drive not only served the objectives of curbing black money and strengthening economy, but also sowed the seeds of fruitful results to be seen in times to come. Lakhs of dubious and illegal transactions have already been handed over to the investigation agency. More than 3 lakh "shell companies" have come to light and registration of 2.1 lakh companies has been cancelled. A total of 1,150 companies were caught red handed while converting black money to white, and an amount of ₹11,300 crore was unearthed and is being brought back to the system.

A HEAVY BLOW

Demonetisation proved to be a heavy blow on black money, fake currency, tax evasion and the ill practice of converting black money to white. In the beginning, some people called the decision half-baked and a major hassle for the common man. Indians saw it otherwise and stood in the queues and took the movement to its expected result. Its positive benefits are quite visible now.

Demonetisation has also set the stage of India becoming a robust cashless economy. There has been a huge increase in the number of taxpayers. The Reserve Bank of India successfully met the challenge of bringing back 97 per cent of currency notes in circulation—at the time amounting to ₹15.28 lakh crore—within limited time.

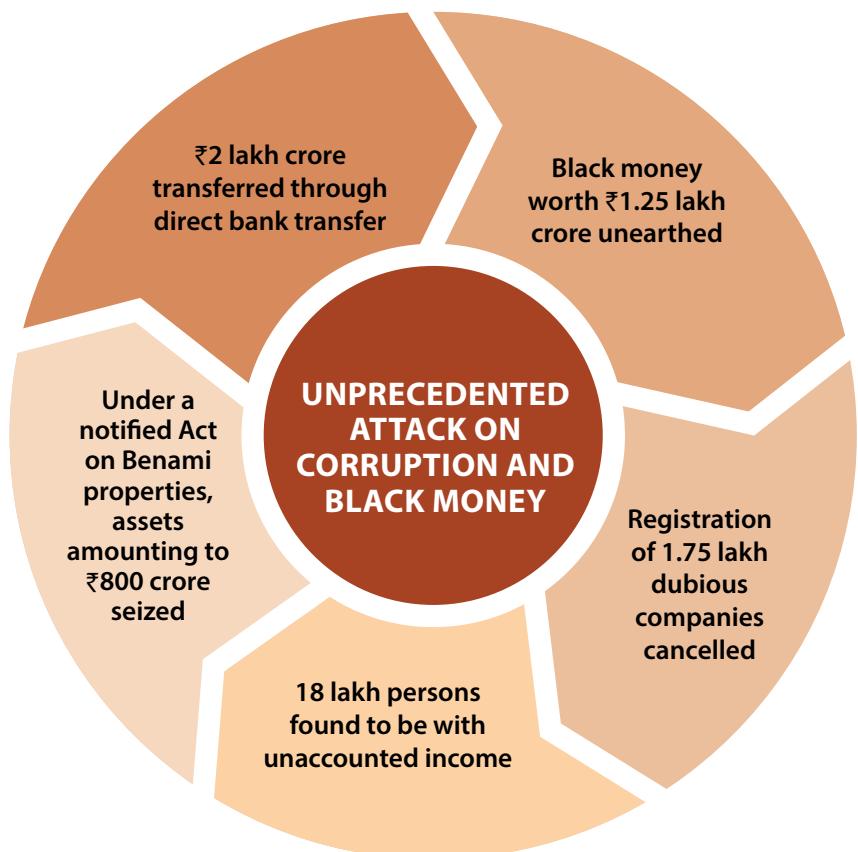
The common Indian citizen showed unfaltering support to Prime Minister's bold decision announced on November 8, 2016. Standing in long queues and waiting in front of the banks for hours together, Indians embraced the mission with intent of national reconstruction.

The statistics from the Reserve Bank of India further show that the Government has not only been successful in unearthing black money, but also in cutting off the money supply for terrorism in Kashmir and Naxal-affected

States. The fake Indian currency notes (FICN) used to fund terror and weaken our economy have been removed.

A STEP IN NATIONAL INTEREST

The reasons behind demonetisation were also as varied and important as to strengthen and extend formal economy and to give a severe blow to terrorists, black marketers and Hawala-mediators. Due to these steps, the informal economy got converted to a formal economy. This resulted in increase in tax support and started to enable availability of funds





for social and developmental works. However, its largest effect has been the way Indians have accepted the cashless transactions. This has largely encouraged the digitalisation of economy. The quantum of digital transactions that was 71.27 crore during October 2016 went soaring to 111.45 crore by May 2017. This great leap amounts to 56 per cent. Experts predict that digital transactions in India will reach up to \$5 lakh million.

ACTION TAKEN

Operation Clean Money has been started from January 31 under which inspection of 18 lakh suspected accounts are being investigated. This has happened for the first time in the history of India.

Demonetisation shifted the focus on tax evaders and those involved in bringing black money into transaction. Dubious transactions worth ₹1.7 lakh crore have been caught, underlining the staunch, parallel black money economy flourishing in the country due to the inaction of earlier Governments. A total of 3.61 lakh complaints in cases of dubious transactions were registered during 2016-17. The number was 61,000 in 2015-16. The tax officers have unearthed unaccounted income/black money of more than ₹15,497 crore. This leap of 38 per cent is quite significant.

OUTSTANDING DEVELOPMENTS

There is a possibility that the Specified Bank

Notes or SBN (specific currency notes cancelled but deposited in the banks) may be black money. In this connection Operation Clean Money has been started from January 31 under which inspection of 18 lakh suspected accounts are being investigated. This has also happened for the first time in the history of India. All this has been made possible, as the Modi Government expressed a political will to clean the system.

Another interesting development was in the form of significant increase in income tax returns (ITRs). The increase has been 34 per cent. Advance income tax collection in case of individuals (different from corporate taxes) has also taken a leap of 42 per cent. There has been a significant change in saving habits as a result of demonetisation drive and due to formalisation or systemisation of asset markets. Funds arriving at systematised financial markets have also increased. The increase in total assets under the management of mutual funds between March 2016 and June 2017 was 54 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India made available a liquidity of ₹10.5 lakh crore in their banking system up to 4 August 2017, which was ₹5.2 lakh crore just a year ago. This has led to a dip in bank interest rates. Its direct beneficiaries are people, who are now paying less EMI on their loans.

There has been an effective revenue collection under Goods and Services Tax (GST). This is also indirectly linked to the demonetisation drive. The total revenue collected under GST till 29 August 2017 was ₹92,283 crore and that too with only 64.42 per cent of the GST payers completing the GST payment process. The number of new GST number holders and registered taxpayers is 19 lakh.

A NEW DIRECTION FOR ECONOMY

With effective management of the entire exercise of demonetisation and proving all arguments of critics wrong, Modi Government took the economy on a new path of growth and with least troubles for common people. A strong Prime Minister resolved to take bold steps for building a New India. Demonetisation and GST have become important landmarks in the Indian history. In comparison to the short-term effects of demonetisation, the long-term positive effects would lead to further strengthening of Indian economy and ensuring the welfare of Indian population. M



A CULTURE OF ALL-INCLUSIVENESS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed for freedom from communalism and cults under the Attainment through Resolve Mission. Indian culture does not include these aspects; all-inclusiveness is the only identity of this land, says RAMESH PATANGE

An extremely ancient country of the world, India has always been a land of diversities and blend of all human races. In his research paper *Castes in India*, Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar said that India is not a country with a single race, but a country made up of a mix of many races. The same was also echoed by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan in his book *Hindu View of Life*. The process of blending of different races started from the Vedic era, i.e. around 8-10,000 years ago. Speaking about this process, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar said, "India has innumerable castes and even if they are different from each other, there is a deep cultural unity here."

THE CULTURAL THREAD

Today, we can say that the experiment to string varied races in a single cultural thread was carried out only in India. Accepting every group with their Gods and Goddesses, these were arranged in a cultural unity stream. Castes were created out of this process and remained autonomous and self-reliant for a long period. They maintained a specific place in the constitution of a community. However, over a period of time, casteism got created. A feeling of high and low got created. There was an uneven distribution of rights and the foundation of community constitution got lopsided. Some castes received all the rights, while others became untouchables and totally backward. These were extremely disastrous effects from the point of view of community organisation.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar has driven hard blows to casteism. "Castes are anti-nation..." were his words at the last speech of the Constitution Committee. He opined that political, social and economic democracy cannot be created unless the feeling of caste is eradicated. Our Constitution does not approve castes.



The Constitution has maintained the objective of constituting casteless community. It has bestowed equal rights and equal opportunities to everyone. Untouchability has been removed as per Section 17 of the Constitution. Although this stands, we cannot say that casteism has been removed from social life. With objectivity of the Constitution on one hand and practical social situation on the other, our life today has become full of inconsistencies.



TEACHINGS FROM RELIGIONS

Just as India has innumerable castes, it also has many religious cults. The chiefs of these cults consider their sects as independent religions. Although it is true that cult and religion are not same, the topic has to be presented in a terminology in which the people think. Religion or, in traditional terms, Dharma is a platform where the relationship between man and God is discussed. We should have love and equality for everyone and should fear evil things and perform positive acts. This is the gist of all religions. India has people of various religious groups such as Vedic, Sanatan, Bouddha, Jain, Sikh, Christian, Islam, Jew, Parsee and others. They are staying together for hundreds of years. Sometimes there are conflicts between some followers of some religions. Some of the religions are expansionists. They work on conversion. Poor and innocent people are distracted and granted incentives for conversion. Such stance also results in religious conflicts.

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

Social congruity is a remedy for caste-based constitution of society. Social congruity means an exchange based on freedom, equality and brotherhood. As far as religious opinions go, India has an eternal thought: there is a sin-

India has people of various religious groups such as Vedic, Sanatan, Bouddha, Jain, Sikh, Christian, Islam, Jew, Parsee and others. They are staying together for hundreds of years.

gle truth with many ways to know it. Swami Vivekananda said this at Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago. We have been taught that a salutation to any deity reaches a single God. Indian culture has many values. One of them is to revere all religions. The second value is to honour all great personalities from every religion. The third value is not to impose a religion on anyone and let him to take his own path. Fourth value is to respect all religious scriptures. Fifth value is even the animal world has a right to life and we should protect them. The sixth value has given rise to *Ahimsa* or non-violence. If we

start living by these values, there would be no place for religious conflicts.

The challenge is, how will a caste-less society and one with a feeling of equal respect get created? Who will create the same? Our Constitution has placed this onus on each citizen of India. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution says, "We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a (sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic) and to secure to all its citizens: social, economic and political justice, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and (the unity and integrity) of the Nation; do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this constitution."

To bring this ideology of the Constitution to reality, it should become an integral part of the education system. It should be inculcated in students from class 1 to the end of their education. Serious training should be undertaken for teachers. Freedom, equality and brotherhood are not mere words but have a human history, struggle, martyrdom, hundreds of lives and books behind them. Without these, we cannot rise above casteism and religion, and become true Indians. ■



COME, LET'S PARTICIPATE IN BUILDING A NEW INDIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appealed to every citizen to take a pledge to build a New India by 2022. Various Government ministries are also taking initiatives to associate with people and spread awareness about the mission

It has been 75 years when the call of Quit India was given. It was the most important milestone in India's freedom movement that made the entire nation determined to attain freedom from British rule. Applying this context to today's scenario and inviting every citizen of India, the Government of India has come up with a new, unique initiative, Sankalp se Siddhi to encourage Indians to come forward to make India free of corruption, poverty, filth, communalism, terrorism and casteism by 2022.

APPEAL TO THE NATION

Speaking to people in *Mann ki Baat* on Akashwani and in his special address to Lok Sabha members on 9 August 2017, the 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to all Indians to build a New India through Sankalp se Siddhi. "For building a New India, we need to analyse and come up with resourceful thoughts. Making use of advanced technology, the youth should make use of social media like video post, twitter, blog, Facebook, Instagram, articles and come up with unique ini-

tiatives to help transform India through Sankalp se Siddhi mission," he said.

People can also associate through NarendraModi app, on which a new feature, Quiz India Quiz has been added. This feature gives an insight into the lives of great patriots and the freedom struggle of the glorious history of the country. MyGov.gov.in and NewIndia.in are the new websites, @sankalpsesiddhi is the Twitter handle and #sankalpsesiddhi and #NewIndiaManthan and hashtags through which one can easily participate and be a part of this mission. Numerous citizens have already registered themselves. Till 12 September 2017, 43,884 citizens had pledged for it. Under the Nav Bharat Manthan 2022, 5,162 reactions were received to free India from filth, poverty, corruption, terrorism, casteism and communalism. For this mission, 4,590 votes have been cast. The page depicts photographs of eminent freedom fighters and profile of each leader has been listed on it. A facility for profiles update have also been provided to which, so far, 7,136 people have updated their profiles. More than 3,000 tweets are flashed to disseminate the infor-





Senior cine artist Amitabh Bachchan actively participating in Swachhta Abhiyan



mation of the mission using #Sankalpsesiddhi and #NewIndiaManthan hashtags.

ON-GROUND ACTION

After his special address in the Lok Sabha on 9 August, the Prime Minister addressed District Collectors across the country via video-conferencing on the theme of New India - Manthan. The first-of-its kind interaction was aimed at catalysing the message at grassroots level. There was a tremendous response from the District Collectors, some of whom came up with their 'vision plans' for developing their district in a span of five years.

On 15 August, on the occasion of 71st Independence Day, Narendra Modi appealed to the Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort to build a New India. On 22 August, the Prime Minister interacted with young CEOs as the Champions of Change—Transforming India through G2B partnership. Later, on 27 August, the Prime Minister, on the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation, Pune, via video conferencing made an appeal to join the Mega Mission of New India. He interacted with a group of 80 Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries of the Government of India. Highlighting the current positive global environment in favour of India, he asked officers to work with clear objectives towards creating a New India by 2022. At Yangon in Myanmar on September 6, the Prime Minister in his address, said, "We have pledged to build a New India, and would appeal to you all to participate in this mega mission via New India website."

The Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly and representatives from all public forums participating in the Sankalp Se Siddhi have started implementing it through their concerned departments.

Sankalp Se Siddhi have started implementing it through their concerned departments.

Taking ahead the unique opportunity, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Association with willing contact public sector units (CPSUs) at 39 places across the country organised an exhibition-cum-seminar. This seminar was inaugurated by the Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on 1 September 2017. The theme of the exhibition was *Naya Bharat Karke Rahenge* (We Resolve to Make a New India) to commemorate the 75 years of the Quit India movement and forthcoming 75 years of independence in 2022.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation organised a countrywide film, essay and painting competition between 17 August and 18 September, 2017, as another major step towards making Swachhta a people's movement. The ministry also organised a couple of painting competitions in schools to create awareness.

The Ministry of Information and Technology plans to provide connectivity to 2.5 lakh and bring under PM's ambitious programme under BharatNet. This year, 1 lakh villages would be connected through broadband. After the announcement of this mission, 175 Gram Panchayats have been connected through internet.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment organised the Tiranga Yatra in Mumbai on 23 August in which all the stakeholders, workers from different industries, employers from different sectors and staff, workers and officers participated. The Union Minister of Labour and Employment Minister, Bandaru Dattatreya raised the slogan "Corruption Quit India and Make Swachh India".

—Amarjyot Kaur Arora
PRO, MIC, New Delhi



A PROMISE TO DELIVER

Maharashtra is marching to fulfil the promises made. Taking initiatives consistently for three years, we are not going to seek solace and rest, as this cannot provide a permanent solution to our problems

On the occasion of 70th anniversary of India's Independence, I extend greetings to the people of India and Maharashtra's 11.20 crore people from the core of my heart. This is a very important year for all of us. On 9 August, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a call of Quit India Movement to the British Government. On this day 75 years ago, people across India actively pledged to devote themselves for India's freedom. I pay humble tribute to all those who sacrificed their lives and were imprisoned, suffered and made sacrifices for the freedom of the country. Truly after 70 years of Independence, a similar transformation is seen to be taking place in the country once again.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a call to build New India by 2022. We now have five years before the 75th anniversary of our independence. Each citizen of the country has five years to build an India of their dreams. If 125 crore people of India collectively take this pledge, then nobody can stop India to become a superpower.

MARCH TOWARDS FULFILLING PROMISES

Maharashtra is marching to fulfil the promises made. The State Government has given ₹34,000 crore loan waiver to 89 lakh farmers. We are not going to seek solace and rest, as this cannot provide a permanent solution. We will endeavour to make farmers permanently debt free. This would require greater empowerment and sustainable agriculture practices through scientific approach.

In order to make higher education accessible to SCs, STs, OBCs or general backward classes and to every sector, scholarship is given to students. A decision has been taken to extend financial assistance under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Scholarship Scheme for 605 courses for all categories of economically backward classes through EBC.

The students from backward classes of society, especially SC and ST, should get accommodation facility. If they are not in a Government hostel accommodation, they should be provided

with private hostel facility. For other facilities, the State Government has chalked out a policy. The students staying in urban areas are given assistance of ₹60,000 for studying, lodging, boarding and food.

The State Government would build 12 lakh houses in rural and 10 lakh houses in urban areas under Housing for All scheme by 2019. This would include houses for SCs, STs and homeless. Construction of three lakh houses in the State has begun.

SECURITY TO WOMEN

In order to provide security to women, the Government has taken many measures. The objective behind these measures is to build a strong Maharashtra. The Government is also trying to bring neglected classes into mainstream by implementing various welfare schemes. If everyone takes pledge, there is no doubt that in next five years a strong Maharashtra and a strong India would be built.

Efforts are also being made to provide employment to youth in the State. Large investments are being made for this. Last year, of the whole country's investment, 50 per cent was made in Maharashtra alone. This proves State's power and nobody would deny this fact. The Government has set up separate ministry for the other backward classes and implemented many social and economic schemes for their welfare.

SAPTAMUKTI

On this occasion, I would like to make a humble request to all. If we want to make our country strong, then we should take pledge to remain away from few things--the same way we had taken the pledge of Quit India Movement to get freedom from British rule. Today, we should also take pledge of Saptamukti to make India strong. Let us all pledge to make Maharashtra free from debt, drought, pollution, unclean surroundings, taxes tangles and harassment of builders.

—(Excerpts from speech of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on 15 August 2017)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a call to build New India by 2022. We now have five years before the 75th anniversary of our independence. Each citizen of the country has five years to build an India of their dreams.

A PLEDGE TO BUILD NEW MAHARASHTRA

The Government of Maharashtra has taken firm steps to curb the ill effects of drought, loans, pollution, corruption, tax tangles, dirt and builders' whims

RESOLVE #1

FREEDOM FROM DROUGHT

Hiwre, a village in Koregaon taluka with a population of around 1,378, depended on tanker water for the last three years at a stretch. However, with Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan in place, the village now boasts of green fields and good crops. The large-scale implementation of the water conservation programme has brought a landmark change to the village. At Devpur, a village located 20 km from Sinnar, the precipitation has been on a decline for the last four years. Villagers were facing water shortage and tankers had to be pressed in service during summer. To bring the much necessary change, the villagers came together to implement Jalyukta Shivar in their

village. People's participation also led to de-sedimentation of Dev river bed, while the first rain itself raised the water levels in the wells by 50 per cent.

TOWARDS TANKER FREEDOM

The story of Devpur is a representative story from Maharashtra. Many villages that once faced drought and struggled for water have taken a leap towards prosperity with support from the State Government and people participation. With lack of rains continuing for the last few years, the campuses had become dry. Under these circumstances, perennial remedial measures for water supply such as Jalyukta Shivar, dams without sedimentation, campus with





sedimentation and water supply for irrigation through closed pipelines were implemented.

These measures have brought a transformation in many villages that in turn started large-scale agricultural production. With Jalyukta Shivav rejuvenating rivers and nallahs and building farm ponds, there is ample water in the villages, says Hanmant Jagdale, a farmer from Hivre. "With ample availability of water, we can definitely go for perennial crops..." he adds.

With Mela nallah at Andarsool, Yevla taluka overflowing, green crops are standing everywhere and the water levels of the wells have almost reached the ground. Malkapur village, once under drought, has a rural water supply scheme. Under Jalyukta Shivav, recharge shaft work was carried out near the water supply source well. Due to this, the water level has increased every year. Sadhana Nehare, Sarpanch, Malkapur village said, "We hope there will not be any drinking water shortage next year."

The mission launched by Soil and Water Conservation Department since 2015-16 for building a water-enabled Maharashtra has a target of water empowerment of 5,000 villages every year. Irrigation capacity of 21.11 lakh hectares has been created during the last two years with water storage of 15.74 lakh cubic meters.

Latur city had to be provided water through railway last year. Jalyukta works were then undertaken with people participation and many villages became tanker free. The work of bolstering 41,000 drinking water resources is in progress. With coordination between water resources, water conservation and water supply departments, planning has been done for permanent tanker freedom in Maharashtra. In May last year, around 6,200 tankers were on duty. The number during this May was 1,200. A total of 1,190 villages have attained freedom from tanker, while around 5,000 villages are on their way to do so.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

Earlier, while the development projects were provided some funds, these were left unfinished. Now the projects that were near completion are being provided funds. The work on projects lingering for up to 15 years was taken up on priority. Hundred projects were completed last year, creating additional irrigation capacity of one lakh hectare. Planning has been in place for completion of 140 projects in the next two years. Through Chief Minister War Room, work on 23 important projects is being reviewed. Efforts are being made so as to create additional irrigation capacity to the extent of 32 to 40 lakh hectares.

—Nandkumar Waghmare

RESOLVE #2

FREEDOM FROM LOAN

Under Eminent Agriculture, Prosperous Farmer mission, guaranteed rates for farm produce is being provided to farmers so as to increase investments in agriculture. The aim is to enhance the productivity of farmers and make them free from loans.

The State Government has announced Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Samman Yojana 2017. Under this, a decision for loan waiver of ₹34,000 crore has been taken. This is going to benefit 89 lakh farmers. Earlier, loan waivers were announced in Punjab (₹10,000 crore), Andhra Pradesh (₹15,000 crore), Karnataka (₹8,000 crore) and Telangana (₹10,000 crore). The loan waiver provided by Maharashtra is the highest in the country. Farmer family has been considered as a criterion for bestowing loan waiver and other encouragement benefits under this scheme.

Due to long, overdue of loans, the farmers were deprived of receiving loans. The banks would not advance loans to farmers who are loan defaulters for years together. The loan waiver scheme is for small and medium term borrowers to whom the loans were sanctioned after 2009 and are defaulters as on June 30, 2016. Due to the crop losses resulting from droughts between 2012-13 and 2015-16, the farmers were not been able to repay their loans.

Loan waiver will be applicable to provide relief to such farmers or to those who had recast their loan. The farmers who have deposited the money will be included in the loan waiver scheme for receiving encouragement benefits. If the farmers, who had dues till June 30, 2016 but have deposited some amount till July 31, 2017, they will be provided a loan waiver up to ₹1.5 lakh after deducting the amount that they have deposited till 31 July 2017. A One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme has been announced for farmers with a loan amount of more than 1.5 lakh. Under this scheme, the farmer has to deposit due loan amount in the bank exceeding ₹1.5 lakh with interest till June 30, 2016. When this amount is deposited, the farmer will accrue benefit of ₹1.5 lakh. For this scheme, the "family" has been defined as husband, wife and their children below 18 years of age. Children above the 18 years of age will not be counted in the family.

DIGITAL, THE WAY TO GO

Online applications for the loan waiver scheme have been invited for the first time. The objective is to make the process hassle-free for farmers. The loan waiver information or data will definitely be useful for many other schemes



Online applications for the loan waiver scheme have been invited for the first time. The objective is to make the process hassle-free for farmers. The loan waiver information will definitely be useful for many other schemes in future.



in future. Verification of an applicant will be done through thumb impression and one-time mobile password (OTP). Real farmers will be the beneficiaries and ineligible individuals will be excluded. Ministers, MLAs, MPs, Members of Municipal Corporations and Zilla Parishad, Government officers and staff as well as income tax payers are not eligible for this scheme. However, the scheme has been made applicable for persons receiving pension below ₹15,000.

E-FACILITY CENTERS FOR ONLINE APPLICATION

Aaple Sarkar, Common Service centre and others constitute the Government online facilities. A total of 26,000 centres are active up to the village. The filling up of loan waiver applications was started on July 24. September 15 was the last date by which applications of 52.15 lakh farmer families had been received. As many farmers were unable to fill up the applications, the time limit was extended by seven days till September 22, 2017.

SCRUTINY PROCESS

In the application form for the loan waiver process, the farmers have provided basic information such as name, Aadhar number and bank account number. The forms were then scrutinised for any incomplete or incorrect information. After this, the information was placed on the portal.

A table has been formulated for soliciting information such as how many defaulters were there till June 30, 2016, how many people took loans, how much loan has been recast, how many persons have their instalments due, how many people have made loan repayment in stipulated time frame, how many farmers have taken loan till now and whether the repayment for the loan has been done. Instructions have been issued to the banks to state how many applications have

been linked to Aadhar Card and whether the card may be linked to the application if the same has not been done yet. The Information and Technology Department is scrutinising the information provided by farmers in their application and information provided by the banks. After completion of this scrutiny, the process for deposit of loans up to ₹1.5 lakh in their respective loan accounts will start in case of genuine cases. The loan waiver amount is going to be deposited in the bank accounts of eligible farmers in the month of October.

WHAT IF THE APPLICATION IS REJECTED?

There are three types of classifications in the loan waiver list. Complete information on the farmers in the loan waiver list will be displayed on the portal. Just by entering the application number, one can find out the names of those who are part of the list and those for whom the applications have been rejected. The list will be made available at the taluka level also. Scrutiny will be carried out on the local level for farmers whose names do not appear in the list or those who are not eligible for loan waiver. The information will then be placed on the portal.

The family needs to go to the respective bank and get the share of individual heirs decided in case of death of a farmer availing loan or when there are two or three accounts from the same family. The amount is to be divided and the share of each individual should be decided. This information should be provided to the bank through an application. If there is more than one heir of the deceased, the share of each one of them should be decided by visiting the bank. Relatives of the deceased should provide all information about the same to the bank. It is now possible to make changes in the same. This can benefit the borrower.

The Government has deposited 100 per cent loan amount for the farmers from Vidarbha and Marathwada who had taken loans from licensed money lenders. Loans worth ₹64.53 crore borrowed by 46,809 eligible farmers have been waived.

—Kashibai Thorat

RESOLVE #3

FREEDOM FROM POLLUTION

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) is successfully implementing air quality control in selected cities of Maharashtra. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had circulated a list of 17 cities from Maharashtra, where the air quality was

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higher than the standards between 2011 and 2015. Akola, Amravati, Aurangabad, Badlapur, Chandrapur, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Latur, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Sangli, Solapur and Ulhasnagar were included in the list. For Air Quality Control in these cities and Surat from Gujarat, a project Clean Air Resolve-Maharashtra 2022 has been started.

RIVER POLLUTION

According to a CPCB report on river water quality, it was observed that stretches of 49 rivers from Maharashtra are polluted. When MPCB tested water quality at these 49 stretches, 13 rivers were found to be non-polluted, one river was dry, and 14 river stretches were out of pollution. The Government has studied the reasons for the rise in pollution and action is in progress. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, Namami Chandrabhaga movement is being implemented on the lines of Namami Gange through people and Government participation. The river resources have increased due to irrigation, Jalyukta Shivar, farm ponds and river deepening and straightening. Under Smart City project, reservation of 25 per cent funds from capital expenses has been made compulsory for waste water and solid waste management for Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils. According to the MPCB's report of 2015-2016, it is observed that the river pollution has reduced.

NAMAMI CHANDRABHAGA

While exploring the reasons for increase in pollution, it has been observed that the problem is connected to waste water. Out of 26 Municipal Corporations in Maharashtra, 16 Municipal Corporations have an active waste water treatment plants. Of the 252 local self-government (LSG) institutions in the State, 86 per cent waste water is generated by 26 Municipal Corporations and 14 per cent by remaining 225 LSG institutions.

Another reason for river pollution is the dam. Dams have been constructed at the upper side of almost every river. As a result, there is no water flow at the lower side of the river after rainy season. Villages are getting converted to cities and cities to mega-cities. Urban habitats are increasing in such cities. Waste water from these habitats goes to rivers with lower water flow, polluting them to a great extent. Rivers naturally provide clean water by creating their own flow. Although this is their characteristic, the river cannot remain clean due to obstacles such as huge extraction of sand. River pollution has increased to a large extent due to proliferation of construction by the riverside and slums. The Government of India has sanctioned a funding proposal of ₹990.26 crore towards con-



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Mula–Mutha river
in Pune.**

servation of Mula–Mutha river in Pune. An amount of ₹26 crore has been provided to Pune Municipal Corporation. The Government has established Namami Chandrabhaga Authority for overcoming pollution.

REMEDIAL MEASURES

Guiding principles were drafted by MPCB before Ganeshotsav for technical remedial measures to control air pollution, and preparation of an action plan and to implement the same. The board has also set up study groups to go into issues such as air pollution due to brick kilns, transport, storage of minerals, industries manufacturing oil from tyres and stone quarries. These study groups have suggested technical remedial measures for prevention and reduction of air pollution. Guiding principles and policies regarding environment-friendly production by setting up a dust particle collection centre have been made available in the public interest on the board's website. The board has also set up an environment vigilance centre for evaluation of pollution levels at industries, making it easier to catch erring industries.

National Environmental Air Quality Testing Initiative/State Environmental Air Quality Testing Initiative is being implemented at 74 locations in 25 cities of the State through Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The board has established automatic environmental air quality testing system at ten locations, namely Mumbai (two), Pune, Solapur, Chandrapur (two), Nagpur, Aurangabad, Nashik and Dombivali.

Coal transportation is a reason for air pollution. In this connection, the board had discussed with heavy vehicle manufacturing industries and developed a closed-type truck demo model. Instructions have been issued



Through people participation, the department had resolved for planting two crore trees on 1 July 2016. On this single day, there was a plantation of more than 2.43 crore trees in Maharashtra.

Considering the increasing, the department announced the 50 crore tree plantation programme within three years.

to show its demonstration to coal transport agencies and industries and encourage its use. Wind Augmentation and Air Purifying Unit (WAYU) system has been established at various locations in Mumbai on an experimental basis for reducing the pollution due to traffic.

ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM

The Environment Department has developed an online application system for all permissions related to environment. Noise Pollution Rules 2000 are being implemented scrupulously and Noise Competent Officers have been appointed at all locations. A total of 75 abattoirs breaching environmental rules have been closed. Air purification machines have been placed at five important locations in Mumbai. All the terms and conditions have been fulfilled in connection with Shivsmarak. A decision to ban plastic bags will be taken, starting from Gudi Padwa, and public awareness on using cloth bags will be spread. Various public interest decisions such as prohibition of noise pollution, DJ, large sound fire-crackers and Chinese and Indian nylon *manja* have been taken by this department.

—Dr. Sambhaji Kharat

THE PLANTATION REVOLUTION

When you are asked to close your nostrils and count the currency, you will clearly understand two things—one, that everyone needs oxygen to live, and second, the connection between economics and environmental science. In fact, this is a simple principle. Forests breed life. With deterioration of environment, words like global warming and climate change entered the dictionary. If these issues are to be resolved and environmental balance to be maintained, the only remedy is tree plantation.

The Forest Department of the State Government is working on this issue fervently. Presently, the forest cover in Maharashtra stands around 20 per cent. This has to be increased to 33 per cent according to the National Forest Policy. It is essential that we go for large-scale tree plantation on forest and other lands in

the State. Considering this, the Forest Department has decided a programme to plant 50 crore trees within three years.

Through people participation, the department had resolved for planting two crore trees on 1 July 2016. On this single day, there was a plantation of more than 2.43 crore trees in Maharashtra. Considering the increasing people participation, the department announced the 50 crore tree plantation programme within three years. Under this, four crore trees will be planted in 2017, 13 crore trees in 2018 and 33 crore trees in 2019. The participation details of all concerned departments as well as duties for them have also been decided.

For the first year, a target was set for planting four crore trees between July 1 and July 7, 2017. Standard quality saplings were developed through nurseries and the location of each tree was decided on the basis of geographical conditions. Using various mediums such as 'Sapling at your doorstep', 'Bhishi of saplings', My Plant app and others, the department was successful in seeding the goodness of tree plantation in the minds of population.

Special Gram Sabhas were organised all over Maharashtra to convey the significance of tree plantation. As a result, 5,43,35,049 trees were planted between July 1 and July 7, 2017. During the rainy season of 2018, the department has set the objective of planting 13 Crore trees. Apart from various Government departments, public, voluntary organisations, agencies working for environment protection and spirituality, school and college students, industry bodies and businesses, and others are being urged to participate in the movement. The first target of four crore tree plantation has been completed through people's participation. We need to carry out 13 crore tree plantation during the ensuing rainy season and move to the target of planting 33 crore trees in 2019.

GREEN ARMY

It is in India's roots to respect nature and maintain a relationship with forest and trees.





Each of our religions speaks about the unique importance of trees. The same was reflected in the public's response to the appeal of two Crore Tree plantation drive. Led by this, a Green Army of one crore people is being created in Maharashtra for the protection of environment. More than 30 lakh people have taken membership. The Government is making efforts so that everyone becomes a member and a leader for environment protection.

The State Government's tree plantation programmes have maintained transparency and the trees planted during the drive have been registered along with latitude and longitude and species on Forest Department's website using Google mapping. While carrying out tree plantation in a scientific manner, the department started '1926 Hello Forest helpline'—the first in India for the cause of forests and wildlife—that received huge response.

With a meagre forest cover, Marathwada has been facing drought and water shortage for every three years. To address this, an Eco-battalion with 148 soldiers has been set up. Tree plantation has been planned at open spaces along railway lines and both sides of the National Highway. While the world and the country are worried about deterioration of environment, Maharashtra has taken a resolute and promising step for environment protection.

—Dr. Surekha M. Mulay

RESOLVE #4

FREEDOM FROM CORRUPTION

Riding the transparency plank, the Government of Maharashtra has initiated sweeping reforms in core sectors with a single mission to weed out corruption. It is indeed a daunting task and would require a sustained and prolonged effort to completely eradicate the menace of corruption that has spread its tentacles far and wide.

Yet, Maharashtra has been attributed as a leading State that has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle corruption both through bold administrative initiative and policy framework. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has conveyed a loud and clear message, "The Government will not compromise on transparency and accountability. Reforms to provide better services and end corruption will remain the foremost priority of the Government." The fruits of development have to reach the last man and last mile, he added.

RURAL TRANSFORMATION

The State Government's digitalisation project to digitally connect 29,000 Gram Panchayats has set the process of transformation of 40,913



The Maha DBT has ensured ₹5,000 crore education fee concession budget to be directly credited in the personal accounts of eligible students. Almost 50 lakh students would reap the benefit.

villages across Maharashtra. In the last three years, the Government succeeded in digitalisation of 14,000 Gram Panchayats. The remaining 15,000 Gram Panchayats will be digitalised by 2018. The process through Maha Net on the lines of Bharat Net at Centre is not only confined to technological revolution in modern Maharashtra. The digital platform takes the development to the doorsteps of individuals. The communication and connectivity has been enhanced as the real motive is to bring even the remotest village in tribal Melghat into the mainstream development. Digitalisation of villages has provided quality education and healthcare through e-services. The required budget of 4000 crore for the project has been provided from both State (₹1,200 crore) and Centre (₹2,800 crore).

The launch of Maha DBT and Maha Vastu portal, the umbrella portals for all online operations in processing the post-matric educational scholarships and processing building proposals respectively, are going to be the game changer. The Maha DBT has ensured ₹5,000 crore education fee concession budget to be directly credited in the personal accounts of eligible students. Almost 50 lakh students would reap the benefit. The funds that were siphoned and grossly misused in the last several decades leading to educational institutions enrolling bogus students will completely stop.



The online applications for 51,369 farm ponds present a classic example of how the Government credited ₹206 crore in the accounts of farmers. The popular scheme has received an overwhelming response with 2,83,260 online applications.

RESTRICTING MALPRACTICES IN BUILDING PROPOSALS

Another reform related to plugging is the lacuna in building proposals. The complex procedure coupled with multi-layered permission system was a challenge. The State Government nipped the corruption by making it mandatory to process all building proposals online through Maha Vastu. The specially devised apps have an inbuilt mechanism to scan the proposals purely on merit and eligibility criteria in accordance with specific parameters. It minimises the human intervention that often leads to manipulations and corruption.

The reforms in building proposal making it online is also a step towards affordable housing that the Government has announced and initiated. The State Government is working to accomplish the mission of affordable housing under Prime Minister Awas Yojana by 2021. While ten lakh houses would be provided for people living in urban areas, 12 lakh houses would be for rural masses. The affordable houses under various categories, including weaker and backward sections, across the State are in progress.

FUNDS FOR WELFARE SCHEMES

Ever since October 31, 2014 when Devendra Fadnavis took on the reins in Maharashtra, he has ensured higher budgetary allocations for public welfare schemes. After announcing the biggest

ever loan waiver of ₹34,000 crore for 89 lakh farmers, State Government created an app to facilitate online application of farmers' forms. Notwithstanding the huge work that was required, the purpose was to check corruption in loan waiver. This is the first loan waiver ever in a State where Government has ensured scrutiny and audit of each and every applicant. While it required a massive effort, the Government wants to ensure that every poor, debt-ridden, small and marginal and truly deserving farmer avails the loan.

The online applications for 51,369 farm ponds present a classic example of how the Government credited ₹206 crore in the accounts of farmers. The popular scheme, 'Farm Pond on Demand' has received an overwhelming response with 2,83,260 online applications.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Through Right to Services Act, the State Government has provided services to over 1.14 lakh people. It has brought 399 services under its ambit. Unlike the past, the stress is on adopting the technology to enforce the project and pursue its implementation, and assess its impact on the people. Therefore, the sanction of farm ponds along with subsidy of ₹50,000 to individual farmer is followed with progress of the work. Every project is 'geo-tagged'.

A classic example of tackling corruption is Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan. The low-budget water conservation projects have yielded results, making 11,494 villages drought free. The total budget does not exceed ₹3,800 crore.

Whether it is the introduction of biometric system in public food distribution or online digitalisation of revenue land records, the State Government has taken a giant stride to tackle corruption from the system. The policy initiative in agriculture produce market committee—providing open market to farmers to channelise vegetables and fruits—is also a significant step to stop exploitation and corruption of farmers by a handful of middle agents and market operators.

—Shubhangi Khapre

RESOLVE #5

FREEDOM FROM TAX TANGLES

With the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) all over India from 1 July 2017, there has been a huge improvement in the indirect tax system. Around 17 Central and State Tax Acts have been merged in the taxation system. This has provided freedom from tax tangles for industries and businesses, and due to reduction in tax burden, it is possible for consumers to get products at lower prices.



FAIR AND SMOOTH

Under GST, two taxes are levied on every transaction of goods and services (except tax free goods and services). One of them is levied through Central Government (Central Goods and Services Tax or CGST) and the other by the State Government (State Goods and Services Tax or SGST). Interstate Sales tax is levied as Integrated GST (IGST). This taxation system is beneficial to the consumers, as the burden on sale of goods is reduced as total deduction is available for tax on purchase. While making payment for the goods, the tax is a part of the cost. The cost of the product is high if the tax burden is higher.

Till now, the tax was levied on the tax for the goods. For example, if the production cost of an item is ₹100, after excise duty of ₹16, its cost used to be ₹116. On this value, 12.5 per cent VAT used to be levied. Thus, the price of the item went to around ₹140. If this item is sold at ₹160, a refund of VAT used to be received. However, as excise duty was included in the cost, there was no refund. In this way, tax was levied on tax for the goods and the consumer used to get the product at a higher cost. As the GST removed the tax on tax for the goods, the burden on the product sale is now reduced, bringing down its cost.

WHY GST WAS NEEDED?

Before the implementation of the GST, tax was levied on tax under indirect taxation system. The State Government used to levy sales tax on the central excise levied on products. This is termed as cascading of tax. Indirect taxes used to be levied by the Central and State Governments and had many discrepancies that are now resolved.

Earlier, value added tax (VAT) was charged by the State Government and excise duty and

BENEFITS OF GST

- With blending of most indirect taxes from Union and State Government, the taxation system has become easy and compact.
- Keeping accounts has become easier for businesses and industries as a single Tax Act has replaced many Tax Acts.
- With removal of tax on tax, the prices of items will reduce and benefit the consumers.
- With a single indirect taxation system in existence place, there will be a single tax, homogeneous market and a single Tax Act implemented all over the country.
- With the use of completely computerised taxation system, the process has become transparent.

service tax used to be charged by the Union Government. The levy was charged independently by State and Central Governments. Hence, no deduction on a tax was received or provided while paying another tax. As the tax on tax has been removed with GST, the burden of taxes has been reduced. This will help in reduction of prices of the items.

On the Interstate sales, the Central Sales Tax (CST) was levied at two per cent by the State, from where the sales were made. However, in the State of purchase, there was no deduction on the CST charged. With this, the price of the item was decided inclusive of the taxation. Under GST, the Central Sales Tax Act has been dismantled except six items beyond the periphery of GST.

TAXES MERGED WITH GST

Central Excise Duty, Additional Excise Duty (especially important items), Excise Duty (Drugs and Cosmetics Duty), Additional Excise Duty (Cloth and Cloth Products), Additional Customs Duty (CVD), Special Additional Customs Duty (SAD), Service Tax and Central Surcharge and cess related to the supply of goods and services.

STATE TAXES MERGED WITH GST

State VAT, CST, Luxury Tax, Entry Tax (Octroi, LBT, toll tax, entry tax on goods and others), Entertainment Tax (excluding tax charged by LSGs), tax on advertisements, Purchase Tax, Forest Development Tax (Tax on forest product sales), lottery/betting and gambling, State surcharge and cess connected with supply of goods and services have been merged with GST. Although items such as liquor, crude oil, diesel, petrol, natural gas and aircraft fuel have been presently kept beyond the jurisdiction of GST, a proposal to bring these under GST has been proposed in the Constitution amendment.

Taxpayers with a turnover of up to ₹20 lakh have been given remission from tax. GST registration is compulsory for others with a turnover of more than ₹20 lakh. There is also a provision for small tax payers with a turnover of less than ₹50 lakh. However, there is a provision that except hotel businesses no other service providers and taxpayers having interstate sales will be able to receive benefits.

—Dr. Surekha M. Mulay

ONLY FIVE PER CENT GST ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS



ROASTED COFFEE SEEDS



TEA



EDIBLE OIL



PACKAGED PANEER



COTTON THREAD



CLOTH

SOLAR
PHOTOVOLTAIC
CELLS AND
MODULES



FOOTWEAR
(UP TO ₹500)



COAL



COTTON
THREAD



NEWS PRINT



PDS
KEROSENE



MILK PRODUCTS
FOR BABIES



SKIMMED
MILK POWDER



HOUSEHOLD
LPG



READYWEAR
(UP TO ₹1,000)



SUGAR



BROOMS

GST
LESS TAXES,
MORE PEOPLE
WELFARE

RESOLVE #6**FREEDOM FROM UNCLEANLINESS**

Associating with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the State Government has launched Swachh Maharashtra Mission. In the last two years, it has resolved to achieve open defecation freedom (ODF) in all cities in Maharashtra by 2 October 2017. Seven steps towards cleanliness were drafted. The State has achieved first place in the country by achieving ODF by constructing 4.92 crore toilets.

PROGRESS OF SWACHH MAHARASHTRA

In Maharashtra, construction of 4.92 lakh toilets was completed till 18 September 2017. Till now, 184 cities have been found eligible at the third-party certification by the Union Government. Five cities, namely Panchgani, Kagal, Murugud, Panhala and Vengurla are included in the inspection for open defecation free cities in India.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

One institute in every revenue division has been appointed to make a detailed project report under solid waste management (SWM) for every city in the State. The work is in progress and it has been planned to receive these project reports for all cities by December 2017. Till now, approval has been provided for project reports of 22 cities. According to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 Solid Waste Separation Drive was implemented from 1st May 2017. Fertiliser has been manufactured from the decomposed waste. The State Government has registered a brand, 'Maha Harit City Compost'

for selling and marketing of this fertiliser. The brand is proposed to be labeled for compost fertiliser produced by Panchgani, Vengurla, Vita, Saswad and Yavatmal.

Many Municipal Councils from Maharashtra have carried out excellent work in SWM. Ballarpur Municipal Council from Chandrapur has found a novel remedy for plastic waste. It found that even after prohibition of plastic bags less than 50 microns, the issue of such bags with higher thickness is not resolved. Working in the field of SWM, Rotary Club of Chandrapur assisted the Municipal Council, and materials used in road construction and drainage covers were manufactured. Separated plastic bags were shredded by a crusher and melted. The crushed plastic was mixed with tar and used in building a 360-meter BT road in the city.

By mixing sand with this plastic crush, drainage covers and cement poles have been manufactured. This laid rest to the worries of plastic bags in solid wastes and attained a freedom from plastic bags. The tar used for building roads was also saved. By carrying out various such experiments under SWM, many cities in Maharashtra have taken steps towards Swachh Maharashtra.

—Vishnu Kakde

SWACHH MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra has become the Number One State in India in terms of the number of ODF Gram Panchayats. Sindhudurg has earned the title of the cleanest district of India.

The cleanliness campaign was implemented in two ways as Rural and Urban Swachh Maharashtra Abhiyan. For rural areas, emphasis was laid on making the area free from open defecation. At the same time, waste water and solid waste management in the village was



Maharashtra has become the Number One State in India in terms of the number of ODF Gram Panchayats. Sindhudurg has earned the title of the cleanest district of India.





also looked into. Awareness was created so as to increase the participation of villages. Cleanliness awards have been given at State, division and district levels.

Mahatma Gandhi, Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj and Sant Gadge Baba are leaders that always underlined the importance of cleanliness. With more realisation and awareness coming from Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, people participation is also coming in.

At the start of the cleanliness mission, there were 56 lakh families for no toilets in Maharashtra. The programme encouraged the construction of toilets. So far, 11 districts have become free of open defecation. In four districts, the works have been completed upto 95-99 per cent. A total of 163 talukas, around 26,000 villages and 18,500 Gram Panchayats are now ODF.

ADOPTING A VILLAGE

Zilla Parishad officers took up an initiative to adopt a village each. Under the initiative, the officers stayed at the adopted village for a day or two and provided information on cleanliness. They tried to change the habit of open defecation. 'Lotabandi' initiative was implemented from Jalna district. Some time fines were charged. Under 'Bhetigathi Swachthesathi programme', 18 lakh families were visited to convey the importance of cleanliness.

Awareness was spread on village level for people to maintain good health through keeping water sources, rivers and wells clean. Water inspection laboratories were set up to make clean drinking water available and curbing water-borne diseases. People were informed on local management of solid wastes.

A National-level competition, 'Swachhathon' was organised recently so as to increase people participation in the cleanliness mission as well as using innovative concepts and technology. The competition began from Maharashtra. 'Swachh Radio' initiative from Maharashtra secured the second prize at the national-level competition. 'Maharashtra Swachh Radio' is a news report on various initiatives and programmes under cleanliness drive on a Whatsapp group. As this includes many groups, the information is carried speedily. A team of presenters has been appointed for this work.

A National campaign, 'Cleanliness is Service' is being implemented from September 15 to October 2, 2017. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set 2019 as the target of Swachh Bharat. However, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has resolved to make Swachh Maharashtra by March 2018.

—Nandkumar Waghmare

RESOLVE #7

FREEDOM FROM BUILDER ARBITRARY

Everyone has a dream to own a home. People often approach a real estate developer to purchase a home. The developer presents them with an inappropriate information, as to how the home in a proposed apartment is different from others and the facilities that would be available. This can lead to cheating of the customer. The developer slowly increases the price of the tenement and does not deliver on the promise made. The customers were unable to do much against such issues so far. They did not dare complain about the developer also. Due to such cases, the buyers experienced economic, physical and mental distress. In order to defeat this hooliganism and cheating and in the interests of customers and to protect the transparency and efficiency of the construction sector, Government of Maharashtra established MAHARERA under the Real Estate Regulation and Development Act, 2016 on May 1, 2017.

Maharashtra is the first State in India to establish a concerned authority in the field of construction. MAHARERA will control the construction field. This is an independent system for accelerated disposal of disputes that works for customers.

Earlier, the developers used to evade registering their projects anywhere and sharing the right information about the project. Customers were allured with misleading advertisements and cheated. To curb these mal-practices, it has been made compulsory for every developer to register both his ongoing and proposed projects at MAHARERA before he puts them for sale in the open market. It is compulsory to declare total information about a construction project.

Interested customers can search the MAHARERA website for the location of the project, name of the developer and type of the tenement. While checking the information, the customer can also check the scheme of the sanctioned project, building plan, specialties of the tenement, facilities and amenities, agreement and conveyance deed and other documents.





At present, Real Estate Regulation and Development Act, 2016 has been implemented in 13 States and seven Union Territories.

According to this Act, once the purchase of a home is finalised as per scheme of the builder, the purchase has to pay 10 per cent of the agreed amount to the builder before the agreement is made.

ONLINE INFORMATION IS NECESSARY

Instances such as developers giving wrong information to a customer and continuous changes made in the information on the project have occurred many times. However, now it has become compulsory for the developer to place all details online. Interested customers can search the MAHARERA website for the location of the project, name of the developer and type of the tenement. While checking the information, the customer can also check the scheme of the sanctioned project, building plan, specialties of the tenement, facilities and amenities, agreement and conveyance deed and other documents.

ANNUAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

Earlier, a real estate project was not completed as scheduled. The completion of project and on time delivery to the customer has been made compulsory now. Every construction project of a developer will now undergo audit of accounts. Under this Act, the developer will not be able to make changes in the project at will. For any change in the proposed project plan, scheme or any other aspect, it will be compulsory for the developer to obtain acceptance from the purchaser.

There used to be a damage and destruction after occupation of the tenement by a

customer. Many have experienced developer's neglect in such cases. Now the developer will not be excused from this. Under this Act, the developer will be responsible for planning and construction errors as well as service and other repairs. A provision has been made in the Act for payment of interest to the purchaser in case of delay in project distribution.

LEGAL PROTECTION FOR BUYERS

A purchaser has been provided complete legal protection under MAHARERA Act. Provisions have been made for severe fine and punishment for developers not obeying this Act. MAHARERA Act is proving useful in protecting the rights of the

purchasers of homes in the State and clamping the developers who cheat them. MAHARERA has received registrations from 10,000 developers, 6,000 agents and 2,100 projects till now.

At present, Real Estate Regulation and Development Act, 2016 has been implemented in 13 States and seven Union Territories. According to this Act, once the purchase of a home is finalised as per a scheme of the builder, the purchaser has to pay 10 per cent of the agreed amount to the builder before the agreement is made. Twenty per cent amount is to be paid after agreement and the remaining amount can be paid in stages, as the construction proceeds. As a special provision, if a customer defaults instalments on three occasions, the builder will be able to cancel the agreement after 15 days' notice. Under the Act, the developer cannot differentiate customers on the basis of any reasons such as caste, creed, religion or sex and he will not be able to deny a home to the customer.

The MAHARERA office is located at Mumbai and any complaint regarding housing construction can be lodged at the office. Rights for investigation of these complaints as well as decisions made have been bestowed to this authority. Any complaint against the builder will have to be solved within 30 days.

—Dr. Sambhaji Kharat



DEVENDRA FADNAVIS Chief Minister

ALL-INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTED BY PLANNING

Just like India, Maharashtra is currently at a decisive stage. The country has completed 70 years of independence; the Quit India Movement that proved to be the conclusive fight in the achievement of freedom has completed 75 years. Currently, the 75th anniversary of this movement is being celebrated. To mark this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given impetus to the Resolution to Accomplishment project. Under this project, even Maharashtra has made a special resolution of seven liberations as its great contribution, and we have decided to attain success by accomplishing those resolves. Maharashtra will complete 60 years of its foundation in the next three years, i.e. 2020. With this background, we have decided to make the Diamond Jubilee Maharashtra more prosperous, efficient and with comprehensive development by India's 75th anniversary. Famine, farmers' loans, pollution, corruption, complex taxation, dirt and builders' whims are the seven issues that are included in Maharashtra's seven-point liberation agenda.

A SERIES OF CHALLENGES

Maharashtra has informally embarked on its journey of seven-point liberation resolution

accomplishment three years ago itself. There was a series of challenges in front of the Government when I took reins of the State. I took a review of all these challenges and planned a comprehensive development policy. I am trying vigorously to get it to the level of implementation for the last three years. While the journey of the State Government completes three years, it is necessary to take a retrospective. It will enable the future journey to be extra flawless and effective.

The issue of prime concern in Maharashtra was to do away with agriculture calamities. The Government faced the challenge of empathising with the farmer suicide eclipsed Maharashtra and come out with an effective solution. We planned a long-term policy for agricultural development and started its strict implementation.

SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION

It is crystal clear that agriculture development is impossible without sustainable irrigation. Hence, the Government is coming out with effective measures towards that end. A total of 141 irrigation projects pending for several years were given revised administrative approval in the last two years; 400 projects will be given revised administrative approval in the coming year.

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- 44,000 schools have become advanced due to effective implementation of Advanced Education Campaign. As a result, Maharashtra that once ranked 15 in India in education is now at position 3.
- Work has been completed under this campaign on both primary and middle level after identifying the key result areas.
- In order to make all schools digital by December 2018, help is being sought through people's participation and social responsibility.
- Emphasis on 100 per cent learning outcome of the schools.
- There is work on connecting students' information to Aadhar Card in order to augment educational calibre and gauge the exact number of students.
- 40 per cent of the students have shifted to Zilla Parishad schools from English medium schools; approximately 15,000 students have migrated from English medium schools to Marathi medium schools.
- Teachers in all schools will be appointed after taking a test as per Central procedure. This will ensure that malpractices in appointments in private and Government-aided schools are curbed. Students will get better teachers due to this decision.
- Decision to establish Maharashtra State Open School Council in order to bestow an opportunity of education to those who have been denied education and have gone away from mainstream education. Vocational education will also be imparted through this Council.





Apart from this, 7.5 lakh hectare of land will come under irrigation in the next two years by completing 225 projects that are currently 60 per cent, 50 per cent and 40 per cent complete. Twenty-six projects in the State have been included in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Approximately 82,600 ha of irrigation capacity will be created through these projects this year. The Union Government will give ₹26,000 crore for the incomplete irrigation projects. In order to increase the holding capacity of dams and water reserves along with making the land of the farmers fertile, the Gaalmukt Dharan, Gaalyukt Shivar (sediment-free dams, sediments-full farms) scheme is being implemented. Approximately ₹6,236 crore will be spent on the scheme. More than 60,000 wells have been completed in the last two years under the MGNREGA. Similarly, more than 40,000 farm ponds have been completed under Farm Pond on Demand scheme. With Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan becoming a people's movement, works worth ₹570 crore could be done. The number of tankers supplying water in water-deficient areas has declined with the success of the campaign and the groundwater level has increased.

MOMENTUM TO PROVING CRIMES

The image of Maharashtra as a peaceful and cultured State in India due to best law and order has been questioned in the last few years. Sig-

nificant improvement has been noticed due to various decisions taken by the Government in this regard in the last three years. The rate of proving crimes that had dropped to 9 per cent in 2014 is now more than 52 per cent. This increased rate is a result of the various measures consciously implemented by the Government. In order to give more speed to the process of proving a crime, approval has been given to establish technology-assisted crime investigation centres at Crime Investigation Department and Maharashtra Intelligence Academy in Pune, and State Intelligence Department in Mumbai. CCTNS working system has been implemented first in Maharashtra among all States. A total of 1041 police stations and 638 senior police offices in the State have been connected through this system. The benefit of digital speed has been lent to the working of the Police Department. Twenty-four forensic labs have been started, 45 mobile support units have been made operational, and the police force has successfully used MIBS and PACO-25 system to decrypt crimes and punish the criminals along with evidence.

In view of the rising population in the urban areas, a major activity of establishing new Commissionerates and police stations has been undertaken so that law and order is maintained. Sixty one police stations have been established in the last three years. Police Commissionerates will be established in Kolhapur, Akola, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Mira-Bhayander. CCTV projects have been commenced in important cities to control traffic and keep a watch on all types of movement.

The process of creating Perception Index to evaluate the achievement of police force has begun from Nagpur. This Index has helped in procuring information regarding public's expectation from the police force and its achievements. Improvements are being made in the force accordingly.

Accused in 3,736 cases out of 8,108 registered have been arrested in the last three years due to the measures undertaken to curb cyber crime. In order to make this system more effective, planning of expenditure of ₹837 crore for the next five years and administrative approval have been given.

After transforming the e-Signature facility that was created under e-Complaint service started on an experimental basis in Pune into e-FIR, it has been planned to implement it across the State. Similarly, monetary provision has been made to combine the various numbers for fire brigade and police and commence a single number, 112.

Various projects worth ₹8,000-10,000 crore have been undertaken in Maharashtra for the police force under the comprehensive and ambitious programme of police housing. Housing stock

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- An investment of over Rs. 40,000 crore in agriculture sector in the last two and a half years as per this policy.
- Niti Aayog has praised the Government for the efforts it has taken for agriculture improvement. It is clear that Maharashtra is on the forefront in the nation in this aspect.
- The rate of growth in agriculture and allied sectors that was -11.2 per cent has increased by 12.5 per cent due to measures taken by the Government. It means that there is an augmentation of approximately Rs.4,000 crore in the agriculture produce sector.
- Tur dal that was produced in large quantity last year in India was bought in maximum quantity (67 lakh quintal), creating a record.
- 90 per cent of the agriculture pumps will be connected to the solar feeder in the next three years through the CM Solar Agriculture Feeder Scheme so that electricity is provided at reasonable rate and as per convenience of the farmers. Similarly, farmers have been benefitted due to 10 lakh solar pumps.
- More than 1,200 farmer produce companies have been established under the Group Farming Scheme.
- The biggest loan waiver scheme in the country named Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Sanman Yojana 2017 implemented. Applications from more than 56 lakh farmers have been received by the Government.
- Almost 4 lakh works worth around Rs. 5,500 crore have been completed in 11,500 villages through Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan. To date, water reserves of approximately 16 lakh TCM have been created through this work. An area of 21 lakh hectare has been provided with secured irrigation for one time through this water.



of 51,000 will be created through this. Nineteen housing projects have been completed to date and 2,395 houses are being made available. Similarly, 183 projects are in the final stages of planning through which 37,543 houses will be constructed. Townships are being created at Ghatkopar in Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur and Aurangabad.

A decision has been taken to form a committee to reduce atrocities on women, and implement measures undertaken for their safety and security. Similarly, Bharosa (Trust) Cell on the lines of Hyderabad has been created in Maharashtra.

RESERVATION FOR MARATHA

The Government has transformed the subject of social justice from words to action! The State Government is trying to give complete justice to the aspirations of all the elements of society. It has a positive approach in giving reservation to the Maratha community. The annual income cap has been raised from ₹1 lakh to ₹6 lakh for EBC concession under Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj Education Scholarship scheme and the Government has taken a decision to expand the scope of this scheme. This scholarship scheme has been made applicable to all 605 curriculums and the condition of 60 per cent has been relaxed to 50 per cent.

The State Government had given a fund of ₹200 crore to Annasaheb Patil Economic Development Corporation. Three lakh children of farmers will be imparted skill training through the skill development programme of the Centre through the corporation. The trained children will be given a loan of ₹10 lakh through the bank to start livelihood, and its interest will be paid through the corporation. The Government intends to focus on the social, economic and educational development of various social elements, especially Maratha, Kunbi and SC, ST, OBCs in the farming profession. A decision has been taken to establish a committee for the pre-preparations in regards to the establishment of Chhatrapati

Shahu Maharaj Research, Training and Human Development Institute for comprehensive research in this regard.

Under the Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Hostel Subsistence Allowance Scheme, annual allowance of ₹30,000 in bigger cities and ₹20,000 in smaller cities will be given to children of farmers owning small lands as well as registered labourers, so that it will be possible for them to receive higher education by residing in cities. An independent department has been made operational for OBCs in the State. A substantial amount of ₹2,384 crore has been made available.

A scheme has been started to give annual aid of ₹43,000-60,000 to students of Scheduled Castes and Neo-Buddhists who could not obtain admission in Government hostels under the Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Swadhar Yojana. For those Scheduled Tribes' students who have not obtained admission in Government hostels, provision of ₹107 crore per year has been made to implement Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swayam Yojana. Mazi Kanya Bhagyashree scheme is implemented in order to increase the birth rate of girls and improve their standard of education and health. The Government has taken a decision to increase the income limit from ₹1 lakh to ₹7.5 lakh to avail its benefit.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Imparting skills is the solution to employment and self-employment, and Maharashtra has the highest number of apprentices, as amendments have been made in the new Apprentice Act. This number will only rise now. A syllabus has been prepared to impart training regarding agriculture and allied industries to children of 3 lakh farmers in the State. This programme is receiving support from the Union Government too.

MAKE IN MAHARASHTRA

Maximum investment has been done in Maharashtra due to various measures implemented under 'Make in Maharashtra'. The efforts that we have taken to establish Maharashtra as an industry-friendly State in the entire world has certainly become successful. The growth rate of the State is estimated to rise up to 10 per cent in coming times. The growth rate of the service sector has also risen to 11 per cent. Infrastructure has been given huge impetus and currently work worth ₹6 lakh crore is under way in the State. Hence, impetus will be surely lent to development of various roads, highways, dormant railway routes and Metro projects.

Hemraj Bagul

Public Relations Officer, Chief Minister of Maharashtra

DIGITAL ADMINISTRATION

Various measures have been taken to make administration more people oriented and speedy considering it to be a subject of priority and conscious working of the Government. Projects such as Aapple Sarkar, Maha DBT, MahaVastu, Maha Swayam, Maha Pariksha and others are some of the efforts undertaken by the Government towards this end. Through the direct benefit transfer (DBT), the aid fund regarding agriculture equipment and 43 services regarding scholarships is being deposited directly in the bank accounts of the beneficiaries; 399 services are available on a single platform Aapple Sarkar; more than 1 crore people have been provided services through it. Procuring sanctions of plans for construction of houses and obtaining permissions for other building activity has become simple and easy due to MahaVastu portal. The web portal MahaSwayam for skill development among youth has proved to be beneficial as one-stop shop.





The objective of farmer empowerment has led us take timely, meaningful decisions in last three years. From loan waiver to a insurance, our initiatives convey our undeterred focus on farmers

**CHANDRAKANT
DADA PATIL**

Minister of Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation, Public Works (excluding Public Undertakings)

FARMER WELFARE, FOREMOST PRIORITY

Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Sanman Yojana has been implemented to assure the farmers of the Government's support to rise from the losses caused by natural calamities. Through this scheme, it has been decided that the farmers will be relieved from loans up to ₹1.5 lakh. Along with this, the Government has decided to give 25 per cent of the loan amount or ₹25,000 to those farmers who have sincerely repaid their loans in 2015-16. Due to this, 89 lakh farmers in the State could benefit from this scheme. The expense for this scheme is expected to be ₹34,022 crore. This is the biggest initiative taken by the State Government to make

sure that the farmers get back on their feet and avoid situations where they will need loans in the near future.

A number of projects have been completed through Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan through which water storage has been generated that can provide consistent water supply to a few lakh hectare of land over 16,000 villages. Along with this, schemes like Gaalmukt Dharan, Gaalmukt Shivar have led to an increase in agricultural production by a whooping margin of ₹40,000 crore. Various initiatives have also been taken so that farmers can sell their produce independently and at desired rates. Similarly, many other decisions have been taken for the benefit of farmers. These include setting up godowns for storing agricultural products, building cold storages for the degradable products, encouraging agricultural-processing businesses, group farming and prioritising irrigation.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

In rural areas, many deaths are often recorded due to accidental reasons such as natural calamities, snake/scorpion bites, lightening strikes, drowning in rivers or wells, falling from trees and more. Late Gopinath Munde Farmers Accident Insurance scheme is, therefore, being implemented in the State to support such families. Under this scheme, a compensation of ₹2 lakh is given to the family of the deceased.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster management forces in Maharashtra have evolved consistently in the past two years. Committees have been formed at district level under each district officer. These committees have also been given the necessary rights and latest machinery. Inspired by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Maharashtra Disaster Response Force or MDRF will be formed. The offices for which will be set up in Dhule and Akola.





The farmers whose lands have been stuck up in various disputes will now heave a sigh of relief since it has been decided to speedily give verdicts to such pending cases.

ROAD PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

The work of 742 flyovers, including construction of 226 railway bridges on National and State Highways, and repairing of 27,371-km-long roads have been completed in rural areas. Roads passing through railway crossing will no longer function. The decision is based on the objective of eliminating the risk of accidents near railway crossings. The fourth level of Nashik—Pune highway has now reached its final stage and more than half of the 85-km expansion of Panvel—Indapur highway has been completed. Seventy per cent work on the Indapur—Zarap road has also been completed. Permission has been granted for projects of 353 km roads and expansion of Satara—Kagal highway. Eleven new buildings will be constructed on the principle of green buildings, which will also inspire the construction and development of Government offices.

ENERGY ENHANCEMENT

New and power-saving products, which will include 11.5 lakh tubelights and bulbs, 6.5 lakh ceiling fans, 60,000 ACs and lights in the campus, will be put up in State Government's non-residential buildings and will be done free of cost. This will lead to power saving up to 124 million units and cut down electricity bills by ₹119 crore.

—Nandkumar Waghmare
Departmental Liasoning Officer



Minister of Housing

The Government is working on Centre's 'Housing for All by 2022' mission and slum redevelopment. With MAHARERA, complaints from home buyers will decline

PRAKASH MEHTA

HOMES FOR EVERYONE

Under the 'Housing for All by 2022' Mission, the State Government is assisting with ₹1.5 lakh in addition to a grant from Government of India to the extent of ₹1 lakh. Till now, Government of Maharashtra has made available 114.46 ha of Government land at the rate of ₹1 per sq. mtr to MHADA. Stamp Duty of just ₹1,000 is being charged for this project and concession has been provided in development and land measurement charges. The Prime Minister of India has carried out bhoomipoojan for work of 41,379 tenements from 19 approved projects at the State. Presently, the construction work for 1,777 tenements is in progress at Mhalunge—Pune, Shrirampur—Nagar and Vanjala—Nagpur under this scheme.

FUNDS RECEIVED FROM CENTRE

Considering large-scale urbanisation, a proposal has been presented to the Government of India for inclusion of other cities in the same. Prime Minister Housing Scheme for affordable housing will be implemented at these cities as well. First instalment of the Government of India share in the project for ₹371.51 crore has been received.

SLUM REDEVELOPMENT

Slum Rehabilitation Authority has so far decided 2,317 slum areas. Demarking of 8,165 Acres of slums areas has been carried out. Door to door biomeric survey of 1,00,391 hutments has been completed. Competent Authority for decision on eligibility of hut-



RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- 7/12 extract available online for the convenience of farmers
- 500 new committees to be formed and 5,000 new officers to be appointed
- E-Calculation of land through satellites and availability of digitalised maps of the farm lands
- No unit will be left out of the redevelopment plans in the next two years
- Effective implementation of Mahajasva Abhiyan and availability of E-Ferfar service in the villages
- All the land-related unauthorised transactions to be authorised
- 53 routes made toll free for cars, light vehicles, school buses and Government buses.
- Approval of 9012.50 km-long, new National Highways from 2015 to 2017

ment dweller and a Competent Appellate Authority for filing an appeal against the orders of the former have been published through a notification. Complaint Redress committees have been established in connection with various complaints and eligibility under Slum Rehabilitation Scheme.

Eligible hutment dwellers from Nagpur Municipal

Corporation areas with their names in the Voter lists of 1 January 1995, will be rehabilitated by providing their residential lands on lease or by providing them optional piece of land. Approval has been provided for making a self-affidavit as well as limiting evidences to two in order to decide eligibility of slum dwellers. The jurisdiction of Slum Rehabilitation Authority has been enlarged up to Thane city and an independent system has been created for the same.

REDEVELOPMENT OF B. D. D. CHAWLS

B. D. D. Chawls in Mumbai, located at Worli, Naigaum, N. M. Joshi Marg and Sewri, will be developed through MHADA. Original residents will be provided 500 sq. ft floor area homes on ownership basis. A total of 600 families will be rehabilitated at new buildings. Global tenders have been floated for redevelopment of B. D. D. Chawls on the 4 April 2017. A total of 10,105 residents will be provided ownership tenements in the newly constructed buildings. As the ownership of Sewri land is with Government of India, we have not been able to float Redevelopment tenders for the same through MHADA. We are discussing the matter with the Government of India and the land will be transferred soon to State Government. After this 1,065 tenement holders from here will be provided benefits of redevelopment. Under Housing Scheme for Mill workers Stage 2, a draw was held on the 9 May 2016 for 2,634 tenements located at the lands of Century Mills and Bharat Mills at the rate of ₹9.5 lakh per tenement.

REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The issue of redevelopment of 106 layouts in 56 MHADA colonies in Mumbai has been lingering for a long time due to various reasons. The Government has agreed a policy to provide additional FSI in order to resolve this issue. Accordingly, approval has been given for grant of 3.0 FSI based on above par value for buildings on a plot of land up to 4,000 sq. m.

Approximately 256 ha Khar lands located at Kanjur, Bhandup, Mulund and Wadala are available under Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. These lands are under the jurisdiction of Government of India and have a large number of slums on them. A follow up with the Government of India is continued for transferring them to the State Government so that these lands could be used for creation of affordable housing with redevelopment.



MAHARERA ACT

The Government established Maharashtra Housing Control Commission on the 8 March 2017. Chairman and two members have been appointed for MAHARERA and the entire work is being carried out online. For this a website maharera.mahaonline.gov.in has been created. Appellate Housing Judicial Authority is being estab-

lished. After establishment of MAHARERA, complaints from house purchasers will be disposed of promptly.

PROTECTIVE WALLS

The Government has issued guidelines for the first time for construction of protective walls for protection of hutment dwellers staying below the hill slopes and dangerous stones. According to Maharashtra Right to Public Services Act, an online facility has been started at MHADA through Lokseva Mitra System. Scheme is being prepared considering the need for development of small clusters at Dharavi Redevelopment on the lines of Slum Rehabilitation Authority. A Committee of members from both houses of Legislature has been constituted to go in to the study of subjects such as Cess buildings in Mumbai, Non-cess buildings in Mumbai, Bombay Improvement Trust (BIT), Prime Minister Grant Project (PMGP) buildings and Repair Board, as well as Development Control Regulations and others and to suggest new remedial measures in these cases.

—Dr. Sambhaji Kharat
Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Under Homes for All scheme, 46 proposals from the State approved by Government of India. Approval for a total of 1,46,505 tenements.
- 256 cities from Maharashtra included in the Central Link Subsidy project. Loan disbursal of ₹901.77 crore to 7,732 beneficiaries. Subsidy to the tune of ₹156.07 Crores granted.
- Using the Maharashtra Slums (improvement, eradication and redevelopment) rights, those Municipal Corporation and Municipal Council areas which were not earlier part of this Act have been newly included. Competent Authority and Appellate Authority at these places appointed.
- A total of 7,817 tenements constructed under MHADA at Mumbai and other places in the State were allotted through a DRAW in 2016.
- In order to accelerate Slum Rehabilitation Schemes and that these schemes should not be deferred due to lack of financial issues, a start-up capital funds of ₹500 crore to the developers of these schemes through Shivshahi Punarvasan Prakalp Limited (SPPL). With these funds, the delayed projects will be rejuvenated. Efforts are being made so that the loan funds for development of these projects are available at a maximum rate of 8.5 per cent.
- Creation of 35,117 tenements under BSUP and IHSDP during 2015-16.
- Action is being taken for announcing new policy for tenements at transit camps at Mumbai, regularising the encroachers and providing a rightful home for the residents.



The Transport Department has taken effective steps in passengers' interests and created employment opportunities for many. Steps have been taken to make the commute convenient, safe and clean

DIWAKAR RAOYE

Minister for Transport and Khar Land Development

A SUCCESSFUL, SAFE JOURNEY

Prioritising passenger safety, the Transport Department has implemented many schemes and projects so that the means of transport in Maharashtra become easily available. Whether it is lifting restrictions on permits for women, employment through auto-rickshaw and taxi or plying of Shivshahi buses for more comfortable journey, the department is on a successful journey with employment of vehicle drivers and working for passenger interests. The department has made a new mobile application for the safety and convenience of passengers. Very soon, the information about the location of a specific bus at any given time will be available at a click through GPS. The department has implemented many schemes and initiatives in staff interest and their shining future. I trust that Maharashtra transport services will come up as the best in the country.

IN PASSENGERS' INTEREST

Passenger safety has been a priority in State Transport (ST) buses, private auto rickshaws and taxis. The website-based taxi service is also growing with an increase in number of passengers. While no rules existed earlier, the department has implemented Maharashtra City Taxi Rules 2017. Under these,



registration will be a must for all website-based taxi companies in the city and an app-based permit will be provided. Taxi should move on clean fuel and have GPRS system either with vehicle or driver. The State has around 70,000 website-based taxis and around 7 lakh passengers travel by these.

RENEWAL ON PERMITS

There was an issue of employment of auto rickshaw drivers, where permits were cancelled or got expired due to various reasons and there was restriction on their renewal. The Government took a policy decision to renew such permits. The initiative has so far benefitted 37,000 auto-rickshaw permit holders. To encourage women to be beneficiaries too, the department has taken many initiatives and schemes. One of them is to colour the taxis and auto rickshaws driven by ladies in orange. The notification was issued on 30 June 2016. Currently, there are 193 active orange rickshaws.

Approval has also been given to plying of 'Shivgrameen' taxi in the rural areas. The rural taxi class of vehicles has a reduced engine capacity of 700 CC.

RAILWAY PROJECTS

The Ministry of Railways has approved the change of name of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and Elphinstone Road station to Prabhadevi. Accordingly, the names have been changed. A decision has been taken for purchase of additional shares in Konkan Railway to the tune of ₹702.55 crore. This will enable four important basic infrastructure projects on Konkan Railway. The State Government has also made a huge contribution provision for Karad-Ahmednagar and Parali-Beed-Chiplun railway routes. A decision has been taken for 50 per cent financial participation in Nagpur-Nagbheed Gauge change project as per revised estimates. Railway facilities will be developed in the comparatively undeveloped Naxal-affected areas of Vidarbha.

TRANSFORMATION OF ST CORPORATION

The concept of fully facilitated Shivshahi buses came up for providing a comfortable AC journey to passengers at affordable rates. Currently, these buses ply on routes Mumbai-Ratnagiri and Pune-Latur. The corporation fleet will be added with 2,000 buses soon.

Under Integrated Facility Management, the corporation has appointed an institute for looking after cleanliness and maintenance of buses, bus stations, offices, rest rooms for staff, depot areas and toilets.

Modern bus stations will be constructed as per the available space and the needs of the city. We are in a mind to establish mini-theaters with a capacity of 60-100 seats at some of these bus stations. Only Marathi films will be exhibited here.

The tender has been finalised for installation of CCTV cameras in every depot, and 57 highly sensitive depots will be taken up in the first stage. With facilities similar to airports, 15 bus ports will be established in Maharashtra.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

For providing help in case of an accident during ST travel, Hinduhrdayasamrat Shivsenapramukh Balasaheb Thackeray Accident Assistance Fund Scheme has been started. Through this fund, the treatment expenses for injured,



including medicines and hospitalisation, are provided. Till the end of July 2017, the injured had been provided a financial assistance of ₹98.40 crore.

SUPPORT TO THE ST STAFF

Many schemes are being implemented for the safety and bright future of the staff. For encouraging the birth of girl child and staff welfare, a scheme is being implemented. The corporation places a fixed amount in the name of the new-born girl child at ST bank in a deposit-doubling scheme. The girl is given ₹1 lakh after 21 years at the time of her marriage. So far, 450 staff members have received the benefit of this scheme.

It has been decided to reduce the period of junior pay scale from three years to one year. After completion of six months in the junior pay scale, the pay will be raised by ₹500. After working for one year satisfactorily, the staff will be given the benefit of senior pay scale. The decision has been implemented from 1 April 2017.

With an objective of streamlining the cloth and standard of uniform for all the corporation staff, an environment-friendly and attractive uniform has been prepared. The staff will be given two sets of uniforms on behalf of the Corporation. It was decided in 2015 to provide an amount of ₹1,500 for the staff and ₹2,500 for the officers apart from their salary as gratuity, so that their families can have a happier Diwali.

The heir of a staff who dies on duty in a bus accident will be provided guaranteed accident assistance fund of ₹10 lakh or a job at the corporation on compassionate grounds. Atal Pension Yojana of Centre has been made applicable to staff in the age group 18-40 years.

—As told to Anand Surwade

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- A policy decision to renew the permits of auto rickshaw and taxi, benefitting 37,000 auto-rickshaw permit holders.
- 609 ST bus stations with 250 depots facilitated with independent rest rooms for male and female staff; about 67 lakh passengers travel through 18,500 buses daily.
- Financial assistance of ₹98.40 crore under accident insurance fund till July 2017
- 15 bus ports like airports to be established
- Many schemes are being implemented for staff members' safety and bright future



Minister of Environment

Beginning with the basic necessities such as food and education, tribal communities are being provided everything to become an active part of progressive and mainstream society

VISHNU SAVARA

TRIBAL STUDENTS, THE FOCUS POINT

Youth and students are the future of any country. The quality of education they receive, lifestyle they follow and their growth denote the progress of a country. Since 2014, various schemes have been running and initiatives have been taken for the uplift of tribal communities.

ADMISSION IN RENOWNED SCHOOLS

In this world of competition, it is important to have a good command over English language along with one's mother tongue. To help Scheduled Tribe students survive this competition, free education is provided to them up to class 12 in renowned English medium schools in urban areas. Under 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swayam Yojana', accommodation facilities are given to those who





cannot get a place in Government hostels. Funds are directly deposited to the bank accounts of the students for food, higher education, books and accommodation. This includes providing ₹60,000 per year in bigger cities like Mumbai, ₹51,000 in BMC K ward and ₹43,000 in the remaining areas.

BALANCED DIET

Central kitchens have been set up under the 'Annapurna Yojana' in Mudhegaon (Nashik) and Kambalgaon (Palghar) with the coordinated effort of Tribal Development Department, Tata Trust and Akshayapatra Foundation. These neat, clean and well-maintained kitchens provide healthy, nutritious and balanced meals to tribal students.

'Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Amrut Ahar Yojana' has been implemented to cope up with malnutrition and anemia in the Adivasi areas. Under this scheme, one time square meals are provided to the pregnant ladies and lactating mothers. It also includes providing extra meals, two bananas for vegetarian kids and one egg for non-vegetarian kids falling in the age group of 7 months to 6 years. This scheme will solve the health issues of underweight kids, kids with stunted growth and a low BMI.

ADI PRAMAN APP

The mobile application has been launched by the Government to speed up the caste verification process that was earlier done manually. With the app, checking of the applications filled online is now done online. The forms are segregated and worked upon by specific committees according to the field of the applicant. Applicants can track their process and receive updated information through email or SMS. Photo and unique bar code are provided to each applicant. Time, effort and money are saved since the applicants don't have to physically visit the offices. The information of verification done by other committees will be available with all committees.

The Adi Praman app is being successfully run by Commissioner, Tribal Research and Training Institute, Pune. Similarly, computers, printers and other hardware are provided to the Tribal Development Committees.

FUNDS FOR PESA GRAM PANCHAYATS

Five per cent of the funds collected under tribal schemes will be provided to the areas of Scheduled Castes in 13 districts, 59 talukas, 2,880 Gram Panchayats and 5,979 villages under them. In 2016-17, ₹214.30 crore was provided for the same.

—Shailaja Wagh-Dandale
Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Growth in the admission capacity in schools from 2,500 to 25,000. In 2016-17, 53,000 students received education from 192 schools.
- ₹132.58 crore spent of Amrut Ahar Yojana and ₹184 crore made available for the 2017-18.
- www.tribevalidity.mahaonline.gov.in available for a convenient and fair caste verification process.
- 60,000 students provided with meals per day through Annapurna central kitchens.



Providing economic and social security to people deprived of development and create comprehensive employment opportunities and perennial development in an eco-friendly manner is our resolve

**SUDHIR
MUNGANTIWAR**

Minister for Finance and Planning, Forests

FAIR SUPPORT TO ONE AND ALL

In the last three years, the Government of Maharashtra has laid special emphasis on development of agriculture and allied sectors. This objective has made negative development rate become 19.3 per cent. The development rate of Maharashtra went up from 5.4 per cent to 9.4 per cent. The Government firmly stood behind farmers in trouble. We have waived off farmers' loan of more than ₹34,000 crore. We took many decisions to protect the farmers, accelerating the mission of Progressive Agriculture, Prosperous Farmer.

No darkness of grief on any face,
No burden of youth on ageing shoulders...
Skill development will guarantee employment,
Everyone's dreams will receive a rightful support....

The State Government has been led by the above message. We have laid a firm foundation for a scarcity-free Maharashtra through various means. While taking decisions for social and economic security of people, the Government has also been successful in unanimously implementing a tax system like GST (Goods and Services Tax) to connect the State with the whole country.

REVENUE COMPENSATION

By including local self-governments in the economic improvement process, the Government accepted the role to pay these bodies revenue compensation regularly and still stay within legal limits. We were cautious that there is no adverse effect on development while we carry this out. We have provided various types of economic security armour. In order to provide economic and social security to people deprived of development and create comprehensive employment opportunities by skills and perennial development in an eco-friendly manner, it is essential for us to pick up speed and cultivate a great resolve to move ahead.

SUCCESS OF MUDRA SCHEME

Under the Mudra Yojana, loans to worth ₹13,000 crore were

disbursed. During the current year, loans more than ₹4,625 crore were disbursed till 20 August 2017. A control committee has been set up in every district under the chairmanship of District Collector for the implementation of

the scheme. Through coordination on various schemes such as Jana Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Pehal and Sukanya Samruddhi Yojana, work has been carried out to protect the commonest of common man.

DIRECT FUND TRANSFER TO BENEFICIARIES

We are depositing the benefits of schemes run by various departments directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. Till now, 74 welfare schemes have been included in the system; 62 benefits are being deposited in cash directly to the accounts of beneficiaries, whose Aadhar numbers are linked to bank accounts. This year, we have provided ₹7,562 crore for district annual schemes with approval for using 13.5 per cent of the same (₹1,021 crore) for Jalyukta Shivar works and 15 per cent (₹1,134 crore) for Chief Minister Gram Sadak Yojana. Under Chanda to Banda programme, we are doing micro-planning for Sindhudurg and Chandrapur and implementing the plan with a funding of ₹200 crore. Sevagram Development Plan of ₹266 crore has been prepared and a provision for ₹94 crore has been made in the budget. A programme is being implemented with cooperation of United Nations for increasing the sting of poverty alleviation struggle. The programme will be implemented with focus on 25 talukas with low Human Development Index.

MEGA TREE PLANTATION

The Forest Department had resolved for 4 Crore Tree Plantation programme during this year's Forest Week (July 1-7). During this period, the number of plantations rose to





5.43 crore. Large-scale tree plantation was made possible with people participation. Under the Right to Services Act, 11 services from the department have been made available online. Eco-battalion of 148 soldiers established at Marathwada will look after increasing the tree cover in the region. During the last three years, Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, Toranmal Reserved and Anjaneri Reserve have been announced as Wildlife Reserved Areas. Mangrove areas have increased by 36 sq. km. Green Army with 30 lakh members has come up in the State. This is a Government of the people and we are determined to comply with development in the minds of the citizens.

—Dr. Surekha Mulay
Departmental Liasoning Officer



Minister, Environment

While the Government has been working round the clock to find solutions to grave environmental problems, maintaining ecological balance depends on the participation of each one of us

RAMDAS KADAM

GROWTH IN BALANCE WITH NATURE

Deterioration of environment is due to increasing industries and urbanisation. This then leads to increase in diseases such as breathing diseases, jaundice, asthma and others. Pollution also harms aquatic animals, forest life, animals and birds and plants. The Environment Department is successfully shouldering the responsibility of preventing these problems and maintaining State's environmental balance.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

The important activities of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) are organising programmes for preventing and controlling pollution, environment security, collection of information on pollution and its propagation, inspection of pollution control method and treatment plants, disposal facilities for waste water, effluents and waste materials



RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Excellent work by Forest Department under Jalyukta Shivir Abhiyan with 28,653 works in 10,924 villages.
- Compensation amount for family of a victim of wildlife attack increased to ₹8 lakh from ₹5 lakh.
- Crop compensation for damage by wildlife minimum ₹1,000 and maximum ₹25,000.
- Compensation in case of animal death in wildlife attack is ₹25,000.
- Moha flowers and bamboo cleared from transport permit of Forest Department.
- Special child nurture leave of 730 days for a State Government female employee with a handicapped newborn. Benefit of this leave available to male State Government employees without a wife.
- Special leave of 180 days for a female State Government employee adopting a child.
- While using GST, the orders for compensation in lieu of octroi and LBT implemented from 1 July 2017.
- Sales Tax department completed the revenue collection target of ₹90,525 crore during 2016-17.
- Family pension to totally dependent parents of a deceased Government employee (unmarried or without an existing family, alone).
- Improvement in the provision for leave travel concession payable to Government employees (hometown/ Maharashtra Darshan).
- Ten per cent increase in the pension for pension holders/ family pension holders above the age of 80 years from 1 April 2014.
- A decision to provide family pension for both army and civil services to the families of persons retiring from army services and reappointed to State Government civil service before 1 November 2005 and who died in service/after retirement.



and air, schemes for disposal methods and air pollution control methods, recycling and re-usage of waste, providing support and encouraging environment-friendly methods, training and guiding entrepreneurs with appropriate pollution control technology and methods for environment conservation, creating public awareness in respect of clean and healthy environment, taking notice of public complaints related to pollution and others.

The department also works on air and water pollution, noise pollution, industrial pollution, harmful wastes, biomedical wastes and others. Its main schemes are National Lake Conservation Plan, centrally sponsored Environmental Information System, Control Centre for Environmental Security, remedial measures on Narmada Sarovar project, Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority, awareness about environment, education and climate change action scheme, State river conservation scheme and Mula-Mutha rivers, Pune—Reduction of pollution project (Centrally sponsored).

A ₹990 CRORE PROJECT FOR POLLUTION ERADICATION

Under the National River Action Plan, administrative sanction has been received to provide funds for cleaning of Mula—Mutha rivers in Pune from the Centre. The project includes holding or turning waste water, processing, construction of waste water processing plant, fish culture centre, botanical garden, establishment of Sulabh toilets and awareness generation.

The main aim of National River Action Plan is to stop river pollution caused by urban waste water generated by cities on river banks. For this scheme, the funds will be provided to Pune Municipal Corporation by the Union Government and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JAICA). Out of the total sanctioned funds of ₹990 crore, 85 per cent (₹840.72 crore) comes from the Centre and the rest 15 per cent (₹148.54 crore) from Pune Municipal Corporation for various works to be undertaken. It is binding that the sanctioned works are completed by 31 January 2022.

CHECKING AIR QUALITY INDEX

Air pollution responsible for global climate change is a complicated process. Evaluation of environmental air quality is the first stage of bringing an improvement in the air quality.

Air Quality Index could be an effective tool for the above and also to disseminate information effectively to the population. This index is a gist of the complicated evaluation of air quality and a term for unit easy enough to be understood by people. Air quality index is categorised according to the proportion of air pollutants and possible dangers on human health issues. With assistance from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, the Central Pollution Control Board has developed a relationship between air pollution and health issues through Air Quality Index. The index is communicated through colour codes.

NOISE POLLUTION, PLASTIC PROHIBITION

The Honourable High Court has prescribed certain limits for controlling noise pollution. Accordingly, all members of society should take care that these limits are not crossed. It is in our hands to reduce the sound of loudspeakers, refrain from use of Dolby-like sound systems, limit the sounds of *dhol* and *tasha* and others. We should also avoid large sound firecrackers, events and festivals.

The State Government has prohibited plastic bags. We should avoid use of plastic bags in daily life. Let us prohibit noise pollution, fire crackers, plastics and manja in order to protect environment and initiate a lifestyle that is environment friendly.

—Dr. Sambhaji Kharat, Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Proposal for conservation of Mula—Mutha rivers in Pune for ₹990.26 crore sanctioned by the Government of India under National River Action Plan; environmental air quality inspection to be carried out in 25 cities by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board as per methodology prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board.
- Work is in progress for deciding the Air Quality Index for Nanded, Ambarnath, Bhiwandi,
- Dombivali, Kalyan and Taloja.
- Action plan to be prepared through eminent institutes for cities where the air quality is higher than the prescribed standards.
- Maharashtra Pollution Control Board will transmit Air Quality Index in Maharashtra on 10th of every month.
- Approval for collection and management centres for harmful wastes; processing of these wastes started.



Diligently working for lasting agriculture, the Government has been encouraging modern technology, helping farmers during financial distress and building irrigation infrastructure

PANDURANG FUNDKAR

Minister of Agriculture and Horticulture

COMMITMENT TO THE FARMERS' WELFARE

The Government of Maharashtra is making efforts to accelerate various schemes for agricultural development. The drought situation prevailing in the State for the last four years has adversely affected the sector and farmers. Many important decisions have been taken over the last three years to closely gather up farmers affected by the natural calamity. By removing the burden of loan-affected farmers, was approved to create debt free Maharashtra. 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Samman Yojana' was approved. This is by far the largest loan waiver. Through this scheme, farmer loan up to ₹1.5 lakh has been waived.

RISING AGRICULTURE, PROSPEROUS FARMER

For economic empowerment of farmers, 'Unnat Sheti, Samruddha Shetkari' programme was implemented across Maharashtra. A dialogue was established with almost 2 lakh farmers during the programme. Farmers were given advice on ways to increase farm production and income. By establishing 1,000 groups (a group of 10 farmers and 20 ha land each), an effort is being made to encourage group agriculture.



Grant is being provided for modern agricultural technology and machines to increase production and income of farmers. Special efforts are being made to lead farmers to prosperity through training them into using technology. Under the new and improved scheme for increase in the income and improvement in the lifestyle of tribal farmers, 100 per cent grant will be made available up to a certain limit for a new well, repairing the old well, in-well boring, electrical connection charges, micro irrigation and others.

MAHAVEDH

The automatic weather centre project, Mahavedh has been set up to gain practical information about weather, which can then be provided to farmers. These centres are being established at all the 2,065 revenue circles of Maharashtra. The provided information is used for weather-based crop insurance scheme, agriculture weather advice and guidance, and agricultural research and disaster management. Accurate information on temperature, rainfall, relative humidity, wind speed and direction is available every 10 minutes. Presently, these machines have been deployed at 1,400 locations. To overcome erratic weather, we have provided a help of ₹4,000 crore directly to the bank accounts of farmers without waiting for help from Government of India.

CROP INSURANCE

In order to provide a safety cover for farmers during problems, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is being implemented. Under this scheme, 1.08 crore farmers were helped. The compensation condition of 50 per cent in case of natural calamity has been brought to 33 per cent. Gopinath Munde Shetkari Apghat Bima Yojana was implemented for warding off fear in case of accident for the farmer and his family. Under this, an insurance cover of ₹2 lakh has been provided to the affected farmer. No premium for the scheme has to be paid by the farmer. To prevent profiteering by seed production companies, reduction of cost was effected at ₹100 per packet of BT Cotton. This has benefited 50 lakh farmers.

SOIL HEALTH CARDS

These cards have been distributed for balanced use of fertilisers and acceleration of perennial agriculture. In order to keep the farmers informed about the health of their soil, soil testing centres have been started. The farmer can, thus, estimate the

texture of the soil and the crop that can be sown. If the farmer tills his land accordingly, there is a better chance of increase in his income. Under this project, it will be possible for the farmers to get their soil checked every three years.

AGRICULTURAL REJUVENATION

The Government has concentrated on the drought-affected villages of Vidarbha and Marathwada. With an assistance from World Bank, Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Yojana has been started in these villages. Under this scheme, efforts are being made to increase the income of farmers and soil conservation in 4,000 villages from Marathwada and 1000 villages with saline lands from Vidarbha.

IRRIGATION

Special efforts are being made for successful implementation of drip irrigation scheme. Grants to the tune of ₹415 crore have been directly transferred to the bank accounts of 1.37 lakh farmers. Pending bills till 2012-13 have been paid. Around 60 to 70 per cent of the available water storage is being used for irrigation. With drip irrigation for crops like sugarcane, 30 to 50 per cent water can be saved. Considering this, approval has been given for a scheme to bring sugarcane cultivation area in the State under micro irrigation. Through this scheme, a long-term loan will be taken from NABARD to be made available to farmers within the limit of ₹85,400 per ha at concessional rates for five years. By 2018-19, around 3.05 lakh ha will be brought under drip irrigation.

The Government has laid emphasis on providing quality agricultural education. New Government agricultural colleges will be started at Yavatmal, Nashik and Sangli. Organic farming research centres have been set up at four agricultural universities in the State.

—Ajay Jadhav, Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Assistance to 1.8 lakh farmers under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- Seed production project through four agricultural universities so that costly foreign seeds are avoided.
- Seed Park at Jalna to increase the use of ethnic seeds and large-scale production of seeds.
- Chief Minister Agricultural and Food processing Scheme activated for acceleration of food-processing industry; grant up to 25 per cent of the project costs or ₹50 lakh for starting an agricultural processing industry.
- Financial assistance up to ₹2.35 lakh for SC/ST farmers for construction of a well, purchase of irrigation implements, motor pump and others, and for farm pond under Dr. Ambedkar Agricultural Self-Reliance Scheme.
- Motiramji Lahane Krishi Samruddhi Yojana has been started for suicide-affected districts of Yavatmal and Osmanabad. Efforts are being made to provide benefits of all schemes to the farmers from these districts.
- Efforts for agricultural development through group farming.
- M-Kisan system implemented for agricultural advice to farmers. Maharashtra at the top in the country in this service.
- Provision of ₹4,000 crore for Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Scheme.



Special emphasis is being laid on making schools in Maharashtra digital and raising the learning outcome of students. The State has taken a leap from 18th to third position in India in terms of education

VINOD TAWDE

Minister, School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare, Higher and Technical Education, Marathi Language, Culture, Minority Development and Wakf

QUALITY EDUCATION IS THE OBJECTIVE

Under Advanced Educational Maharashtra Mission, special emphasis is being laid on conversion of State schools to digital and enhancing the learning outcome of students to 100 per cent. Reviewing the educational progress in the State over the last few years, Maharashtra has taken a leap from 18th position to third position in India. Aiming singularly at quality learning, the State Government is leaving no stone unturned for raising the level of education imparted in schools.

While precisely deciding the necessary inputs that must be provided in schools, the responsibility of teachers, parents and students has increased. The various experiments and innovative ways implemented by teachers in Zilla Parishad schools have seen around 15,000 students from private schools shifting to these schools. This is a matter of success for education imparted in these schools and the dedicated efforts of teachers. Fifty thousand teachers that declared themselves "tech-savvy" played an important role in casting of students developed various apps to provide quality digital education to students.

There were complaints about private schools charging hefty tuition fees. The Fees Regulation Authority is working to resolve these complaints, and a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Justice Dr. V. G. Palshikar, retired Mumbai High Court Judge.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Higher educational institutes cannot make changes in their courses unless the university effects changes in them. There will be no change in the 10+2+3 pattern for the present. With the new flexibility in University Act, it will now be possible for universities to check the relevance of the courses and bring necessary changes in the curriculum. It is essential that there is coordination between the courses taught in colleges and the demands of the industry.

EDUCATIONAL FEE REIMBURSEMENT

It is essential for students to gain practical working experi-



ence apart from textbook knowledge. With Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj Pratipoorti Yojana, educational opportunities are being made available to students, besides educational loans through various corporations. Polytechnics in the State have been upgraded and converted to Colleges of Engineering (degree courses). Autonomy has been granted to J. J. School of Architecture, an undertaking of J. J. School of Art.

RESERVATION AND APPOINTMENT

The Government is encouraging an environment in Maharashtra where excellent sportspersons are created. Grounds have been made compulsory in schools under Education for All Act. Apart from providing a priority in employment for sportspersons with excellent performance at State, National and international levels, the Government is providing direct appointment for some sportspersons based on their performance. Five per cent reservation has been kept for meritorious players in Government, Semi-Government and other areas.

CULTURE

Schemes such as honorarium for revered and aged literature personalities and aged artists, award-winning One Act Play competition, increase in grant for State Drama competition, making honorarium payment for aged artists online, Lokmanya Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Abhiyan on the occasion of birth anniversary of originator of public Ganeshotsav Lokmanya Tilak, Ambedkari Jalsa on the occasion of birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and others were implemented. E-book edition of *Gazetteer* was made available by the department. The historically



important documents preserved at Archeology Directorate are being micro-filmed along with an exhibition of rare documents and photographs. Within a few years Drama Theaters will be constructed in every district. In near future, a branch of National School of Drama will be started in Maharashtra. The Government is thinking on starting Maharashtra School of Drama at Dadasaheb Phalke Chitra nagari.

INCREASE IN MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP

Minority students undergoing higher vocational education are being paid a scholarship of maximum ₹25,000. The maximum scholarship for all courses beyond 12th standard is ₹5,000. For scholarships, the income limit for parents of minority students has been raised from Rs.2.5 lakh to Rs.6 lakh.

For security of Wakf properties and for preventing encroachments on Wakf properties, a second survey of Wakf properties will be undertaken. The Settlement Commissioner has been appointed as Survey Commissioner and the survey at Pune and Parbhani is being implemented as path-breaking project.

—Varsha Phadke, Departmental Liasoning Officer

DIGITAL SCHOOL

Advanced Educational Maharashtra Mission is being implemented through School Education Department. Till now 44,000 schools in rural areas have become Digital. This number is higher than the urban areas. All schools at the State will become Digital by December 2018. Under the Centrally sponsored Information and Computer Technology in Schools (ICT) Scheme, 8,000 schools have been facilitated and computerized. In the ensuing period 1,500 more schools will be computerised. Under this mission the students will receive happy and qualitative education.



RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Immediate re-examination of students failing at 10th and 12th standard examinations.
- Aptitude tests will guide the students and make them easier on the stream to be pursued further.
- MahaDBTportal will be started for transferring benefits of Government Schemes directly to the students.
- With a view to make world markets available to Marathi films, they will be included to Cannes and Goa international Film Festivals on behalf of the Government.
- Meritorious candidates provided scholarship for training at eminent private Institutes at New Delhi, preparing students for UPSC examinations.
- Sindhudurg festival organised on the occasion of 250th anniversary of Sindhudurg fort.
- Forts Cleanliness Mission was undertaken at 100 forts during last year.



A priority of Government of Maharashtra, rural development in the State, has seen many initiatives. The true development of Maharashtra is only possible if its villagers are empowered

PANKAJA MUNDE

Minister, Rural Development, Women and Child Development

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF MALNUTRITION

Rural development has been one of the priority issues of the Government of Maharashtra in past three years. 'Mukhyamantri Gram Sadak Yojana' is being implemented with the objective of connecting the various areas in the State that are still not connected by roads, as also for the qualitative development of the existing roads in rural areas. Maharashtra has been honoured with the third rank by the Government of India for effective implementation of road developmental projects under 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana'. Under the research and development plan, new and innovative projects such as mixing plastic in tar, cold mix, fly ash and more have been initiated.

LOANS TO SELF-HELP GROUPS

Under 'Umed-Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission and Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal', it has been decided by the Government to provide interest-free loans from banks to the self-help groups.

AAPLE SARKAR SERVICE CENTRE

Transparency has been brought into Government transactions by computerising the work of Panchayat Raj Institutions under E-Panchayat project. A total of 20,299 Aapple Sarkar service centres have been set up for the ease of citizens. The applications for loan relief will also be available at these centres. Online services like railway/bus reservation, DTH recharge, banking, Pan Card,

Aadhar and passport application, electricity bill and post office services have been made available in the villages.

A HOUSE OF YOUR OWN

In order to provide houses to the families in villages, 'House for All' project has been implemented by the Union Government. Its objective is to achieve its target by 2022. Six lakh houses will be built in three years under 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana'. Financial assistance of ₹50,000 will also be provided under 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Housing Scheme'. Based on the implementation of these schemes, the State has been honoured with two gold medals and two silver medals nationally. Satara district has come second in India for such projects.

SMART GRAM

A development plan based on the five pointers of cleanliness, management, liability, non-traditional energy and environment, transparency and technology has been implemented to transform our villages into smart villages. Financial assistance and financial rewards have been provided to the villages under the scheme over the last five years.

MAZI KANYA BHAGYASHREE

Modification scheme has been implemented to empower the girl child. An amount of ₹50,000 is given to the families with upto one or two daughters (₹25,000 each) for their education, health and higher education. The money is deposited in fix deposit accounts and the parents are allowed to withdraw the money only for the benefit of their daughter at the ages of six, twelve or eighteen.

GRAM BAL VIKAS KENDRA

An important initiative taken for the benefit of the malnourished children in playgroups of Adivasi areas to eliminate malnutrition and promote growth and good health.





MANODHAIRYA YOJANA

Manodhairy Yojoana is implemented in the State for the recuperation of women and children suffering from physical and mental trauma. Financial assistance from ₹2 lakh to ₹10 lakh is provided to the victims for their recovery and rehabilitation depending on the seriousness of their problems.

—Irshad Bagwan, Departmental Liasioning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- 730-km-long roads to connect isolated areas by 2019; emphasis on the quality redevelopment of 30,000-km-long roads
- ₹10 crore approved for Maharashtra Rajya Gramin Jeevan Unnati Abhiyan, benefitting 2.5 lakh self-help groups and 25 lakh families
- Computerisation of 25,525 villages under Aaple Sarkar
- 3,10,503 people provided with their own house since the new Government's course of action
- Aamcha Gaon, Aamcha Vikas Yojana successfully implemented in villages and Gram Panchayats trained for the scheme
- Sarpanch to be elected directly by villagers' votes
- Under the Manodhairy Yojoana, financial assistance of ₹5.09 crore, ₹30.63 crore, ₹36.88 crore and ₹43.23 crore provided in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, respectively



The Samruddhi highway between Mumbai and Nagpur will highlight the modern transportation and pave a way for the overall development of Maharashtra

EKNATH SHINDE

Minister, Public Works (including Public Undertakings)

FOR A SWIFT, SMOOTH DEVELOPMENT

The Mumbai–Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg project, which is expected to promote Maharashtra's development, has now reached the stage of its land acquisition. The farmers were against the land acquisition from the past few months. Protests were also witnessed in many regions in the State. However, this protest receded when the farmers were addressed at a rural level. I was personally present and signed on the land acquisition documents by solving the queries put forth by the farmers.

It was decided at the beginning of this project that the land would not be acquired unless the farmers were completely satisfied. In the Hingana taluka, where land acquisition has begun, we have so far acquired lands of six farmers, and they have been told to contact the administration directly in case of any problem. This project of ₹46,000 crore, carried out under the guidance of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, will guide Maharashtra towards prosperity. The protests from the farmers diminished when the first big step of land acquisition was taken at the Hingana tehsil office itself. In addition to this, the co-operative director and I have signed as witnesses on the acquisition documents. Due to this, 120 farmers gave their approval letters to acquire their land. The Government has declared the biggest package so far for this project. Under this, the farmers will receive five times the amount of the rate given by ready reckoner or market rate, whichever is higher.

The Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg project requires land from 219 farmers in the Hingana taluka, out of which documents for land acquisition from six farmers have been made and a remuneration of ₹2.6 crore has been collected in the bank account. Ram Aasre Shahu is the first farmer to give his land for this project. His land of 1.25 hectare is bought by the Government at ₹59.11 lakh. Along with his, the farm lands of Chandra Gaikwad, Satyabhama Sonarkar, Manda Phuljhele and Gopal Misal have also been bought.



COMPOSITE MEASURING OF LANDS

Funds have been granted for the counting of land under this project by Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation. The collective counting at Nagpur, Washim, Buldhana, Jalna, Ahmednagar and Thane has been completed. In the remaining districts, Wardha (97%), Amravati (85%), Aurangabad (97%) and Nashik (87%) most of the counting has been completed. This expressway will pass through 392 villages of 24 talukas in 10 districts. These include 21 villages from Nagpur, 34 villages from Wardha, 46 villages from Amravati, 54 villages from Washim, 49 villages from Buldhana, 25 villages from Jalna, 62 villages from Aurangabad, 10 villages from Ahmednagar, 49 villages from Nashik and 42 villages from Thane. This highway will connect 14 districts to the capital of the State.

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT

The expressway is aimed to be completed by 2020 and will provide employment to 25 lakh people. Many countries of the world have come ahead to participate in this project of which China, Malaysia, Korea and Russia have shown great enthusiasm.

Various national and international factories will be set up on both the sides of the road that will generate huge employment opportunities for the people and will lead to multifold financial development. Once this project is completed, Maharashtra will become the top-ranking State of India in terms of progress. The transportation of agricultural products and other commodities from Nagpur to Mumbai and Pune and from various other districts to Mumbai will become easier and safer with this highway. This project will strengthen Maharashtra in terms of overall development.

BOOST TO INDUSTRIES

To encourage agricultural businesses and to provide various facilities to the rural areas, 24 new agricultural prosperity centres will be formed on this highway. This project will connect 24 districts of Vidarbha, Marathwada and Northern Maharashtra to Mumbai. The highway will be

six fold and have all the necessary facilities to ensure complete safety. This route will be constructed by building flyovers over many villages, rivers, streams. It will also have subways for the convenience of the nearby villages. Tunnels will be made in the mountain areas for this highway to pass. Another feature of this project is that the various pilgrimage areas, tourist places and main offices on the way will be connected to this highway and this highway will be connected to the National Highway. This highway will be called Nagpur—Mumbai Super Express Communication Way and I have complete faith that the officers and employees at Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) will complete this project by 2020 and make this highway available to the public for use.

Through the financial budget under the State roads and district roads, 8500 km roads have been repaired in the last three years. Along with this, plans worth ₹43,045 crore over 11,000 roads and bridges have been approved; 19,815 km roads have been declared as National Highways.

OTHER PROJECTS

MSRDC has also undertaken Bandra—Versova sea link project. This route will be connected to the Bandra—Worli sea link and release the western express highway from daily traffic congestion. The cost incurred in this project will be ₹7,500 crore. The project is aimed to be completed within four years. MSRDC has completed more than 50 projects in Mumbai and suburbs, which include flyovers at Dindoshi Junction, Barfiwala Lane at Andheri, Santacruz Airport, Suman Nagar Junction and Malad Junction.

The corporation successfully constructed Bandra—Worli sea link that enables travellers to reach South Mumbai directly and also the Mumbai—Pune expressway, which has reduced the travel time from Mumbai to Pune from six hours to three hours. MSRDC has also successfully completed ambitious projects like IRDP Nanded and IRDP Nandurbar.

The officers have started the counselling of farmers and other citizens for the willing, co-operative and peaceful land acquisition from the owners for the Nagpur—Mumbai Samruddhi Mahamarg.

—Shambhaji Kharat, Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- The Mumbai—Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg project has now reached the stage of its land acquisition.
- This project worth ₹46,000 crore will guide Maharashtra towards prosperity.
- The expressway is aimed to be completed by 2020 and will provide employment to 25 lakh people. Many countries of the world have come ahead to participate in this project of which China, Malaysia, Korea and Russia have shown great enthusiasm.
- Plans worth ₹43,045 crore over 11,000 roads and bridges have been approved; 19,815 km roads have been declared as National Highways.



Maharashtra is at the first position in India in terms of entire basic infrastructure facilities required for industrial development. It has attracted investors through various innovative policies launched in past three years

SUBHASH DESAI

Minister, Industries and Mines

NUMERO UNO, ALWAYS

Maharashtra is at the first position in India in terms of entire basic infrastructure facilities required for industrial development. After a license-free policy, it has the maximum number of industrial projects applied for investment in the entire country. In order to stay ahead in the field of industries, the State has attracted investors through various innovative policies in electronics, retail business, information technology and others. Single-window scheme like MAITRI is being implemented for facilitating entrepreneurs.

After December 2014, approval was provided for 494 mega projects with an investment of ₹3.79 lakh crore and expectations for 4.19 lakh employment opportunities. Out of these, 162 mega projects have received eligibility certificates under Group Encouragement Scheme. Through these, direct investment to the tune of ₹67.66 crore has been made with direct employment creation of 98,714 jobs. From December 2014 to end of July 2017, there were 3,12,100 micro, small and medium initiatives with an investment of ₹69.577 crore and employment generation of 22.51 lakh.

MAHARASHTRA ELECTRONICS POLICY

Maharashtra Electronics Policy 2016 was announced to reduce the imports of electronics products from 65% to 50%, to fully utilise the available resources in the state and to establish FAB industries at industrially underdeveloped areas of the state. Under this policy, 44 electronics projects are proposed with an investment of ₹30,401 crore and employment generation of approximately 94,855.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO ENTREPRENEURS

In order to make entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes categories self-reliant and to bring them to the mainstream of industrial development, Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Entrepreneur Special Encouragement Scheme was inaugurated. Under this policy, the entrepreneurs from these categories are given grants in specific proportions.

RETAIL BUSINESS POLICY

Retail business is one of the mainstays of Indian economy and their contribution to the GDP is 15 per cent. Considering the increase in the retail initiatives in Maharashtra and capacity of retail business areas to accelerate economy of the State and employment, Retail Business Policy 2016 was announced.

RESERVATION AND PRIORITY IN GOVERNMENT PURCHASES

Under the revised purchase policy of the State, 241 items have been reserved for purchase from micro and small industries. While purchasing 100 per cent from micro and small industries, 20 per cent purchase has been reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) entrepreneurs. For general purchases, the reservation for micro and small entrepreneurs is 20 per cent out of which 4 per cent reservation has been provided for SC/ST entrepreneurs. The micro and small entrepreneurs participating in the tender process are being given a concession of non-payment of tender fees and earnest money deposit.



E-MARKETPLACE PORTAL

The Government of India has developed Government e-marketplace portal for purchase of goods and services from Government purchase departments. Presently, 25,800 manufacturers/suppliers are registered on this portal. Through them, 1,13,000 items and 17 services have been made available. While purchasing on this portal, there is a facility of preparing a tender application according to the needs of the purchasing department. With maximum options available, the purchase process will have transparency as well. Goods and services will be available at less than market prices and also with a guarantee.

FACILITY CELL

In order to facilitate investors, the State Government has established Maharashtra Industry Trade and Investment Facilitation Cell (MAITRI) at Mumbai. Single-window scheme has been activated here for making available license and no objection certificate.

DISTRICT MINERAL ESTABLISHMENT

Executive Councils for Khanij Pratishthan have been established in 12 districts. Implementation of Prime Minister Mines Area Welfare Scheme will be carried out through the grant credited to District Khanij Pratishthan for development of mines in affected area and persons.

ONLINE PLOT DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

The plot distribution process in the industrial estates of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) is being made transparent. At the MIDC estates, where less than 80 per cent of the plots have been distributed, a distribution committee will take up direct distribution of the plots. There will be a period of 15 days for online application process, which will be widely publicised.

—Archana Shambharkar
Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- During the Make in India Week held in February 2016, a total of 2,984 MoUs were signed for an investment of `8 lakh crore. With this, 30 lakh employment opportunities will become possible.
 - 487 Private IT parks sanctioned at the State; registration of 170 parks has been done; 37 public sector parks approved with an investment of `18,000 crore and employment generation of 5,44,000; investment of ₹10,240 crore proposed from the remaining 317 IT parks; expected employment generation 14,00,000.
 - With MoUs signed with Government of Maharashtra
- under Make in India programme, investment of ₹5,085 crore proposed in seven retail business projects with expected employment generation of 22,340.
- E-tender process will be used for distribution of mines lease for major minerals. The process for distribution of two mines' leases for bauxite and limestone has been started. Funds to the tune of ₹2584.95 crore will be available, excluding royalty for next 50 years through this auction.
 - Online resolution of 891 issues from 748 constituents through MAITRI project, benefitting projects worth ₹90,000 crore.



The public distribution system in Maharashtra has been upgraded with information technology and newer initiatives to serve the farmers in drought-affected districts of the State

GIRISH BAPAT

Minister, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Food and Drugs Administration, Parliamentary Affairs

DIGITAL, TRANSPARENT, GENUINE

Digitalisation has been successfully brought in the public distribution systems of Maharashtra in past three years. Through this, 2.5 crore ration cards have been digitalised and the number of ration cards has reduced by 10 lakh with Aadhar linking. Biometric identity system has also been introduced for the distribution of foodgrains. This has led to saving of 38,000 metric tonne of foodgrains per month. The department has also initiated computerisation of ration distribution process for easy, fair and transparent distribution.





BIOMETRIC RATION CARD

A pilot project of 'Biometric ration cards' has been introduced to bring in transparency in the Public Distribution System. This project has been initiated for the on-time distribution of goods in a transparent way. Under this, the information regarding the ration card holders has been collected and computerized. Also from all districts, the information of 54,930 fair price shops, 60, 049 kerosene licenses, 488 godowns and gas agencies is computerized.

LINKING PDS WITH AADHAR

The department has been actively working on linking Aadhar cards with the rations cards. So far, 6.25 crore rations cards have been linked. Information about foodgrains and kerosene is now provided to the customers directly through SMS. Banking transactions and ration card distribution have also been linked and retail kerosene shops have been appointed as the business correspondents.

FOODGRAINS FOR FARMERS AT CHEAP PRICE

Foodgrains are provided at an affordable rate to the orange card holder farmers of the 14 drought-affected districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha under Rashtriya Annasuraksha Yojana.

SPEEDY CONSTRUCTION OF GODOWNS

An amount of ₹484.13 crore has been approved for construction of godowns required to store the foodgrains for public distribution system; 125 out of 233 godowns are built with a storage capacity of 5.95 metric tonne. Kerosene selling licenses of retailers, hawkers and semi-wholesalers will be now transferrable on the name of the heir. Many pending cases have been solved because of this decision.

KEROSENE LICENSE TO LEGAL HEIR

The kerosene license of deceased fair price shop keepers, hawkers and wholesalers will be transferred to their

legal heir. Due to this decision, the cases related to the next claimer of the kerosene license were resolved.

E-AUCTION OF SUGAR

Through the public distribution system, it has been decided to conduct e-auction to buy sugar for those below poverty line. This has increased the transparency in the market and has so far saved ₹25 crore annually. Taking inspiration from Maharashtra, many other States have adopted this process of buying.

DAKSHATA SAMITI

These committees have been set up with the participation of people to eliminate the fraud entities in the markets. Customer complaint sections have been established in the headquarters and complaints are registered through various social media like email, Facebook and WhatsApp.

E-GOVERNANCE IN DRUG ADMINISTRATION

In order to bring transparency, the Food and Drug Administration Department has digitalised all its transactions in the past two years under Digital India initiative. This includes registration of business, license, retail medicine selling and semi-wholesale medicine selling. This has reduced the efforts of the pharmacists and brought transparency in the business.

—Archana Shambharkar

Departmental Liasioning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Duplication reduced because of linking Aadhar to ration cards
- 92 new orange cards issued under this project; these include 48 and 44 beneficiaries from rural and urban areas, respectively.
- Rajya Grahak Kalyana Sanghar Samiti set up to strengthen people's movements.
- Information about 54,930 ration shops, 60,049 kerosene licenses, 488 godowns and gas agencies computerised.



The Government of Maharashtra has been working on the three areas of medical services: improvising the existing machinery, adding the missing machinery and making provisions for the future

GIRISH MAHAJAN

Minister for Medical Education, Water Resources and Command Area Development

MERITORIOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION

It has been a year since I have handled the very important department of medical education and drugs. Providing medical service is extremely vital for the public and quality medical services can be provided only if standardised medical education is available. The work of providing medical services can be divided into three parts: improvising the existing machinery, adding the missing machinery and making provisions for the future.

Health camps are conducted in all the districts and information is collected about all the patients in all the households then they are taken to the primary health camps. The patients are then checked, their data is registered, diagnosis is made with the opinions of experts, and appropriate treatment is then provided using latest technology. The data stored is used further for research and upcoming curative schemes.

MEDICAL COLLEGES

Many schemes are organised through various medical colleges that such as organ donation scheme, oral hygiene scheme and breast cancer scheme for women, obesity awareness scheme, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swastha Maharashtra Abhiyan. Eye donation camps are organized on a large scale. With the cooperation of Government of India, the State Government is trying to establish AIIMS hospital in Nagpur.

It has also been decided to establish medical colleges for occupational therapy, physiotherapy and councils for acupuncture and yoga—naturopathy. Government medical colleges have also been set up in Chandrapur and Gondia, while councils have been set up to take charge of buying the necessary equipment to set up these institutions.



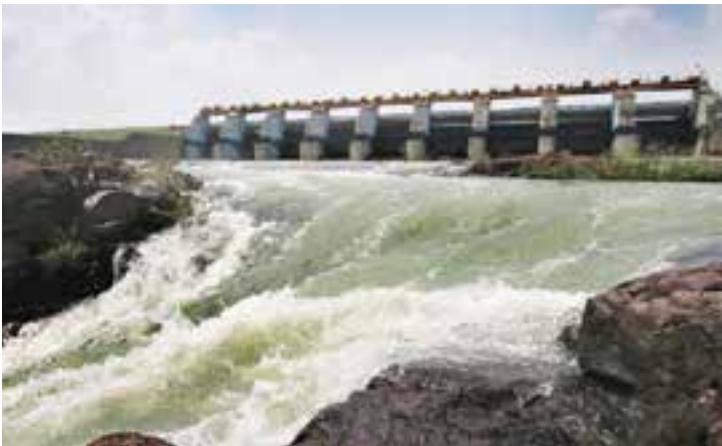
The budget of this department has been doubled considering all the upcoming projects. Fellowship courses have also been started and efforts are being taken to sign mutual deals with the colleges on a global front.

IRRIGATION

A constant effort is being made to increase the land under irrigation and create sufficient water storage for farming. The Government aims to generate employment related to this field and to bring the latest technology in farming.

When I accepted my role as the Minister of Water Resources, adverse effects of drought could be seen in the State. Various important decisions have been taken so far to solve drought-related problems by conserving the water received through rainfall and utilising the water that was already available. Many pending irrigation projects have been completed and sufficient water supply has been provided to the farmers. This has taken us a step near to fulfilling Prime Minister's dreams 'Har Khet ko Pani' and 'More Crop per Drop'.





INCREDIBLE IRRIGATION

In 2013-14, 32 lakh hectare of land was brought under irrigation. Thanks to the ample rainfall received in 2016-17, more than 40 lakh hectare of land was brought under irrigation. Many problems have been solved by implementing methods to store water and using already available water storage efficiently.

IMPROVISING THE PROJECTS

It has been decided to improvise the various projects from 29th November 2016 through the funds collected for maintenance. So far, 3,380 projects have been completed. Through the projects that have been completed and those in progress, 49.57 lakh hectare of irrigation capacity will be created. The funds available earlier were insufficient for making any changes in the projects that would have led to ineffective functioning of the plans. With the new decision, sufficient water storage and irrigation facilities are made available to the farmers. Around 83 irrigation-related offices are now linked to the main irrigation councils.

EMPHASIS ON DRIP IRRIGATION

Many changes have been made in the irrigation projects to emphasise on drip irrigation. Water resources in various places have been refilled and places without any such resources are provided with resources. It has also been decided to provide financial assistance on the interest on the loans.

—Archana Shambharkar
Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- World record making health camps held at Nagpur and Nashik
- Approvals for Government medical colleges at Nandurbar and Jalgaon
- 500 seats successfully increased in 10 medical colleges
- **Water storage reservation:**
15 per cent for drinking,
- 10 per cent for industrial purposes, 75 per cent for irrigation
- ₹800 crore made available annually for improvising the irrigation projects
- Water supply through closed pipelines leading to reducing expenses for canal and distribution system



Many water supply schemes have been started to make villages free of water scarcity. The State is first in India in terms of ODF Gram Panchayats

BABANRAO LONIKAR

Minister, Water Supply and Cleanliness

FULFILMENT OF CLEANLINESS RESOLVES

For making all the villages of Maharashtra free of water shortage, Chief Minister Rural Drinking Water project has been started. The programme will be implemented for four years between 2016-17 and 2019-20 with a provision of ₹2,500 crore. Through this, 1,003 new rural water supply schemes will be implemented and a target for rejuvenation of 83 regional rural water supply schemes has been set. Apart from this provision, funds to the tune of ₹400 crore at the rate of ₹100 crore per year has been made.

WATER SUPPLY

Jalswarajya-2 programme is being implemented for the period between 2014 to 2020. This will bring benefits of water supply and cleanliness to 10 million people. Safe





and clean water supply will be provided for 100 per cent rural population, apart from increase in the number of water tap connections and standard of facilities. Expenditure of ₹1,284 crore will be incurred on this in 12 districts in the State.

E-ground breaking for 171 water supply projects was performed by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis recently. The programme envisages expenditure of Rs.119.77 crore and includes water supply scheme, weather centre, water storage tank construction projects in 89 drought-affected villages of eight districts, water supply purification system in 41 villages in nine districts, and water-testing laboratories in 16 districts.

FEWER TANKERS, LESS EXPENDITURE

With excellent work carried out under Jalyukta Shivar Yojana, the water scarcity was comparatively lesser this year. As a result, the scarcity-affected wadis and habitats will need fewer tankers. The number of tankers this year was fewer compared to last two years. From October 2014 and June 2015, a total of 2,772 tankers were placed in service in 2,378 villages and 3,263 wadis, with an expenditure of ₹75,67,72,000.

For a period from October 2015 and June 2016, a total of 6,140 tankers were placed in service at 4,989 villages and 7,939 wadis, with an expenditure of ₹315,17,43,000. Between October 2016 and June 2017, a total of 1,666 tankers were placed in service in 1,798 villages and 4,281 wadis with an expenditure of ₹51,69,53,000. Compared to last year, the expenditure was around ₹2,63,47,90,000 less this year.

RESOLVE FOR A CLEAN MAHARASHTRA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) on the 2 October 2014. After this, the mission was also started in Maharashtra. The mission successfully carried on and efforts are being made to fulfil Swachh Maharashtra Mission by March 2018. The State is at top position in the country with largest number of Gram Panchayats attaining freedom from open defecation. Eleven districts from the State, namely Sindhudurg, Kolhapur, Satara, Ratnagiri, Wardha, Sangli, Thane, Bhandara, Pune, Nagpur and Gondia have also attained freedom from open defecation. It has been resolved to make all the remaining 23 districts of the State free from open defecation by the end of 2017-18. A total of 165 talukas have been made free from open defecation along with 27,301 villages in the State.

Maharashtra has five districts in the list of 10 cleanest districts in India. These are Sindhudurg, Satara, Kolhapur,

Ratnagiri and Thane with Sindhudurg bagging the top position. After 2 October 2014, a total of 40,46,985 individual toilets have been constructed at rural areas of the State. The coverage of individual toilets has gone up to 85 per cent during the last three years. Last year, a mission was implemented for a dialogue at family level by visits to 18 lakh families for impressing the need and importance of individual toilets. The beneficiaries of individual toilet were earlier provided a grant of ₹4,600, which has been increased to ₹12,000. Efforts are being made for regular usage of toilets constructed for perennial cleanliness at villages that have been declared open defecation free.

A RECORD IN CLEANLINESS

For acceleration of toilet construction work, a programme was taken up for digging maximum trenches in a single day. In the beginning, initiative for more than 10,000 trenches was implemented in 18 hours in Osmanabad. Latur created more than 8,000 trenches within 12 hours. Nanded, Hingoli and Jalna followed up the initiative. Under Swacchh Bharat Mission (Rural), an action plan for an open defecation free village was prepared. With this action plan in place, it has been possible to work at villages over the entire year.

—Vishnu Kakde

Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Under National Drinking Water Programme, facilities for drinking water were created in 6,516 villages/wadis during the last three years, with an expenditure of ₹3,478 crore. Provision of ₹814.44 crore has been made for action plan 2017-18, which includes ongoing 1,349 villages/wadis and new 2,732 villages/wadis.
- Supply of water purification plants to villages/habitats so that they can be supplied with clean water.
- All the 4.32 lakh public sources for drinking water and sub-sources have been connected thorough Remote Sensing Application Centre with Geographical Positioning System. Maharashtra is the first State in India to use this system.
- Approval for implementation of watergrid scheme so that Marathwada population should not face water scarcity; tap water supply schemes will be available for 9,708 villages out of a total of 12,978 villages from Marathwada; inclusion of 79 cities in the scheme.
- 18% Gram Panchayats in India attaining freedom from open defecation belong to Maharashtra; 18,728 Gram Panchayats from Maharashtra declared open defecation free.
- Construction of more than 40 lakh individual toilets completed.
- Swacchhathon National Mission inaugurated from Maharashtra; Maharashtra's cleanliness mission admired at National level.



Minister of Public Health and Family Welfare

Health Department's motorbike ambulance service has been initiated in Mumbai since August. There are now plans to start the service in remote tribal areas.

DR. DEEPAK SAWANT

EMPOWERED HEALTH SERVICES

Mumbai is a city with huge population and a fast paced life. In this city, various projects have been started to provide efficient health services. One of these is Bike ambulance service. Initiated in Mumbai in August, the emergency care service within a month benefitted 232 patients. These bike ambulances are available at 10 different places in Mumbai and professional doctors work as riders on these bikes. It has also been planned to start such services in remote tribal areas. Such innovative schemes and projects have empowered the health services in the State.

JANAROGYA YOJANA

Around 2.42 crore people have been included under 'Mahatma Phule Janarogyo Yojana' and new hospitals have been set up. Beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Yojana, orange and yellow ration card holders and white ration card holders from 14 suicide-affected areas are benefitting from this scheme. Second opinion from experienced doctors is given on telephone to patients in remote areas under the 'Shivarogyo Telemedicine Yojana'. A group of 25 doctors from Mumbai have been formed, and X-ray, MRI and ECGs are checked via internet. V-Set technology is used and in places where there is no electricity supply, solar power is used. Other States like Uttar Pradesh are planning to start such health services with assistance from Maharashtra.

STANDARDISED AND QUALITATIVE GROWTH

To avail the common man of good health services, including pre-diagnostic services, various projects and schemes have been started in the past three years. Repairing of equipments is also done. Medical courses have also been started. A meeting of private doctors was also held to discuss about swine flu, its causes, general awareness and treatment.

CURBING MALNUTRITION

A task force has been started to address issues like malnutrition and deaths caused by it in the children of Palghar district. Many cases of infant deaths have been registered in Nashik. To reduce these numbers, a council of professionals has been set up, as the number of beds in Special Newborn Care Units has also been increased. Plans and protocol for checking, diagnosis and treatment of infants is being effectively started; 1831 children were treated in the year 2016-17. Early intervention centres in district have been set up in nine districts through which 2.15 lakh children were checked and treated. Processes are in progress to set up similar centers in the remaining 25 districts.

PRERNA PROJECT

This project has been started in 14 districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada. Professional counselors have been appointed in the drought-affected areas of these regions. People who are suffering from prolonged mental illness and have no one to look after them have been admitted to the mental hospitals set up in Thane, Ratnagiri, Pune and Nagpur.





'Mental health helpline' has been started on the number 104 to help the farmers suffering from depression.

'Emergency medical service' (108) has been started under the 'Rashtriya Arogya Abhiyan' through which 937 24-hour ambulances have been made available. Cancer warriors project have been started to spread cancer awareness with the help of the doctors training under Tata Memorial Hospital and those currently practicing medicine in the State. The doctors, settled in different parts of Maharashtra, have been roped in to associate with district hospitals and provide their services for free. They have been holding weekly OPDs ever since. The project will entail short-term and long-term training of these professionals to help them serve patients better. A total of 57 medical experts work on rural level and till June 2017, 11,816 outpatients were tested and 2,754 IPD and 642 cancer treatments were carried out.

—Ajay Jadhav, Departmental Liasioning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- CT scan machines to be set up in 13 districts
- 100 per cent seats to be filled in the Health Department on priority basis.
- Virology labs set up in Sindhudurg district to study viral diseases
- Prerna project started in 14 districts
- e-health centres started in Harisal, Gopinathgad, Kaphar and Poteagoan.
- Birth and death registrations through new computer systems
- New contraceptive injection called Antara MPA to be started in Maharashtra
- Balasaheb Thakre Apghat Bima Yojana started to provide medical assistance at the golden hour for the victims of accidents on the highways with insurance cover up to ₹30,000; this includes 200 trauma care hospitals in the State.



Maharashtra has achieved many milestones in electricity generation and transmission in past three years. The Government is committed to further boost its electric supply in years to come

CHANDRASHEKHAR BAWANKULE

Minister for Energy, New and Renewable Energy, State Excise

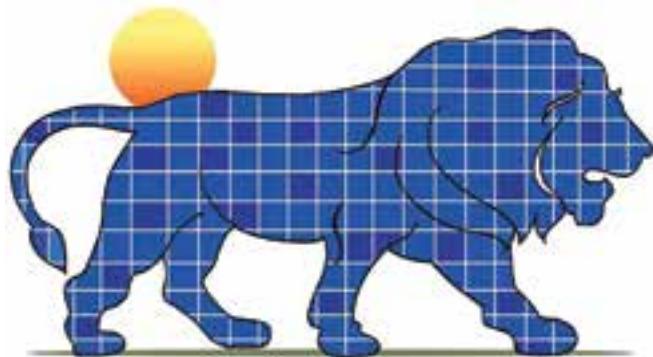
SELF-SUFFICIENT ENERGY

Many milestones have been achieved in the field of energy generation. On 14 April 2017, the 3660 megawatt supercritical project at Karodi was brought into execution by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Through various efforts, there has been an overall increase in the generation of thermal energy in the past 2.5 years, a reduction in the usage of fuel oil and around ₹100 crore have been saved.

NEW HEIGHTS IN ELECTRICITY GENERATION
Earlier, enough coal was not available at the Maharashtra State Power Generation Company for the generation of electricity. The available coal could only suffice for the power generation that would last maximum two days. However, there has now been a considerable increase in the amount of coal available and thus thermal energy can be generated at a satisfactory level.

SOLAR ENERGY

Power projects of 50 megawatt and 25 megawatt are being set up at Kaudgaon, Usmanabad and Shivajinagar Sakri, respectively. In the near future, a 2500 megawatt solar project will also be set up. Other important upcoming pro-





jects will include a 500 megawatt project, ultra mega solar park of 500 megawatt at Daundai and 250 megawatt agro pump solar feeder.

Disposal of fly ash is vital for maintaining a healthy environment and so efforts are being taken in this direction for which the company has also received special national awards.

MASS TRANSMISSION

Transmission capacity has increased to around 15,900.5 MVA (23,055 megawatt) by the mass transmission company. Electricity has been provided to 152 tribal areas at Melghat in Amravati. These areas did not have electricity for the past 60 years. The department has also set up 44 new centres.

MASS DISTRIBUTION

Group meetings are held at district level to collectively address people's problems. Under 'Uday Yojana', Maharashtra has ranked first in 2017 in executing the Uday Yojana. LED bulbs were distributed amongst 91 lakh customers surpassing the target of 80 lakh customers. Considerable efforts were put in the Uday Yojana. A grant of ₹1010 crore has been provided for a plan of giving discounts to industrial electricity customers in Vidarbha and Marathwada. Through this, a discount of 75-50 paise per unit will be given.

Atal solar agro pump project up 10000 solar agro pumps in the State is made, out of which 8,000 pumps will be set up in suicide-affected districts like Buldhana, Akola, Washim, Amravati, Yavatmal and Wardha. Twenty-one districts have experienced draught conditions this year. For the years

2016-17 and 2017-18, grants of ₹1019.18 crore have been received for supplying electricity to agro pumps, electrical infrastructure facilities and for the strengthening of electrical systems. Out of this grant, ₹551 crore is being given to the parts of Marathwada experiencing severe drought conditions.

Deendayal Upadhyay Gramjyoti Yojana has been launched by the Union Government to ensure electricity supply in rural areas. Under this scheme, around ₹13,777 crore have been asked for, and will be put to use for projects like consolidation of agro and non-agro mediums, semi-transmission and distribution, setting up new machinery as needed, energy audits, setting up meters and more. On 7 September 2017, it has been decided to provide 3 phase electricity to those areas that have received less rainfall.

—Shailaja Wagh-Dandale
Departmental Liasioning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- ₹100 crore saved through effective fuel oil management
- Problems related to shortage of coal have been efficiently solved
- Traditional methods of energy generation implemented to achieve energy generation of 2,500 megawatt
- Electricity provided to tribal areas of Melghat in Amravati;
- these areas were devoid of electricity for the past 60 years
- LED bulbs distributed to 91 lakh customers
- Special efforts taken to solve problems in drought prone areas of Vidarbha and Marathwada
- 3 phase electricity to be supplied to areas experiencing below average rainfall



Many decisions have been taken to bring about all pervading educational, social and economic development of weaker sections of society to bring them into mainstream

RAJKUMAR BADOLE

Minister, Social Justice and Special Assistance

LONGING FOR ALL PERVADING DEVELOPMENT

For educational progress of students from weaker sections, a variety of scholarships are awarded at various levels. The scholarship is directly credited to the bank account of the student through website MahaDBT. Improvements have been made to the scholarship for Scheduled Caste (SC) students for enabling them for get education in a foreign country. With the income limit raised to ₹6 lakh, 75 students are selected every year for the programme. The income limit is not applicable to students seeking admission at one of the top 100 globally ranked universities and London School of Economics.

Late Vasantrao Naik Merit Award has been started from academic year 2015-16 for a boy or a girl student from VJNT category topping the list in class 10 and 12 examinations. The student topping in the State receives ₹1 lakh and the student topping the list at divisional level receives ₹51,000 cash with a memento and certificate.

'Swadhar' scheme has been newly started for backward class students who could not secure admission or take admission in a hostel. Educational expenses for the students are reimbursed and a grant for annual expenses to the tune of ₹43,000 to ₹60,000 is paid to students pursuing class 11th, graduation or post-graduation. Approval has been given on a grant basis for 123 special residential and non-residential schools and workshops for handicapped. A decision has been taken to establish caste verification committee in every district. Accordingly, 36 committees have been established.

FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS

Free residential training centre for 50 youth has been started for SC candidates in Aurangabad, Pune and Nagpur to prepare them for the civil services service examination conducted

by Union Public Service Commission. The students are given free training in an eminent training centre in New Delhi.

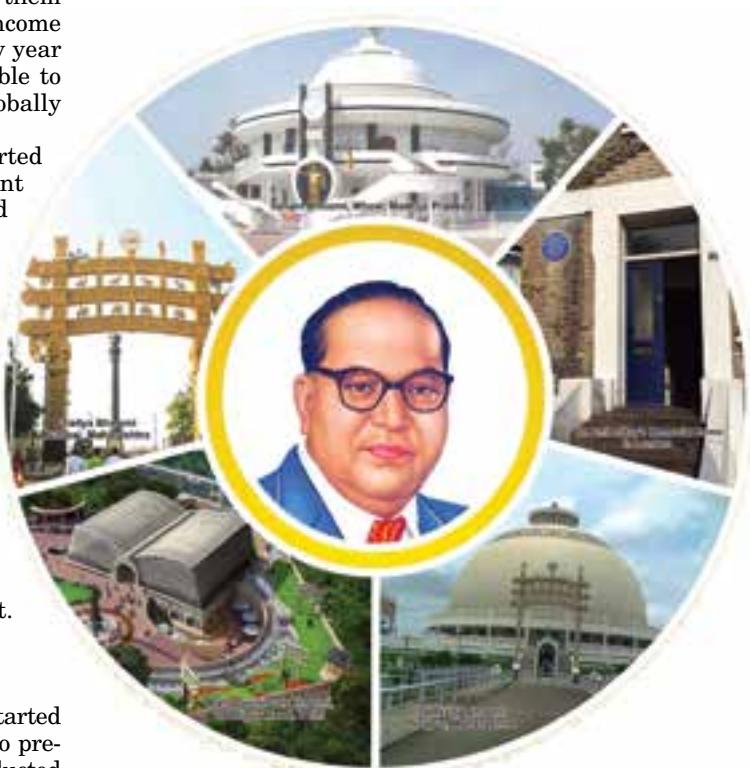
Economic Development Corporations under Social Justice Department provide assistance so that male and female youth can start business. The Maharashtra State Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation has received a National award from Differently Abled Empowerment Department, Government of India.

INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL

The work of an international memorial of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will begin soon at Indu Mill in Mumbai. The house at 10, King Henry Road, where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar stayed while studying in London, has been purchased by the State Government, and a memorial will be built at the place. The places in Maharashtra where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar carried out various social movements and stayed will be developed as pilgrimage/tourism centres. His residence at Talegaon Dabhade will be developed as a historic memorial. Sahityaratna Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe Memorial will be established at Wategaon, Sangli and Chragnagar, Ghatkopar, Mumbai. There is a proposal for building Krantiveer Lahuji Salve at Sangamwadi, Pune.

EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE YEAR

The 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was celebrated as Equality and Social Justice Year. A scheme for comprehensive development of selected Schedules Caste and Nava Bouddha localities has been prepared. A committee has been constituted for Marathi translation of *Pali Tripeetak*.





Prime Minister Narendra Modi being briefed about the layout plan of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial at Indu Mills in Mumbai on October 11, 2015. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis and other cabinet Ministers are also seen

A literary event is celebrated every year to create awareness about freedom from drug addiction. Social workers and institutes working in this field are honoured at this event. For increasing effectiveness of freedom from drug addiction, centres have been set up by provision of grants to 12 voluntary organisations. Provision of Constitutional status for Scheduled Caste/Tribes Commission has been agreed in principle. Approval has also been received for establishment of six special courts at divisional headquarters for effective implementation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Atrocity Prevention Act, 1989. These courts have started operation at three locations.

—Vishnu Kakde, Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- 1Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Scholarship for women from SC ad ST pursuing M. Phil and Ph. D. has been started from 2015-16; Junior Research Fellowship is of 25,000 and Senior Research Fellowship of ₹28,000.
- The first M. Phil and Ph. D. fellowship for 50 students in the name of Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe initiated
- A decision to revise the income limit of parents for reimbursement of educational charges increased from ₹4.5 lakh to ₹6 lakh for students from VJNT, other backward class and special backward class categories; to benefit 59,318 students.
- Under Swadhar scheme, the backward class students who could not secure admission or have not taken admission in a hostel, 7,110 students received
- the benefits last year; 25,000 students selected for 2017-18. A decision has been taken for admission of engineering college and polytechnic students at Government backward class hostels. This will benefit those who take direct admission to second year.
- Policy for senior citizens with building counselling centre, entertainment centre, health facility centre and complaint redress centre
- Working women's hostels in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur; a total of 50 girls hostels to be set up (43 in taluka and seven at divisional level).
- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samata Pratishthan established at Maharashtra on the lines of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Foundation established by Government of India.



Shortage of water due to uncertain rainfall and drought conditions and financial hardships came in the way of farmer welfare. The launch of Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan in 2014 was our solution to all of these

PROF. RAM SHINDE

Minister for Water Conservation

WATER RESOURCES TO REDUCE SCARCITY

The Government of Maharashtra has always tried to empower the indebted farmers and the various backward classes of society and help them enter the mainstream. Both these objectives are being achieved through various schemes implemented by the Government. Different projects such as 'Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan and Galmukta Dharan, Galyukta Shivar' (silt-free dam, silt-filled land) are being run in the State for the uplift of these sections.

INGENUITY AND EFFORTS

Imagination and hard work can help achieve wonders. Farmers have to face many hardships because of the uncertain rainfall, drought conditions and loans. The ultimate solution to all these problems is providing sufficient water supply. In 2014, Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan





was started by the current Government. The programme aims to solve all water supply related problems of Maharashtra by 2019. The objective is to make 25,000 villages water scarcity free in five years from 2014-19 (5,000 villages per year). In 2015-16, 6,202 villages were selected for this scheme in which 2,54,847 projects were undertaken, out of which 2,53,620 projects have been completed and 1,227 projects are in progress. In 2016-17, 5,291 villages were selected in which 1,64,797 projects were taken out of which 1,43,837 projects have been completed and 22,960 projects are in progress.

MASS MOVEMENTS

Farmers, common citizen have positively participated in this scheme. Along with this, NGOs and industrial companies have also extended their support. Religious institutions such as Shirdi and Siddhivinayak Trust have shown their support by providing ₹34 crore each towards this scheme.

TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR JALYUKTA

From 1 September 2017, MRSAC system has been implemented in 'Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan' to bring transparency, speed and accuracy in its process. This system is completely based on GPS tagging. Longitudinal and latitudinal pictures of the place are taken to ensure that the work is conducted exactly at the place decided earlier. This has increased the accuracy of this scheme and its projects by multifold.

ASSURANCE AND OPPORTUNITY

The Government faces many problems, while catering to the needs of the backward sections of society. Many schemes started for them have now become outdated and prove insufficient for fulfilling their needs. I am taking a

note of all such schemes. Emphasis is given on making all the processes online so that people do not have to visit various offices to take benefits of the various schemes. Machinery has also been set up to provide the assistance through these schemes directly to their accounts. The students of the backward classes are also given scholarship to receive good quality education.

TANDA VASTI SUDHAR YOJANA

Instructions have been given to make plans of forming the lists of habitats under the 'Tanda Vesti Sudhar Yojana'. Fair plans will be made to make schemes like 'Yashwantrao Chavan Mukta Vasahat Yojana' and Motor Vehicle Driving Training Scheme more people oriented. Vahan 'Chalak Prashikshan Yojana' is implemented at district level. Constant efforts are being made so that the various plans and schemes run by the Government reach to the most remote areas of the State and maximum people are benefitted from them.

—Nandkumar Waghmare
Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Considerable work completed in the last two years under the Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan that has turned into a mass movement; efforts are being made for long-term goals
- Credits for smooth functioning of Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan given to the different Gram Sabhas
- Processes carried out under Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan are kept transparent for the public by updating related information on online portals
- Scholarships provided to the students of backward classes for higher education: Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj Merit Scholarship, relief allowance for students of army schools, and Savitribai Phule Scholarship for girls



Keeping the concept of "Make in Village" in view, the Government has worked for acceleration of rural development in the last three years.

SUBHASH DESHMUKH

Minister, Cooperation, marketing and Textiles

HONOUR AND EMPOWERMENT

Effective implementation of 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Samman Yojana' is being done for providing loan freedom for farmers. With positive rains during last year, there was huge production of pigeon pea in the State. In order that the farmers should not accrue losses, minimum support price of ₹5,050 was provided for pigeon pea. Out of the total purchase in the country, more than 50 per cent of pigeon pea (65 lakh quintals) was purchased in Maharashtra.

HONOURING AGRICULTURE

An unprecedented decision of loan waiver for farmers was taken by the Government. Loan waiver for farmers is to the tune of ₹34,022 crore. Similarly, the farmers who have been repaying loans with regularity will be credited with 25 per cent amount, as an encouragement grant. A Cabinet sub-committee has been set up for effective implementation of this loan waiver.

The Government is implementing 'Shri Sant Shiromani Sawta Mali Weekly Market scheme'. The programme gives the farmers the right to decide the prices of agricultural



छत्रपती शिवाजी महाराज
शेतकरी सम्मान योजना

produce. The farmers have been freed from brokers and have a competent option now.

The State has 1.36 crore account holder farmers. With a view that all of them receive crop loan supply at village level and other facilities, they have been provided with the membership of Primary Agricultural Credit Society. This has increased the share capital of the societies by ₹5 crore and has helped in increasing the loan raising limits.

MANGO EXPORTS INCREASE

There is huge demand for Alphonso and Kesar mangoes in global markets. Complying to the regulations in export countries, mango export facility vapour treatment and irradiation facility at Goregaon have been modernised. Keeping in mind the demand from exporters, irradiation capacity has been increased. The export of mangoes to countries such as USA, Australia, Japan and South Korea has, therefore, increased four times.

ONLINE MARKET COMMITTEES

Maharashtra has 306 Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMC) through whom a large-scale purchase of food grains and fruits is being made. There was a turnover of around ₹65,000 crore in 2015-16. To streamline and bring transparency in the work of APMCs, the farmers should not be cheated and modern technology should reach the farmers, the work of these APMCs has been placed online.

In the first stage of Centre's National Agricultural Produce Market Scheme, 30 APMCs from Maharashtra have been selected. Twenty seven of these APMCs have been given computers and other materials, and online auctions have started. The Government has taken a decision to bestow voting rights to the farmers at the APMCs.

OPEN MARKET FOR SILK COCOONS

The Government has taken a decision to establish the first open market for silk cocoons in Jalna. This will boost silk industry. A silk museum has been established at Wai, Satara, to spread awareness on silk.

Maharashtra has a huge network of institutions providing agricultural facilities to farmers. In order to strengthen these institutes, Atal Mahaparinirvāna Development Abhiyan has been started.





MORTGAGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE

Agricultural Produce Mortgage Scheme is being implemented so that the farmers can fulfil their financial needs through mortgage and the produce receives justified rates. A provision of ₹50 crore has been made in budget 2016-17; 99 market committees have accepted mortgage for 2,23,090.24 quintal produce from 4,775 farmers during 2016-17 and have provided mortgage loans to the tune of ₹44.36 crore.

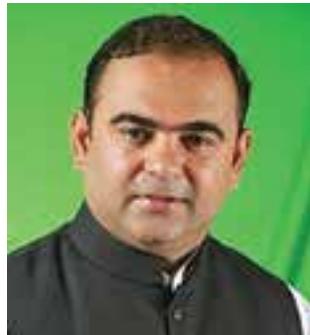
The loans availed by farmers or their family members from Vidarbha and Marathwada due to drought from the traditional money lenders have been waived off. This includes loan waiver for ₹64.53 crore for 46,809 eligible farmers. For the first time, a decision has been taken by the Government for Kharif 2016 to provide a grant of ₹200 per quintal for soybean-producing farmers.

—Kashibai Thorat

Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Sanman Yojana, online loan waiver applications can be filled free of cost at all e-service centres. Process to directly deposit amounts to loan accounts of farmers to start from October.
- 150 Weekly markets established so that the produce of the rural farmers can directly reach customers from major metro cities like Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur and to District level cities without meddling from businessmen and brokers.
- Fully online working at five market committees at Rahata, Chikhli, Akot, Dhamangaon Railway and Hinganghat. Priority for bringing other market committees online.
- Revolutionary decision to bestow voting rights to 7/12 holder farmers within the jurisdiction
- of APMC and based on the lines of sugar factories, the farmers supplying agricultural produce to market committees.
- Mobile application Msambapp has been developed through Agricultural Marketing Federation, so that the farmers can get information on the various projects being implemented by Agricultural Marketing Federation, schemes, initiatives, market rates at the country, market committees, market constituents, horticulture export training and post-harvest technology.
- Encouragement for starting cooperative hospitals on the lines of Shushrusha Cooperative Hospital, Mumbai. Registration has been done for new Cooperative hospitals in Osmanabad, Nanded and Kolhapur districts.



There are various plans to make Maharashtra one of the most favourite tourist destinations in the world. The Government has made many pacts to promote tourism in the State

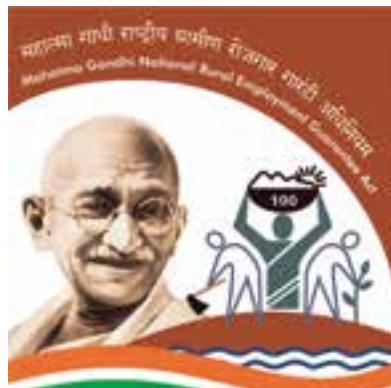
JAYKUMAR RAWAL

Minister, Employment Guarantee Scheme and Tourism Development

UNLIMITED, GLORIOUS, MAGNIFICENT

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has proved to be one of the most beneficial schemes run by the Government of Maharashtra in generating employment in rural Maharashtra and building infrastructural facilities in the villages. Many necessary improvisations have been made in this scheme over the past three years to optimise its effectiveness. This has also been helping

department of tourism's Visit Maharashtra Year under which many plans have been undertaken to make the State attractive for tourists from world over.



INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR MGNREGA

From 2014-15, there has been a considerable increase in the funds provided for MGNREGA by both

Union and State Governments. Through this scheme, projects worth ₹1608 crore in 2014-15, ₹1853 crore in 2015-16, and ₹2090 crore in 2016-17 were undertaken. In 2014-15, 1.48 lakh projects, in 2015-16, 1.06 lakh projects, and in 2016-17, 1.5 lakh projects of building infrastructural facilities were undertaken. For 2017-18, ₹3000 crore has been granted. So far, 40,000 infrastructural projects have been completed. Currently, 4.95 lakh projects are on shelf for which 12.73 man-days have been granted.



SAMRUDDH MAHARASHTRA JANKALYAN YOJANA

Considering the social, financial, agricultural conditions and requirements of the State, Samruddha Maharashtra Jankalyan Yojana has been implemented from 1 October 2016. This scheme will be run as a 11-point programme viz. Ahilyadevi Sinchan Vihir, Nirmal Shoshkhadda, Kalpvruksha Falbag Lagwad, Bhu-Sanjeevani worm composting, Samruddha Gram Yojana, Amrutkund Farm Ponds, Bhu-Sanjeevani NADEP Composting, Nirmal Sauchalaya, Samruddha Gaon Talav and Nandanvan Vruksh Lagwad.

The Government has decided that the grants given to the beneficiaries under MGNREGA's individual welfare schemes will be directly deposited in their bank accounts. This will enable the farmers to buy the necessary equipment directly from the shopkeepers with TIN number.

MORE LAND TO COME UNDER IRRIGATION

In 2016-17 and 2017-18, 11 projects of personal and public benefits had been undertaken on priority by 'Samruddha Maharashtra Jankalyan Yojana'. Through this, under the Ahilyadevi Sinchan Vihir Yojana, a mission of building 1,11,111 wells had been taken up. Out of these, 1,08,938 wells are either constructed or are under construction. A single irrigation well will bring around 2 hectare land under irrigation. Through this scheme, 2.25 hectare land will be brought under irrigation.

FARM PONDS ON DEMAND

To help farmers create individual irrigation facilities, Farm Ponds on Demand scheme was implemented by MGNREGA. Under this scheme, construction of 1,11,111 farm ponds has been finalised, out of which 48,413 farm ponds have been constructed and 7,877 are under construction. In this year, ₹100 crore has been granted for the scheme.

Maharashtra's Farm Ponds on Demand scheme was declared best among the ten new unique schemes selected for the Prime Minister Award. Along with this, 'Skoch Award Platinum' was given to the online application model of the scheme in 2016.

To widen the scope of benefits of the scheme in Konkan and tribal areas, it has been decided to decrease the landholding limit. The limit in tribal areas has been reduced from 0.6 ha to 0.4 ha and in Konkan from 0.6 ha to 0.4 ha.

TREE PLANTATION

Under Kalpvruksha Falbag Yojana, 1,11,111 projects have been finalised out of which 53,407 projects are either com-

pleted or are in progress. A large number of saplings were distributed from MGNREGA's Ankur nurseries for the 4 crore tree plantation programme through which 7,41,60,000 trees were planted. Along with this, 63.53 lakh trees were also planted under Nandanvan Vruksh Lagwad Sangopan and Samrakshan programme.

ALLIANCES TO BOOST TOURISM

The year 2017 has been declared as 'Visit Maharashtra Year'. Many plans have been undertaken by the department to make Maharashtra Tourism a brand. To attract tourists from and outside India and for the benefit of airline networks through it, mutual deals have been signed with Etihad and Jet Airways. Information on the culture and tourism of Maharashtra has been displayed in the online magazines of the airlines, websites, tourist information fairs and exhibitions.

Under 'Nivas Nyahari Yojana', the tourism department has made a mutual deal with Airbnb, a globally recognised hospitality company. It provides accommodation facilities at a reasonable rate, and has a network in 191 countries. Through this deal, the tourists now enjoy facilities of global standards. It has also led to the rise of 50,000 new small-scale industries in the hospitality sector.

The deer and crocodile parks are aimed to promote tourism in the isolated areas of Maharashtra by creating suitable facilities. This work is being done together with Airbnb. Accommodation facilities will be provided near Amravati Deer Park, Chiplun's crocodile park, Bhandara, Chikhaldara, Sindhudurg, Sahyadri mountain range, isolated forts, hill stations and coastal areas with the assistance of local population.

MUMBAI DARSHAN

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) and Ola taxis have joined hands to promote tourism in Mumbai and ensure safe and secure travel for tourists in the city. A special Mumbai Darshan package is provided by Ola this package will soon be introduced for other cities of Maharashtra. Currently, 100 youngsters from Mumbai and 400 youngsters from the rest of Maharashtra are being trained to become tour guides. This initiative is supported by the Skill Development Department, and has encouraged employment amongst youth.

—Irshad Bagwan
Departmental Liasoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Emphasis on developing new and unique branches of tourism; mutual deals made with various countries
- Important steps taken to encourage agro, medical, heritage, cruise, adventurous tourism and more to Maharashtra a global tourist destination
- Assistance taken from various restaurant and hotel associations, private taxi companies and railways to boost tourism
- Inspired by Dubai Shopping Festival, Mumbai Mela shopping festival to be held from 21 December 2017 to 6 January 2018



Initiatives like improvements in Labour Act for ease of doing business, self-attestation for boiler certification and integrated annual details scheme have been implemented to make industries self-reliant

SAMBHAJI PATIL NILANGEKAR

Minister, Labour, Earthquake Rehabilitation, Skill Development, Ex-soldier welfare

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SKILLS

With a view to provide highest priority to the interests of labour working at various manufacturing units and industries, the Government of Maharashtra has taken many decisions during the last three years. Legal action is being taken on those who are not paying minimum wages to the workers. Efforts are being made to improve the work situation and lifestyle of the workers. Emphasis has been laid on total eradication of child labour and non-paid labour. Harmful industries have been instructed to strictly follow various safety and health precautions. Our State has always been a path breaker with regard to the new, innovative schemes for comprehensive prosperity of workers. Effective remedial measures have been taken for enhancing the skills of the workers and perennial increase in employment.

DIGITAL, SMART, SECURE

Information technology is helping the Labour Department to make available its services online. Right to Services Act has been implemented so as to provide prompt and quality services to the citizens. Under the Act, 18 services under the department have been notified.

For making business easier, improvements are being made in the Labour Act. One can receive the services online through an application on Aapple Sarkar and Labour Management System ([lms.mahaonline.gov.in](http://mahaonline.gov.in)) websites. Online certificates, third-party verification and validity of certificate can be checked.

For a clutter free inspection of speedy industrialisation, 16 Labour Acts and self-attestation under Boiler Act as well as integrated annual report scheme has been implemented through Acts dated 23 June 2015 and 24 June 2015.

For making the work of Maharashtra Building and other Construction Labour Welfare Board speedier and transparent, an integrated computer system for board work is being developed.

The Government of India has provided social security to unorganised labour force. On the same lines, the State Government is going to provide social security to these labourers. This will be started very soon with establishment of a welfare board.

EXCELLENT MANAGEMENT AWARD

Considering the greater emphasis on employable skills globally, skill development and entrepreneurship are being encouraged in the State. The Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Department was presented with Best Skill Management Award at the Global Skill Conference held in Paris. The modernisation initiative for Government's Industrial Training Institutes without direct expenditure of State funds was applauded at the conference.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Vocational education and training is important. Therefore, permissions related to skill development and industries will now be provided through State Vocational Education and Training Council. The powers exercised





by National Council for Vocational Education and Training Council, are now being delegated to the state council by the Government of India. While India will have developed a skilled manpower of around 50 crore, Maharashtra will develop around 4.5 crore manpower under this programme.

MAXIMUM APPRENTICES IN MAHARASHTRA

With the changes in the Apprentices Act, Maharashtra has the maximum number of apprentices. Earlier, there were some conditions in the Act due to which no one was interested in keeping apprentices. Now with the changes in the Act, hands on training will be provided. Maharashtra had 69,000 apprentices in the first year. This increased to 1,00,000 last year and the strength is set to increase further. Under the 35 MoUs with industries signed after Make in India Week, 8 lakh people are being skill trained. A course has been designed for training 3 lakh children of farmers in agricultural and ancillary industries.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT UNIVERSITY

A residential Skill Development University will be established at Pune for making available skilled manpower for industries in the State. This unique university is coming up through Symbiosis Skills and Open University that will make available modern skill-based educational opportunities for students from Maharashtra.

FOUJI TAX APP

Information on various schemes being implemented and applications by the State Government for soldiers from Maharashtra will be available through Fouji app. The grant provided to the soldiers has been enhanced four times. It will further increase 20 per cent every year.

—Varsha Phadke

Departmental Liasioning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- For workers and their family members registered with Maharashtra Building and other Construction Labour Welfare Board, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jana Arogya Yojana has been implemented with effect from June 2, 2017. Provision of social security started for unorganised workers.
- Creation of an all-inclusive portal for labour; complaints registration from organised and unorganised labour and information about minimum wages available here.
- Priority for modernisation of Government ITI institutes; transformation of more than 100 ITI possible through CSR till now; project admired

- on National level with inquiries from other States.
- Through amalgamation of all the three web portals, Maharojgar, Kaushalyavikas and Mahaswayamrojgar of the Skill Development Department, web portal Mahaswayam has been developed.
- MoUs signed by Skill and Entrepreneurship Department with various industries over the last year. To resolve the obstacles in implementation of these MoUs, the department has started an independent e-mail ID mahamaitree.sded@maharashtra.gov.in.
- Online admission process started at iti; from January 2018, ITI examinations will be held online.



The Government has been encouraging high-milk yielding species of milch animals and financial assistance for poultry schemes

MAHADEV JANKAR

Minister of Animal Husbandry, Milk Development and Fisheries Development

WAYS TO ENHANCE FARMERS' INCOME

Various decisions have been taken by the Animal Husbandry Department to raise milk production in Maharashtra. Rearing high-milk yielding varieties of cow and buffalo species is encouraged. Financial assistance schemes are implemented for poultry farming. Neelkranti Policy has been adopted for doubling the fisheries production. Financial assistance is being provided for rearing cow family through Govardhan Govansh Seva Kendra Yojana.

Maharashtra stands at third place in India when it comes to ocean fisheries. The State has been bestowed with 720 km of seashore and there is plenty of scope in this sector. We are at second position in the country in terms of length of rivers and nallahs, third position in groundwater fisheries, and tenth position in sweet water fisheries. We have to take up the challenge of doubling fish production through Neelkranti.

NEELKRANTI

An integrated policy is being implemented for the development of fisheries in Maharashtra. Remedial measures have been initiated under Neelkranti policy for doubling fish production. The guiding principles decided under the policy will be accepted. Natural resources in areas of ground

water, ocean and semi-saline water will be used to fullest capacity. For perennial increase in fish production while maintaining biological security and environmental balance, 21 schemes from Government of India with 50 per cent financial assistance will be implemented in the State.





WELFARE SCHEMES

For coastal areas near oceans, innovative schemes such as cage fish farming in open sea and shell conservation have been included. New construction and modernisation of fishing ports and fishing jetties, their expansion, repairs and renovation are six schemes that have been included. Nivishtha for conservation of prawns and prawns seed production centres are included for fish conservation in semi-saline water.

FISHERIES AND DAIRIES

For seeds production, renovation of fish seeds centres at Katepurna, Koradi, Nagthana and Ityadoh have been approved by Government. Approval has been given to 36 portable hatcheries to increase fish seeds. For fisheries conservation, out of the needed 684 hectare, 418 hectare area is available for fish farming. Also, 266 additional hectare rearing area will be developed. For the first time, approval has been given to set up a big factory with every day capacity of 120 tonne in Bhorpade, Kolhapur. All these measures have helped in increasing fisheries production to 2 lakh metric tonne in 2016-17.

For increasing milk production in Vidarbha and Marathwada, the Dairy Development Department has implemented many projects. A total of Rs. 489.62 crore will be spent for the distribution of milch animals and organisational set up for dairy. In 14 districts, a public-private partnership is being set up to constitute a comprehensive Poultry Development Group. Chara Shivar Yojana is being implemented to provide best-quality fodder to milching animals for increasing milk production. Fodder Production Company will be set up in the State. Milching animals are reared in rural and remote areas. Hence, mobile animal clinics will be started. Balanced animal diet and guidance service is being provided. Quality and balanced food is being supplied for animals. Under Vairan Vikas programme perennial grass plantation,

murghas and other machinery is being distributed. Efforts are made to make the State self-reliant in egg production, benefitting 43,368 families from 16 districts.

RAJE YASHWANT HOLKAR MAHAMESH YOJANA

A new scheme in the name of Raje Yashwant Holkar Mahamesh Yojana will be implemented from 2017-18 for nomadic tribes in 34 districts by Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Maharashtra Mendi va Sheli Vikas Mahamandal. Many other schemes such as providing grant in aid, providing infrastructure, balanced diet for sheep rearing is being provided.

—Sachin Gadve, Departmental Liaisoning Officer

RESOLUTE PERFORMANCE

- Various decisions have been taken by the Animal Husbandry Department to raise milk production; Neelkranti Policy adopted for doubling the fisheries production
- Financial assistance provided for rearing cow family through Govardhan Govansh Seva Kendra Yojana
- For ocean areas, innovative schemes such as cage fish farming in open sea and shell conservation included; construction and modernisation of fishing ports and fishing jetties, their expansion, repairs and renovation are six schemes that have been included
- Nivishtha for conservation of prawns and prawns seed production centres are included for fish conservation in semi-saline water
- Renovation of fish seeds centres at Katepurna, Koradi, Nagthana and Ityadoh approved; 418 hectare area is available for fish farming
- For increasing milk production in Vidarbha and Marathwada, Rs. 489.62 crore will be spent for the distribution of milch animals and organisational set up for dairy; Chara Shivar Yojana implemented to provide best-quality fodder
- Raje Yashwant Holkar Mahamesh Yojana will be implemented from 2017-18 for nomadic tribes in 34 districts by Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Maharashtra Mendi va Sheli Vikas Mahamandal



ESTABLISHING AN EQUAL WORLD



DILIP KAMBLE

Minister of State,
Social Justice and
Special Assistance

On the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of the chief architect of Indian Constitution, Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, 2015-16 was announced as 'Social Equality and Justice Year'. The ground-breaking ceremony for an international landmark, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Memorial was carried out at Indu Mill near Chaityabhumi, Mumbai by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The construction of a huge memorial is in progress at this site. Similarly, the house at 10 Kings, King Henry Road, London, where Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar stayed during his higher education has been purchased.

Under 'Make in Maharashtra', various skill-based training programmes were started by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI). The institute has also started free residential coaching classes for Scheduled Castes (SC) students at Nagpur, Pune and Delhi for UPSC examinations.

A decision has been taken to establish Caste Verification Committees in all the districts to resolve delayed issues and provide relief to common people. Foreign Scholarship Scheme for SC students has been improvised. Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Scholarship for Nav-Bouddha and SC women pursuing higher education such as M. Phil. and Ph. D. through BARTI has been

started from 2015-16. For a boy and a girl student from VJ and NT class topping the lists at State level and boards of 10th and 12th, the State Government has started 'Late Vasantrao Naik Merit Award' from 2015-16.

MINORITY DEVELOPMENT

The parental income limit for scholarships to be provided to minority students has been enhanced from ₹2.50 to 6 lakh. Maulana Azad Minority Development Corporation provides loan under various schemes such as Direct Loan Scheme, Educational Loan Scheme, Term Loan Scheme and Mahila Bachat Gat Scheme. The Educational Loan Scheme has been computerised and an "online loan management system" has been developed.

Under Centre's multiple-area development programme, nine hostels for girls have been activated out of 19, and construction work on eight hostels is in progress. A decision has been taken to start a new polytechnic at Muktainagar in Jalgaon for students from minority communities. Various educational remedial measures are being undertaken by the Government for minority community students. These decisions taken in the last three years underline the Government's commitment to work for social justice.

—**Kashibai Thorat**
Departmental Liaison Officer

ECONOMIC STABILITY OF FARMERS

Many decisions have been taken in the areas of animal husbandry, fisheries and milk production. Under Marathwada package, the Animal Husbandry Department distributed two ethnic/hybrid cows, two buffalos, and a group of 20 sheep and two goats as a Sheep group in Jalna as a path-breaking project. The project has led to supplementary income avenues for around 3,000 farmers.

DAIRY AND FISHERIES

Milk development projects are being implemented in 3,023 villages in Vidarbha and Marathwada. Under this, the collection of milk through 561 milk collection centres from 10,847 milk producers in 916 villages across seven districts is of the order of 60,650 litres per day. The milk is collected by Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetables Limited, Nagpur. With this project, the farmers now have an additional income.

Various decisions have been taken and schemes launched for increasing the fisheries business. This business has increased significantly over the last few years and is presently pegged at 4,60,000 metric tonnes.



ARJUN KHOTKAR
Minister of State,
Textiles, Animal
Husbandry, Dairy
Development and
Fisheries

TEXTILES

The first mega textile park is being set up at Nandgaon Peth for boosting textile industries. Efforts are on for relocation of closed cotton mills in Mumbai to Nandgaon Peth and raising employment; 1,200 farmers are being provided grants for rearing silkworm for silk industry. I shall be concentrating on effective and time-bound implementation of this decision in future.

—**Archana Shambharkar**
Divisional Liaison Officer

GENDER EMPOWERMENT IS VITAL



VIDYA THAKUR

Minister of State,
Woman and Child
Development

It is observed that educational, economic and political empowerment of women is taking place rapidly. The State Government is also implementing various schemes for equal opportunities and overall development for women.

A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN

Bachat Gat movement has been expanded across Maharashtra through 'Sumati tai Sukhalikar Udyogini Mahila Sakshamikarna', and Bachat Gats are being provided loans at zero per cent interest.

For preventing social menaces such as girl foeticide, 'Majhi Kanya Bhagyashree' was launched on April 1, 2016. Under this scheme, various benefits about nurturing, education and others are being provided to families undergoing family planning surgery.

Extensive remedial measures are being taken by the department so that none of the children is malnourished. A special programme for freedom from malnutrition is being

implemented through Integrated Child Development Service Scheme. Manodhairy scheme has been started for financial assistance and rehabilitation of women and children succumbing to rape and acid attacks. The amount of financial assistance given to the troubled woman under the scheme has been increased.

CHILD WELFARE

In order to make the work of Children's Homes in the State more transparent and qualitative, these have been classified as A, B and C. A decision has been taken for third-party audit of these homes.

Women and Child Development Department is working towards building empowered women and healthy children. Private companies are being encouraged to take up various programmes on empowerment of women and children through their corporate social responsibility funds.

—Varsha Phadke
Regional Liaison Officer



EMPHASIS ON CREATING A HEALTHY MAHARASHTRA

The Public Health Department of Government of Maharashtra has been working on providing best medical services and facilities to people. Apart from public health, transport, labour and State excise departments have also provided a relief to people through implementation of various welfare schemes.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Tests for Thalassemia minor are being carried out free of charge at six locations. The facility will soon be extended to 18 locations. New day-care centres will be started at Nagpur and Aurangabad. For smooth blood supply, representatives of Thalassemia patients' guardians will be present at 50 selected NGO blood banks supported by the Government. Bill for Handicapped was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 15, and a policy will be available within two months. Ten heavy traffic locations from Mumbai city are now provided with bike ambulances, and 232 patients have been provided emergency medical service.

TRANSPORT

Web-based taxi service is picking up pace. It was essential to create rules so that passengers are not looted by the taxi drivers as well as for their safety. The transport department has implemented Maharashtra City Taxi Rules,

and 37,000 auto rickshaw drivers have taken the benefit of Permit Renewal decision. The restrictions on permits have been lifted. Busports on the lines of airports will be established at 15 major locations in the State.

EXCISE

The State Excise Department has taken many stern steps to prevent illicit liquor. Gramrakshak Dal is one of them. Every Gram Sabha has powers to establish a Gramrakshak Dal, which will provide information on illicit liquor manufacture, sales or transport to Police or State Excise Department. Action within 12 hours of receiving information is binding.

LABOUR

There is a provision for legal action against those who are not giving minimum wages to workers. Remedial measures are being taken for provision of apt remuneration and safety to workers in harmful industries. 'Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jana Arogya Yojana' has been implemented from June 2, 2017 for workers registered at the Maharashtra Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Mandal and their families. While protecting interests of workers, we shall always take efforts for their shining future.

—Anand Surwade



VIJAY DESHMUKH
Minister of State, Public
Health, Transport,
Labour and State Excise



EMPOWERED VILLAGES IS REAL DEVELOPMENT



DADAJI BHUSE

Minister of State,
Rural Development

The Rural Development Department strives towards large-scale development of rural areas and making these self-reliant in terms of facilities. We also strive so that apart from basic infrastructure facilities, the rural population is able to find employment in its own village.

Konkan Rural Tourism Development Programme has been started to make available employment and self-employment opportunities to children of the region, accelerate developmental works and activate tourism business.

ROADS AND TOURISM

Developmental works to the tune of ₹45 crore are proposed under this programme, and work has already started at many places. The works taken up under this programme include construction of roads from village to the tourist destinations, electricity arrangements, parking spaces, toilets and washrooms, water sports equipment, mini buses for public transport, maps, tourism books and materials, and others. Local villagers intending to establish tourism ancillary industry are sanctioned interest difference above 4 per cent, but limited to 12 per cent by State-level Committee.

Under the programme, small projects up to ₹1 crore have been prioritised for approval.



Emphasis has been laid on project proposals with a maximum individual cost of ₹3 crore and an average cost of ₹5 crore. Expenditure on construction or tourism-related facilities is around 80 per cent. The remaining 20 per cent expenditure is on training and capacity building and for strengthening tourism-related scenic spots in the villages.

OTHER IMPORTANT DECISIONS

The other important decisions taken by the department include upgrade of 1,000 km of rural roads, loan at zero per cent interest for Bachat Gat, establishment of 20,000 Aapple Sarkar Service centres, Smart Gram Yojana, direct election of Sarpanch and Gram Child Development Centre.

—Ajay Jadhav, Departmental liaison officer

CHANGES DUE TO POLICY IMPROVEMENTS

Due to rising population, urbanisation and industrialisation, there has been a significant increase in the work of revenue department. This department is being made more people oriented, dynamic transparent and digital.

E-REGISTRATION

In the last few years, the department has made total changes in the document registration process. From 2014, it started e-registration process where citizens could register sale deed agreements of apartments in large housing projects and Leave and License Agreements online. The ownership rights' documents such as 7/12 extract and property card will be added automatically to the records. The work on connecting all the ownership rights and registration offices through a computer system is in the final stages.

LAND REFORMS

Maharashtra Land Revenue Rules 1966 Para 182 has been amended so that the agricultural lands, which have been confiscated due to non-payment of land revenue and sent under the management

of District Collector could be returned to farmers after payment of revenue dues with interest and fine. To help National and State-level institutes work in the same campus, the land within the campus of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Waranga, Nagpur will be given to Maharashtra National University of Law and Kavi Kulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University.

On the backdrop of protests against acquisition of private lands, the people affected by projects identified by the Government will be rehabilitated on the lands of Maharashtra State Agriculture Corporation. Necessary amendments have been made in the Maharashtra Agricultural Land Act for the same.

On the Government level, the Revenue Department tops the list for placing maximum proposals in Cabinet meetings and getting them approved in the Legislative Assembly. Directly connected with the common people, the department has worked to reduce the woes they have suffered for years in the absence of policy improvements.

—Dr. Sambhaji Kharat
Regional Liaison Officer



SANJAY RATHOD

Minister of State,
Revenue

SECURITY IS THE FOREMOST PRIORITY



DEEPAK KESARKAR
Minister of State,
Home (Rural), Finance
and Planning

In Maharashtra, the rate of proved crimes has jumped from 9 per cent to 52 per cent due to the use of modern technology. CCTNS system has been activated to make information on criminals available on a click.

All police stations have been digitally connected and police control room has been totally modernised. Under this project, it is proposed to identify the location of the caller through GPS with a single telephone call from citizens and dispatch help. A total of 45 mobile forensic teams have been established at Police Commissioner and Superintendent of Police offices. A decision to procure modern and fully facilitated boats for Coast Guard Police has been taken, and two such boats have been included in the fleet.

The other important initiatives include: vehicles made available for coastal security; cyber laboratories set up at 42 locations; adequate manpower made available to District Police to annihilate Naxal movement; special commando force C-60 established to fight Naxalites; decision taken to construct 1 lakh tenements for police; Damini squad established for preventing atrocities on women; effective implementation of Pratisad mobile app, free helpline, Manodharya scheme, counselling centres, approval of fast-track courts, district-level committees and cells. Approval has been given for funds from



Annual Plan of the District Planning Committees for making available CCTV in cities and related modern technology.

FINANCE AND PLANNING

There has been a decision to deposit benefits of 74 Government schemes directly to the accounts of beneficiaries. Loans worth ₹4,338.03 crore have been disbursed during the current year under Mudra Yojana in around 9,23,960 cases. Now a woman employee can get a special leave of 180 days for nurturing a child born under surrogacy. The department has also received in-time compensation for Municipal Corporations on account of Octroi and LSG taxes through GST system.

—**Nandkumar Waghmare**
Departmental Liaison Officer

HOME FOR ONE AND ALL

The Housing Department has prioritised the redevelopment of B.D.D. chawls that had been lingering for many years. We have decided that the redevelopment should be through MHADA alone and the homes provided must be of area more than 500 sq. ft. We insist that the developer should be fined if he does not provide OC after the SRA building is complete. If old buildings cannot be redeveloped due to various laws, we opine to modify the laws as necessary.

We stand for granting 30 sq. m tenements in SRA scheme instead of 15 sq. m. in accordance with the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. We are following up on acquiring BPT lands on lease for redevelopment of dangerous buildings in South Mumbai. Orders for accelerating the process have been issued so that the mill workers get their rightful home on the mill lands. We insist on preservation of Dhobi Ghat and have a persistent point of view on deemed conveyance.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

There's an increase in sections and division

wise colleges as per demand for academic year 2015-16. Instead of across-the-table increase in fees, the decision will be based on the facilities available in the college for concerned curriculum.

A decision has been taken to establish a model college at the original site of Dr. Baba-saheb Ambedkar's village, Ambadave so that the students from rural areas receive quality education. Shiv Sena Pramukh Balasaheb Thackrey Chair is to be created at Mumbai University. A decision has been taken to keep 20 per cent of the seats reserved for Muslim students even after creation of an educational hub at Ismail Yusuf College, Jogeshwari.

There is a stand on converting Government Notification about filling up the vacancies in minority colleges through open class of students into an Act very soon. A boy hostel set up at Madam Cama Road, Churchgate has resolved the issue of hostel facilities for students.

—**Vishnu Kakade**
Departmental Liasion Officer



RAVINDRA WAIKAR
Minister of State
Housing, Higher and
Technical Education



FREEDOM FROM WATER SHORTAGE



VIJAY SHIVTARE

Minister of State,
Water Conservation

The Water Conservation Department aims at setting up “green, rural Maharashtra” by rooting water and soil conservation traditions based on people participation and natural resources at all the offices in the rural areas of Maharashtra.

JALYUKTA SHIVAR

To bring freedom from drought to 25,000 villages at 5,000 villages every year, year 2015-16 saw 6,200 villages selected for the ambitious water conservation programme of the State Government. Out of these, 4,394 villages attained freedom from water scarcity. In the year 2016-17, 5,281 villages of Maharashtra were selected. All the earlier water conservation schemes of the Water Conservation Department have been amalgamated in Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan for better and overall result. The success of the programme can be estimated from the fact that the regions with acute water shortage such as Marathwada are now able to reap a huge yield of pigeon pea and gram pulses..

FARM POND ON DEMAND

Under Farm Pond on Demand scheme of the

Government, farmers with small and micro land are provided grant on priority to create farm ponds in their fields for water conservation. For 2016-17, the Government fixed the target of 1,11,111 ponds. Other water conservation schemes such as Integrated Watershed Management for increasing productivity of dry farming, stalling soil erosion and conserving water, accelerated watershed development, watershed development under rural basic infrastructure fund, Adarsh Gram Yojana, watershed movement, Mahatma Phule Jalbhoomi Abhiyan are also being implemented in Maharashtra to accomplish the vision of freedom from drought.

BETTER ADMINISTRATION

The State Cabinet has approved the proposal for improvements in the Maharashtra Water Conservation Corporation Act 2000, Section 25(1) in order to make a provision of ₹10,000 crore in the Maharashtra Water Conservation Corporation funds. There is a decision to establish a Commissioner for Water Conservation at Aurangabad to boost water conservation works in Marathwada.

—Dr. Sambhaji Kharat

CLEANLINESS IS REAL DEVELOPMENT

Swachh Maharashtra Abhiyan is being implemented in 384 cities that include 27 Municipal Corporations and 357 Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats. Till 31 July 2017, a total of 283 cities had attained freedom from open defecation. These include 15 Municipal Corporations and 268 Municipal Councils/Nagar Panchayats.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

With Shirdi as a special case, 43 cities with population of more than one lakh have been included in the centrally sponsored Amruth Abhiyan. Under this mission, water supply and drainage system at 44 cities will be taken up. The development project scheme for minimum of three green areas per city has been implemented and two green areas have been completed. All the projects from Annual Action Plan for 2015-16 and 2016-17 have been approved and work on 24 projects has begun.

Funds to the tune of ₹1,206 crore have been disbursed so far by the Union and State Governments for the development of cities selected under Centre's Smart City Mission.

SAFE AND SMART CITIES

Work on Metro-3 project in Mumbai is going on in full swing. A total of 4,717 CCTV cameras have been placed at 1,510 locations in the city. In Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, 1,234 CCTV cameras have been placed at 425 locations. Action on implementation of CCTV system is being carried out at Nagpur.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Under the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System for investigation of crimes and criminals, 1,054 police stations of Maharashtra and 629 senior offices have been connected through a network.

Through Pramod Mahajan Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mission, various training programmes have been undertaken. Virtual Classroom project has been started at 32 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). Over time, virtual and digital classrooms will be opened in all the ITIs in Maharashtra to improve the skill set and technical expertise of students.



DR. RANJEET PATIL

Minister of State
for Home (Urban),
Urban Development

—Siddhi Bobade

ROAD WORKS FOR 11,000 KM COMPLETED



PRAVIN POTE PATIL
Minister of State,
Industries, Mines,
Environment and
PWD (excluding Public
Undertakings)

The network of roads in Maharashtra includes National Highways, State Highways, main district roads, other district roads, rural roads and city roads. The State Public Works Department undertakes maintenance, repair and renovation of 90,608 km of roads through funds under plan schemes and other plan funds. To keep the roads in good condition, 10,000 km of roads have been selected out of 90,608 km, and the improvement of these roads will be carried out as per Hybrid Annuity principle.

Under the NABARD loan assistance scheme, so far 4,239 works have been sanctioned with expenses totalling ₹2,993.22 crore. Through this, improvement of 11,000 km of roads, 653 bridges and 1,179 Mori works have been completed. For the development of Konkan, the State Government has undertaken an ambitious programme of constructing ocean highway with a length of 787 km. Of this, 659 km of road has been completed.

INDUSTRIES

There were 338 agreements during 'Make in India Week' with expected investment of ₹3.85 lakh crore. Out of these, 265 (78.4 per cent) are in progress and would realise investment of ₹1.66 lakh crore.

Currently, construction of 405 projects has been completed with a proposed investment of

₹5,557.19 crore. Primary steps have been taken at 1,028 projects, bringing employment opportunities to 42,037 persons. Through the proposed investment of ₹14,952 crore, 1,00,397 persons will get employment.

Maharashtra Small Industries Development Corporation has trained 1,300 handicraft artisans and encouraged them to participate in 664 exhibitions. Similarly, Sant Rohidas Leather Industry Development Corporation provided a grant of ₹580.67 lakh to 5,229 beneficiaries. Under the Craftsman Employment Guarantee Scheme, Maharashtra Khadi Gramodyog Mandal implemented Rural Craftsmen Scheme, and by sanctioning 6,358 projects, distributed margin money amount of ₹13,942.47 lakh. This has provided employment to 38,912 persons. We have also created many industry clusters to accelerate small industries.

A one-day national conference, 'Clean Air Resolve-Maharashtra 2022' was organised before Ganeshotsav. Guiding principles were prepared at this conference for technical remedial measures to be taken to control air pollution, preparation of action plan and its implementation. The objective is to also make Maharashtra a frontrunner in terms of environmental balance.

—Dr. Sambhaji Kharat
Departmental Liaison Officer

RIGHTFUL LIVING TO TRIBAL POPULACE

The Government has taken many important decisions for bringing about social, educational and economic development of tribal communities. These decisions have been effectively implemented for tribal empowerment over the last three years.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PESA ACT

The natural, social and economic conditions as well as development issues and needs are different in the tribal habitats. The Government has taken many measures keeping in mind local issues and the needs of people in these areas. A decision to implement PESA Act has been taken with the objective that rural development will be faster and precise if the rights of Gram Sabha are decided by the Gram Sabha itself. The Gram Panchayats in Scheduled Areas are being provided with 5 per cent funds as direct grant under Tribal Sub-Plan.

JUSTICE TO TRIBAL BROTHERS

Effective implementation has been taken up in cases of individual and community litigations under Forest Rights Act, 2006. Appeals have been taken

up at taluka-level so as to bestow justice in the cases registered by claimant. After taking proper action, the claimants have been provided with a document for the same. Such claimants have been registered in 7/12 extracts and will accrue benefits of the Tribal Department's schemes. Apart from individual rights, the claimants have been provided community rights so as to improve their lifestyle.

SKILL TRAINING

The department has undertaken skill development programmes based on minimum skills for capacity building of tribal youth. As a result, employment and self-employment is now available for tribal people. The Department is in the forefront of image development in case of health and nutrition through Aanganwadi, Ashram Shala and Tribal Group Institutions.

CLEANLINESS MISSION

Provision has been made to make available funds up to ₹1 lakh in the current year to Ashramshala Management Committees for maintaining cleanliness at Tribal Ashramshala.

—Mayur Gopichand Gavane



**RAJE AMBIRSHRAO
ATRAM**
Minister of State
Tribal Development
and Forests



TRANSPARENCY IS CRUCIAL



MADAN YERAWAR

Minister of State
Energy, Tourism,
Food and Drugs
Administration,
Public Works (Public
Undertakings),
GAD and New and
Renewable Energy

Maharashtra has become the first State in India to provide online services for Right to Services Act. Under this Act, 407 services have been notified and 399 services have been made available online. Facility for online appeals has also been made available recently.

In the first stage of UDAAN (Udega Desh ka Aam Aadmi), airports at Nanded, Gondia, Amravati, Jalgaon, Nashik, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg have been included. Nanded—Hyderabad air service has started and Nanded—Mumbai air service will start soon. Shirdi Airport will be inaugurated in October 2017.

Year 2017 is being celebrated as Visit Maharashtra Year. Various celebrations have been undertaken under the same. Floating Hotel AB Celestial has been commissioned.

Tourism Development plans for birthplace of Rajmata Jijau at Sindkhed Raja, Buldhana, Lonar Lake, Raigad Fort and periphery, and Elephanta Caves have been approved.

Proposals for 75 jetties are ready, of which 15 are to be built on priority. Planning is in place for 60 connecting roads from highways to tourist destinations.

Concession in electricity rates has been decided at 40 paise, 30 paise and 20 paise,



respectively, for acceleration of industries in Vidarbha, Marathwada and North Maharashtra. A mobile app from MSEDCL has been launched for quality services to consumers. There is an increase in area limit up to 10 acres for provision of solar agricultural pumps. Chief Minister Solar Agricultural Line Scheme has been started at two locations and 24-hour power supply is being provided to pumps through this.

The work on India's first communication way (Samruddhi Highway) has begun. Work has also started on 4,000 km roads in Maharashtra under Road Transport and Highways Department, Government of India. A trauma centre has been set up on Mumbai—Pune Expressway. Toll collection has been closed for common people at 67 locations.

—Sachin Gadhe

Divisional Liaison Officer

FARMER WELFARE IS THE FOCUS

Agriculture and farmer are important constituents of rural development. The Cooperation Department provided a relief to farmers through loan waiver under 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Shetkari Krishi Samman Yojana 2017'. Under this scheme, farmer loans up to ₹1.50 lakh have been waived. For farmers whose loan amount due is more than ₹1.50 lakh, a benefit of ₹1.50 lakh under one time settlement scheme (OTS) will be given to farmers.

A scheme has been implemented through which the loan taken by Vidarbha and Marathwada farmers or their family members from licensed lenders and interest accrued on the same totalling ₹171.30 crore has been paid by the Government. At the same time, the short-term loans taken by the farmers from the districts affected by natural calamity during 2014-15 have been converted to medium-term loans.

RECASTING OF CROP LOANS

The Government has approved payment of full interest for the first year and for four years from second year (year 2017-18 to 2020-21) at the rate of 6 per cent to the banks on behalf of the farmers from 27,609 villages, where the Government has announced *paisewari* less than 50 per cent for crop loans for Kharif 2015. These crop loans amount to around ₹5,000 crore and have been recast. Out of recast loan of Kharif 2014 harvests for an amount of ₹3,505 crore, there was a due amount of ₹300 crore of the ₹700 crore annual installment till June 2016.

The Government has provided a guarantee for re-loan of ₹495 crore to District Central Cooperative Banks being received from NABARD for crop loan conversion. Crop loans up to an amount of ₹2.50 lakh have been provided concession from stamp duty and registration from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

—Vishnu Kakde, Divisional Liaison Officer



GULABRAO PATIL

Minister of State,
Cooperation

A PUSH TO PORT DEVELOPMENT



RAVINDRA CHAVAN
Minister of State,
Ports, Medical
Education, Information
Technology, Food and
Civil Supplies and
Consumer Protection

The Port Development Policy has been announced for overall port development. The 44-km-long Jaigad—Nivli road has been completed under the scheme of building railway/roads up to ports. Foundation has been laid for the 34-km-long Jaigad—Dingni rail network. Construction of eight RO-RO jetties has been proposed under Sagarmala project, and backwater and passenger jetty at Mandwa will be completed soon. Six projects from Maharashtra have been proposed under the Sagarmala project. Nirmal Sagar Tat Abhiyan has been launched. Water Sports Policy 2015 has been announced for boosting tourism on sea shores and generating employment opportunities for local residents.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Centralised admission process to health science courses for 2016-17 has begun. Panchkarma Department has been started at Government Ayurved Hospital, Nanded on payment basis. State Aayush Society has also been established. Awareness has been created for organ donation.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

A total of 29,402 Aapple Sarkar Service centres have been set up with action on 40 crore applications already completed. Aadhar-related services are available to 2 crore people through 4,000 such centres. Digital literacy training has been provided to 4.10 lakh citizens under Prime Minister Digital Literacy Abhiyan. Facility for providing printed copy of voter identity card has been made available with urban facility centres in ten districts. Aadhar registration has been completed for 11.27 crore residents from the State.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Due to digitisation under public distribution system, 2.5 crore ration cards are now in digital format. Ten lakh ration cards have reduced due to linking with Aadhar card. Foodgrain distribution is being carried out through biometric identification of beneficiary. Digitisation has led to saving of 38,000 metric tonnes of foodgrains.

—Archana Shambharkar
Divisional Liaison Officer

POWER TO FARMERS, OUR MOTTO

The Government of Maharashtra is making efforts to bring transformation in the lives of farmers through Agriculture and Marketing Department. Prioritising clean drinking water for all, the Water Supply Department is accelerating various projects. The State Government has resolved for total open defecation freedom by March 2018.

The State Government has taken a decision to implement Nanaji Deshmukh Krishi Sanjeevani Project, to help farmers adjust with changing climate conditions, for six years with financial assistance from World Bank. This project will be implemented in all districts under Aurangabad and Amravati Revenue divisions and Jalgaon district. A total of 5,142 villages will be covered.

GROUP AGRICULTURE SCHEME

The Government has taken a decision to implement this scheme as a flagship project for years 2017-18 and 2018-19. The objectives are to provide remedial measures on division and piecing of agricultural lands, use of high technology and mechanisation in agriculture, remedial measures for issues in marketing systems, processing after harvesting, processing industries with value addition and implementing works' ancillary to agriculture as a group. The target is to set up

200 groups every year and a total of 400 groups. Every group will receive a grant up to ₹1 crore.

MAHAVEDH

The Mahavedh project is being implemented in 2,065 revenue circles under public-private partnership build-own-operate for establishment of automatic weather centres and to collect information about various weather components on a daily basis. Till now, automatic weather centres have been established at 1,600 revenue circles.

WEEKLY MARKETS

To bring farmers appropriate rates for their agricultural produce and sell their produce directly in big cities, Sant Shiromani Shri Satya Mali Farmers Weekly Market Abhiyan has been launched. As on today, 124 farmers' weekly markets are active. Under the Chief Minister Drinking Water programme, 1,003 schemes have been included. Provision of funds to the tune of ₹1,946 crore has been made for the programme, which would benefit a population of 48 lakh persons.

Till now, 11 districts and 156 talukas have become ODF. During 2016-17, construction of 19,17,670 individual toilets has been completed, the target of 2017-18 has been set at 25 lakh toilets.

—Chetan Wani
Divisional Liaison Officer



SADABHAU KHOT
Minister of State,
Agriculture and
Horticulture,
Marketing, Water
Supply and Sanitation

STATE-LEVEL RANGOLI COMPETITION

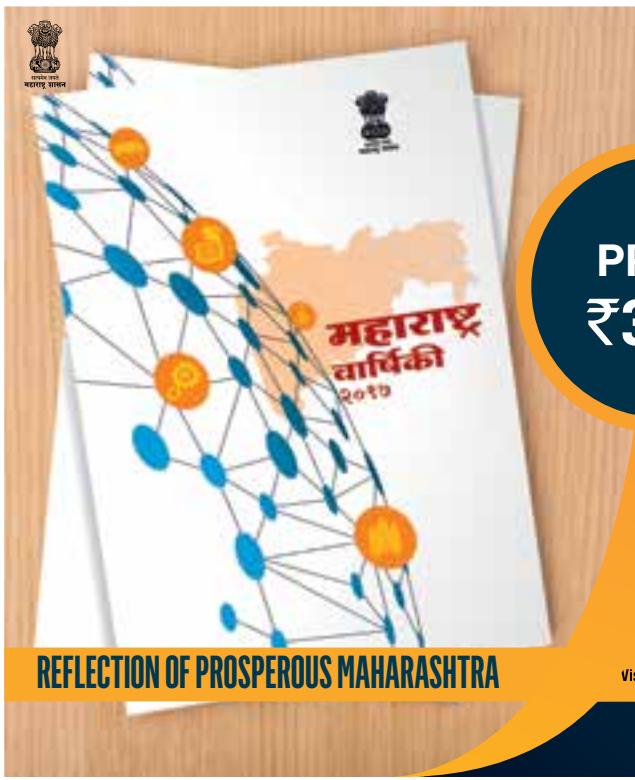
This month is all about festivities in India. During this season, rangoli is made on the floors of every household. So if you know how to make a rangoli and have the skills to present it to the world, then this is a golden chance to showcase your talent. You can submit your rangoli in three easy steps—make a rangoli, click its picture and send it to the mentioned below link...

Rules and rules for the competition:

- **Duration** – 2nd October to 30th October 2017
- The rangoli should be clicked within the said duration
- 'MyGov' should be compulsorily on the rangoli. Without 'MyGov' the rangoli will be disqualified.
- A simple rangoli can also qualify the competition, but a social message can also be added to it. Top three entries will be published on 'MyGov Maharashtra'.



Visit this website to participate in the competition: <https://maharashtra.mygov.in/mr/task/rangoli-competition>



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