

MAHAPARINIRVAN DAY | 550TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY: GURU NANAK DEV | CLIMATE CHANGE VS AGRICULTURE

Maharashtra Ahead

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**Prosperous
Maharashtra
Our
Vision**





Pahawa Vitthal

A Warkari couple wishes Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray after taking oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

(Pahawa Vitthal is a pictorial book by Uddhav Thackeray depicting the culture and rural life of Maharashtra.)



06 THIS IS THE MOMENT

The evening of the 28th November 2019 will be long remembered as a special evening in the history of Shivaji Park of Mumbai. The ground had witnessed many historic moments in the past with people thronging to listen to Shiv Sena Pramukh, Late Balasaheb Thackeray, and Uddhav Thackeray. This time, when Uddhav Thackeray took the oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on this very ground, the entire place was once again charged with enthusiasm and emotions, with fulfilment seen in every gleaming eye and ecstasy on every face. *Maharashtra Ahead* brings you special articles on the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra, his journey as a politician, the new Ministers, the State Government's roadmap to building New Maharashtra, and the newly elected members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

44 MAHARASHTRA TOURISM IMPRESSES LONDON

Maharashtra Tourism participated in the recent World Travel Market exhibition in London. A platform to meet the world, the event helped the Department reach out to tourists and tourism-related professionals and inform them about the tourism attractions and facilities the State has.

46 MAHA PLANTATION DRIVE GETS RECOGNITION

The State Forest Department was awarded the JSW-Times of India Earth Care Award for the Plantation Management Information System by making optimum use of IT developed 50-Crore Plantation Drive. The award recognised the Department's efforts to solve complex climate change challenges.

48 CLIMATE CHANGE CALLS FOR AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT

Due to climate change, some areas in Maharashtra are witnessing unseasonal rains and agricultural losses. Hailstorms and unpredictable rainfall during the months of February, March, April and May also bring losses. It is time to adopt alternative agriculture methods to save agriculture and help farmers.

36 THE BEACON OF KNOWLEDGE

Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar believed that books brought meaning to life. He had to suffer and overcome acute sorrow and face infinite obstacles on the path of acquiring knowledge. These obstacles have rarely been faced by other epoch-making men, and this is what makes his success far more glorious.



42 THE MESSAGE OF ONENESS

For centuries, scholars and historians have been studying Guru Nanak's teachings. A spiritual light and messenger of God, he has shown the path of direct access to God without the need of rituals or priests.



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and Public Relations,
Government of Maharashtra**



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has directed that senior officials in the State administration should pay attention to ensure that people's trust in Government is meaningful and not even a single paisa of public money is wasted in development works while taking Maharashtra forward in the country. He was speaking soon after assuming charge in the office of the Chief Minister.

NOT A SINGLE PAISA OF PUBLIC MONEY WILL BE MISUSED: CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister said in his speech that the funds for carrying out the developmental works of the State come from the taxpayers. He further added that the work done to serve society would generate faith for the Government in the minds of the public. He emphasised that it is the responsibility of everyone to create a sense of belonging in the minds of the people.

"The people have entrusted me with the responsibility of the Chief Minister with confidence. The State has got its first Mumbai-born Chief Minister. We have to work to fulfill the dream of making Maharashtra a leading State in the country, along with Mumbai. While allocating funds for development works, it is equally important to see that taxpayers' incomes should also increase. For bringing prosperity in the lives of farmers and labourers, development works should be prioritised accordingly," he added.

The Chief Minister said that officials should work to provide a transparent and clean administration to serve people better. This is very important to generate the feeling of affection and respect in the minds of people towards the Government and administration. For inclusive development, the speed of work and direction are equally important. Senior administrative officers have an important role to play in this. Chief Minister expressed the hope that the authorities will discharge their responsibilities effectively and efficiently, and the Government will succeed in achieving the pinnacles of progress. ■

SINCERE AND CAPABLE



Eknath Shinde
Hon'ble Minister

On Thursday, the 28th November 2019, Uddhav Bala-saheb Thackeray took oath as the 29th Chief Minister of Maharashtra at Shivteerth in Shivaji Park, Mumbai, in the presence of a mammoth gathering, ushering in a new era in Maharashtra.

One of the most accomplished and prosperous States of India, Maharashtra is all set to attain new heights

under the able leadership of its new Chief Minister. Presently, the State is facing many problems. The farmers have suffered huge damage due to excessive, untimely rainfall. In his first cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister took the decision of extending substantial help to farmers. He has offered a reverent salute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj by sanctioning ₹20 crore for the conservation of the Raigad Fort, the capital of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Swarajya.

To make common people believe that this is their own Government, the Chief Minister has directed the State administration to take urgent decisions on matters of concern. He has made it clear that every penny of the public will be utilised appropriately.

Maharashtra has got a bright leader in the form of Uddhav Thackeray ji, who is patient, yet firm; soft, yet determined; and affectionate, yet dutiful. Undoubtedly, *Shivchhatrapati's Maharashtra* will shine with new lustre under his leadership.

December 6, 2019 is Mahaparinirvan Day of Bharat Ratna, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, who is considered as one of the world's greatest scholars and prime leaders, who brought about a social revolution. He not only gave the downtrodden the power to survive, but also gave them self-realisation. Through this, the oppressed and deprived gained self-confidence; they got fresh inspiration and energy to live.

The social revolution of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is unparalleled and amazing, for the attainment of which

he strove endlessly. He himself had experienced the life of the deprived, but possessed tremendous will power to overcome the situation. He determined and decided to uplift the oppressed and deprived community comprehensively, which was a task equivalent to lifting the Himalaya as it were! Using his extraordinary intelligence and foresight, he wrote a new chapter of social revolution in India.

Dr Babasaheb, after completion of initial education in India in adverse conditions, later attained his doctoral-level education in a foreign country with distinction. His quest for knowledge continued endlessly even after completing his formal education. He was remarkably knowledgeable on various subjects such as economics, sociology, labour, law, water conservation, religious studies, defence and other subjects. He had a collection of hundreds of books on these subjects. His love for books

cannot be described in words. He had a separate gallery for books in his house and he affectionately took care of this wealth.

While drafting the Constitution of India, his elucidation and comments on our country's unity, integrity, oneness and secularity are very important and timeless. Therefore, India's Constitution is termed as one of the greatest in the world. In fact, it is considered as an ideal example of a democratic system. The empowerment given by the constitution to common people is noticed during every election.

The efforts made by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar through the constitution, seeking to eradicate centuries of injustice, have proven to be futuristic. His work of giving identity, justice and status to Indian women is incomparable. He attained Mahaparinirvan on 6th December. However, his work, thoughts, directions, inspiration, energy and the pride of self-esteem are immortal. On the occasion of his Mahaparinirvan, through this issue of *Maharashtra Ahead*, we gratefully pay our humble tributes to the legend. In this issue, we have included some articles reflecting various aspects of his personality.

I am sure you will like this issue.

Eknath Shinde
Guest Editor







THIS IS THE MOMENT

The evening of the 28th November 2019 will be long remembered as a special evening in the history of Shivaji Park ground that has already witnessed many historic moments. In the past, the ground has witnessed a throng of people gathered to listen Hindu Hriday Samrat late Balasaheb Thackeray and Udhav Thackeray. When Uddhav Thackeray took the oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on this very ground, the entire place was once again charged with enthusiasm and emotions with fulfilment seen in every gleaming eye and ecstatic face.

It was 6.40 in the evening. The moment had come for which everyone was waiting since morning. When the Governor of Maharashtra, Bhagat Singh Koshiyari said, "I...", the entire attention of millions of people at Shivaji Park was centred on Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.... "Seeking the blessings of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and remembering my parents, I, Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray, take an oath that..." The words led to a huge applause from the people gathered at the ground. Maharashtra had got its 29th Chief Minister and the spectators had an expression that this was the very moment for which they had gathered.

The evening of 28th November will be long



Uddhav Thackeray taking oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra at Shivaji Park, Mumbai.

remembered as a special evening in the history of Shivaji Park ground that had, in the past, witnessed many historic moments. The ground used to be crowded with people to intently listen to late Balasaheb Thackeray and Uddhav Thackeray. When Uddhav Thackeray took the oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the entire place was again charged with enthusiasm and emotions with a sense of fulfilment seen in every gleaming eye and ecstatic face. Farmers, labourers and youth gathered from across Maharashtra had a proud and glorious feeling that their leader has become the Head of the State.

Everybody knew for sure that the swear-

ing-in ceremony was in the evening, yet people had started arriving at the ground since morning. People from far villages and settlements took whichever transport they got, just to witness this swearing-in ceremony. Some could not sleep the entire night, yet there was immense joy on their faces and in their eyes. The highlight of this ceremony was that people from the entire State and from all strata of society attended the event. Along with farmers, workers, youth and women, artists and celebrities from Hindi and Marathi film and theatre industry were also present. *Warkaris* from Sangli, Kolhapur and Satara were present in large numbers.

Journalists of various regional and national newspapers and representatives of electronic media were ready to capture every single moment on the ground. There was a lot of excitement about the ceremony, ranging from arranging the chairs and flower decoration, to curiosity about who would attend the ceremony. Nandesh Umap was performing on stage, singing *powadas*, songs of valour and making the atmosphere lively.

The media was also excited because the first member of the Thackeray family, which had made its mark on the State's politics for over five decades, who was to be sworn as the Head of the State. Most of the regional news channels were conducting live shows from the ground and representatives of Hindi and English news channels were busy compiling their stories. Media representatives of various Indian languages like Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Kannada were also present to report news of the ceremony. The international media was curious to report the essence of the ceremony, when the top post of a State like Maharashtra, which leads in various sectors of the country, was being given to a leader, who is known to be patient and firm on his thoughts. The audience cheered when Chief Minister designate Uddhav Thackeray arrived on the stage at 6.36 pm. He wore a saffron-coloured *kurta*, he beamed with confidence, and his stance reflected his gratitude to the audience. After taking the oath, he humbly bowed in front of people and said the State belongs to them and promised that this State would be run in favour of the people. Before swearing in, he gratefully recalled Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and assured that the new Government would function as per Shivaji Maharaj's policies of people's welfare.

After Uddhav Thackeray took oath as the Chief Minister—Eknath Shinde, Subhash Desai, Jayant Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal, Balasaheb Thorat and Nitin Raut—took oath as Ministers. Many prominent leaders from the State and the country were present on the occasion.

—Praveen Kulkarni

KNOW YOUR CHIEF MINISTER

The 29th Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray is also the Shiv Sena Party Chief. Shri Uddhav Thackeray, who has been relentlessly working for the welfare of farmers and common people of Maharashtra for many decades, carries the great legacy of his father and Shiv Sena founder, late Shri Balasaheb Thackeray, his mother late Meenatai Thackeray and grandfather late Prabodhankar Keshav Sitaram Thackeray.

The soft-spoken gentleman is also the editor-in-chief of the mouthpiece of Shiv Sena, *Saamna*, a prominent Marathi newspaper founded by Shiv Sena Pramukh, Balasaheb Thackeray. Born on 27th July 1960 in Mumbai, he graduated from JJ School of Arts. Many books of his photographs have been published. He is an author and a professional photographer whose works have appeared in various magazines and showcased at numerous exhibitions.

POLITICAL CAREER

Uddhav Thackeray entered politics even as he was a student. He took active part in socio-political activities of Shiv Sena. He was handed over the responsibility of managing the party in 2002 Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections in which Shiv Sena performed exceedingly well. It was the first time that the State saw his leadership qualities and flair for politics. He then started working with the party more closely and was declared the working president of the party in 2003. In 2004, Shri Balasaheb Thackeray announced him as his successor.

PERSONAL LIFE

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is married to Smt Rashmi Thackeray and has two sons, Aaditya and Tejas. Aaditya Thackeray is the president of Yuva Sena and a newly elected Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.

CREATIVE ASPECTS

Uddhav Thackeray's photo book *Maharashtra Desha*, 2010, replete with breath-taking aerial shots, is a glimpse into the geographical beauty, cultural fabric, and historical perspective of the wondrous State of Maharashtra.

The photo book, *Pahawa Vitthal*, 2011, capturing various aspects of rural Maharashtra and the *Warkaris* during *Pandharpur Wari* pilgrimage, has also been received very well by national and international art-lovers.

Uddhav Thackeray also exhibited a deeper com-

mitment to larger issues when he raised funds for drought-hit farmers and wildlife conservation through his exhibitions.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Under the able leadership of Uddhav Thackeray, the Shiv Sena has swept several local and State elections. He has also managed to steer the party through thick and thin and become a commander of the ground workers in an effective manner.

- With the policy of 80 per cent social work and 20 per cent politics, his party was able to make a mark even in the Guinness World Records.
- Under his able leadership, the Shiv Sena has started testing and treatment centres for malaria and distributed medicines to the needy.
- To strengthen health services in Mumbai, many hospitals have been built and are functional.
- He initiated the innovative social service of organising blood donation mega camps in Mumbai.
- He secured a win for the Shiv Sena in the 2002 BMC election while working as the Shiv Sena chief campaigner. Subsequently, his party has been consistently performing well in the Lok Sabha and State elections, where it was a partner in the then ruling coalition for the last five years. He has expanded the party base and network to include local bodies, *zilla parishads* and other local elections.
- He organised a debt relief campaign for the farmers of the Vidarbha. Farmers in the region were under heavy debt following a long dry spell in 2007. He stepped in and worked towards improving their conditions.
- He successfully shifted the focus of his struggle to the development and welfare of farmers. This has not only helped expand his mass base, but also made him a prime candidate to lead the State.
- Uddhav Thackeray has transformed the image of Shiv Sena to a well-organised, mature political formation that is run by someone who cares deeply about the State and its welfare.
- By forming an organised and well-grounded political party, Uddhav Thackeray has created a better and forward-looking Maharashtra. A sensitive writer, poet and an intellectual, Uddhav Thackeray has led a silent revolution in the political realm of the country. ■





LEADER OF THE **MASSSES**

It was Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's efforts due to which the Shiv Sena got a distinction of having an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records for social work. Thus, as the Shiv Sena Chief had become 'Lokmanya', Uddhav Thackeray, who has emerged as the leader of the masses, has become 'Loknayak' due to his sheer hard work and commitment.



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray thanking the people after swearing in as the Chief Minister.

Harshal Pradhan

Outside the party, there are various opinions about Shiv Sena Party Chief Uddhav Thackeray. Many a time the question that came to people's mind was whether he would be able to take forward the legacy of Shiv Sena Pramukh. There is a class that believes that he is not as aggressive as his father Balasaheb was and does not have his fiery-speech style that defeats the opposition. In fact, Uddhav Thackeray himself agrees that he cannot speak like Shiv Sena Pramukh. He clearly says that a personality like Balasaheb takes birth once in a century and, thus, there can be nobody like him. So, what quality does Uddhav Thackeray pos-

sess that a common Shiv Sainik considers him a leader? Why does everybody trust him even though he does not have the charisma of Shiv Sena Pramukh? Why is there a respectful fear about him in the Shiv Sena regardless of his modest nature? Actually, the answers to many such questions are related to his personality and are easy to find.

FIRM STAND

Even though Uddhav Thackeray is very modest, he is very firm in his decisions. He sticks to his words. He isn't high-handed and communicates directly with party workers and office bearers. Uddhav Thackeray, who hates falsehood and manipulation, gives priority to the work of common people. It is his conviction



Uddhav Thackeray with wife Smt. Rashmi Thackeray and sons, Aaditya (MLA) (right) and Tejas (left).

to bring this dream to reality, can be considered different. On the 25th April 2010, Uddhav Thackeray took the responsibility of organising a mega blood donation camp *Raktadanacha Mahayadnya* at the NSE Sankul, and in no time Shiv Sena's name was registered in the *Guinness World Records* for this great social work. This incredible achievement happened easily because of his strong social commitment. In his political journey, Uddhav Thackeray never took an easy or fast-track route to gain popularity with the help of media. He entered politics with the legacy of social work of the Thackeray lineage and the social commitment of Shiv Sena Pramukh, and he practices the habit of gaining people's affection through his work. It is not an easy path as many times one gets criticism instead of credit. When Uddhav Thackeray started to look into the affairs of Shiv Sena, he started to construct the party from the base, considering the then prevailing situation. He looked into the appointments of *gatpramukhs* (grassroot rank of Shiv Sena). Later, when appointments for *Up-shakhapramukh* (deputy branch head of Shiv Sena) and *shakhapramukh* (branch

head of Shiv Sena) came up, established people tried to safeguard their departments.

that power should not be an end in itself, but should be means to an end, which is to achieve the welfare of the largest number of people. Perhaps, that's what precisely brings him closer to the Shiv Sainiks, who were trained under Balasaheb too. He has a strong will for social work over politics.

When the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation was under his leadership and there was an issue raised on potholes in Mumbai after rains, Uddhav Thackeray actively headed the repair works of potholes. Whether it is a problem related to drinking water or health issues in Mumbai, he is always ready to strive hard to solve them. This year too, he himself kept a watchful eye on the potholes' repair work for three nights. He conducted urgent meetings of municipal administration on the increase in malaria cases. He himself surveyed the hospitals and checked the arrangements for treatment. He started malaria tests and treatment centres under Shiv Sena and distributed medicines worth ₹30 lakh to the needy. He planned schemes for strengthening healthcare services in Mumbai, especially the suburbs. Through this, hospitals like Bhagwati at Borivali, Shatabdi at Kandivali, and Cooper at Juhu are being revamped. These hospitals are the dire necessity to cater to over 63 lakh patients in the suburbs alone.

FIDELITY TOWARDS SOCIAL WORK

The leadership of Shiv Sena Party Chief Uddhav Thackeray, who aspires to rule for the people's development and constantly strives

Uddhav Thackeray was looking into party-building like a seasoned politician. He took the decision that MLA candidates will be decided by the organisation, that is through the *shakhapramukhs* and *vibhag pramukhs* (department heads), and thus gave due importance to the organisation and office bearers. He almost completed the party-structure during the rule of the alliance. Through his work, he has proved that Shiv Sena Party Chief and the Shiv Sainiks are important.

TREAD ACROSS MAHARASHTRA

Mumbai-Thane corporation elections were won under the able leadership of Uddhav Thackeray. He paid no attention to his detractors and focused on strengthening the party-structure and concentrating on the issues of people of Maharashtra. He toured the entire State during elections. He was persistent on many issues being faced by the rural population as well as farmers' suicides. At times, to help farmers, he organised exhibitions of his photographs and donated to the farmers approximately ₹10 lakh generated from the sale of his photos, proving himself to be a compassionate politician.

Due to this compassionate nature and strategic political character, Uddhav Thackeray has endeared himself with both Shiv Sainiks and the masses of Maharashtra. ■



FIRST DECISION FOR CHHATRAPATI'S RAIGAD...

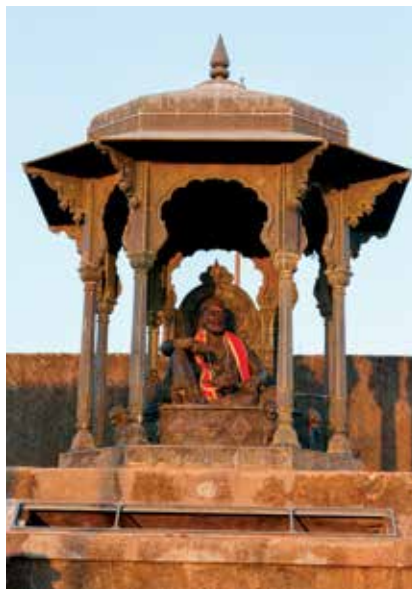
The Government of Maharashtra has announced ₹20 crore for the maintenance of Raigad Fort

Immediately after assuming office as the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray took decision to provide ₹20 crore for maintenance of Raigad Fort and its surrounding areas. A plan of ₹606 crore for the maintenance of the fort is ready. However, providing funds for this was pending.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray called for a report of the developmental works of Raigad fort, and as a special case, gave approval for the funds. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's forts are heritage of Maharashtra and it is important to conserve them and inspire the future generation. The State Government will extend all necessary cooperation for it, said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

AAREY METRO CAR-SHED WORK STAYED TILL ITS REVIEW

Special attention will be paid to the



infrastructure and environment protection of the State. The State Government is not against developmen-

tal works. Emphasis has been laid on environment protection along with speedy work of metro project. Hence the Aarey Metro Car-Shed work is stayed. While addressing the media at Mantralaya, the Chief Minister said that a decision would be taken in this regard after a detailed review.

"The Government belongs to all, but it should always be remembered that it is the taxpayer's money we are using for various schemes. Therefore, secretaries of various Departments are advised that not a single paisa is wasted. I am the first Mumbai-born Chief Minister and I am thinking of measures to be taken for Mumbai's welfare. We are also taking steps for ensuring the development of other cities. Soon, important decisions to ensure the welfare of farmers will also be taken." ■

OUR NEW MINISTERS

Ek Nath Sambhaji Shinde

Born : 6th March 1964
Place of Birth : Daregaon, taluka Jawli, Satara district
Education : S.S.C.
Languages known : Marathi, Hindi and English
Marital status : Married, wife Smt. Lata
Children : One (son)
Profession : Industry/Social work



Party : Shiv Sena
Constituency : 147 – Kopri-Panchpakhadi, Thane district.
Other information: Created a network of social work in the entire Thane City and district; started an open art gallery in Thane city, Sachin Tendulkar Mini Stadium, Balasaheb memorial on the facility plot at Eternity, Shahid Hemant Karkare

Sports complex, Jogging Park and Central Library, and others; distributed free medicines by organising nutritional diet and health check-up camps in tribal areas of Mokhada, Talasari and Jawhar, and organised a lecture series for SSC students in the areas such as Palghar, Boisar and Saphale; organised the distribution of educational materials to poor students and essential items to the flood-affected people; organised tree plantation and health check-up camps; Chairman, Thane District Badminton Association, and Vice Chairman, Maharashtra Athletics Organisation; extended help to flood-affected people; special contribution for comprehensive development and modernisation of Thane city; Shiv Sena Shakha Pramukh, Wagle Estate, Kisan Nagar No. 2; Shiv Sena Thane District Chief; active participation in all agitations of the party; Corporator for two terms and member of Standing Committee for three years; Leader of the House for four years at Thane Municipal Corporation; Member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly 2004-2009, 2009-2014, Leader of Opposition, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, 12 November-5 December 2014; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly 2014-2019; Minister Public Works (Public Undertakings), December 2014-October 2019; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Subhash Rajaram Desai

Born : 12th July 1942
Place of Birth : Malgund, taluka and district Ratnagiri
Education : S. S. C., Diploma in Journalism
Languages known : Marathi, Hindi, English and Gujarati
Marital status : Married, wife Smt. Sushma
Children : Three (sons)
Profession : Industry
Party : Shiv Sena



Constituency : Elected by members of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly
Other information: 1982: Founder, Prabodhan Goregaon Trust; 1973: organisation of Inter-school sports festival and Inter-college elocution competition; 1973: Shiv Sena Ambulance Service started at Goregaon; 1977: Chief

Executive, Suburban Marathi Sahitya Sammelan; 1989, Trustee, Prabodhan Prakashan; Publisher, daily *Saamna*, Weekly *Marmik* and *Dopahar ka Saamna*; 1991: Establishment of Prabodhan Sports Complex; 1992: Chief Organiser, Konkan Railway Parishad, Khed, district Ratnagiri; 1999: Establishment of Prabodhan Joggers' Park; 2000: Chief Convener, Mumbai Festival and Hindustani Classical Music Festival; 2001: Chief Convener, Herbal World exhibition of medicinal plants and panel discussion; 2002: Received *Dharmaveer* Award from Sambhaji Pratishthan for Outstanding Social Work; 2003: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue riding a horse inaugurated at Sahar Airport; 2004: Started Prabodhan Blood Bank; 1966: worked as a Shiv Sainik from the inception of the party; 1984: Shiv Sena leader; 1985: Chief Organiser, 2nd All Maharashtra Shiv Sena session at Mahad; 1986-1990: Chief Shiv Sena Public Relations for Jalgaon district; General Secretary, Shiv Sena since 1989; 1995: Chairman, Rest of Maharashtra Statutory Development Council; 1995: Elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; 1994: Court ruled election invalid as propaganda was made on the Hindutva agenda; 2004-2009 and 2009-2014: Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; 2015-16: Member, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Minister for Industries, Maharashtra State, since 5 December 2014; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Council in July 2016.

Jayant Rajaram Patil

Born : 16th February 1962
Place of Birth : Sangli
Education : B. E. (Civil)
Languages known : Marathi, Hindi and English
Marital status : Married, wife Smt. Shailaja Patil
Children : Two (sons)
Profession : Agriculture
Party : Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)
Constituency : 283 – Islampur, district Sangli
Other information : Chairman, Rajarambapu Cooperative Sugar Factory Limited; Vice Chairman, Maharashtra Pradesh Yuvak Congress; Chairman, Kasegaon Education



Society; Chairman, Deccan Sugar Technologists Association; Chairman, Maharashtra State Sugar Factories Association; Director, Vasantdada Sugar Institute, Pune; Member, All India Sugar Association; Director, Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, cooperative banks, credit societies, cooperative spinning

mills, cooperative consumer stores, Agricultural Graduates Association, Poultry Farming Cooperative Society (made constant efforts to set up such institutes and to improve the standard of living of the people and comprehensive development of the area); Member, Senate, Shivaji University, Sangli District Freedom from Addiction Committee; Rajarambapu Dnyan Prabodhini, Council Member, Engineering College and Polytechnic, Rajaram Nagar (a leading institute in computerisation of all institutions); working for NCP since May 1999, Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly 1990-95, 1995-1999, 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019; had been Minister for Finance and Planning November 1999-December 2008 and made a huge contribution towards bringing up State's economy; held the Home Ministry for some time in 2008; served as Minister for Rural Development from November 2009-October 2014; State Chief, NCP; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Chhagan Chandrakant Bhujbal

Born : 15th October 1947
Place of Birth : Nashik
Education : L. M. E. (I)
Languages known : Marathi, Hindi and English
Marital status : Married, Wife Smt. Meena
Children : One (son)
Profession : Agriculture
Party : Nationalist Congress Party
Constituency : 119 – Yeola, district Nashik
Other information : He is Founder Chairman, Mumbai Educational Trust, Bandra; Ex-Trustee, VJTI, Mumbai; Founder, Mahatma Phule Samta Parishad, working to get



justice for the neglected, downtrodden and backward classes as well as spreading the thoughts and ideals of Mahatma Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Shau Maharaj; Ex Trustee Mumbai Port Trust; Producer of Marathi films Daivat 1985 and Navra Bayko 1990; 1973 Member, 1973-84 Leader of

Opposition, 1985 and 1991 – Mayor of Mumbai Municipal Corporation; 1991, Chairman, All India Council of Mayors; In Shiv Sena till 1991 followed by joining Congress party; Working for NCP since June 1999 and founder member and First State chief of NCP from June 1999 to November 1999; Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly – 1985-90, 1990-95, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019; Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council – 1996-2002 and 2002-2004; Revenue Minister December 1991 – March 1993, Minister for Housing, improving dirty habitats, house repairs and reconstruction; Leader of Opposition 1996-1999 Maharashtra Legislative Council; Dy Chief Minister and Home and Tourism Minister of Maharashtra October 1999 to January 2003; Dy Chief Minister and Home Minister January 2003 to December 2003; PWD Minister (except public undertakings)-November 2004 October 2009; November 2009 to November 2010 - Dy Chief Minister for the second time and PWD Minister (except public undertakings); PWD Minister (except public undertakings) from November 2010 to September 2014; Re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Vijay alias Balasaheb Bhausaheb Thorat

Born : 7th February, 1953
Place of Birth : Jorve, Sangamner, Ahmednagar
Education : B. A. LL.B.
Languages known : Marathi, Hindi and English
Marital status : Married, wife Smt. Kanchan
Children : Four (One son and three daughters)
Profession : Agriculture
Party : Indian National Congress (I)
Constituency : 217 – Sangamner, Ahmednagar
Other information : During his college education years at Fergusson and Law College, he took part in *Pani Panchayat* Movement; 1980: active participation in beedi workers and



farmers' issues, jailed for nine days; active participation in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada Namantar Andolan; participation in educational development of Sangamner taluka; leader at the agitation for re-organisation of water distribution from Bhandardara Dam; movement for completion of Nilwande

Dam; 1989: Chairman, State Beedi Workers Minimum Wage Committee, report was submitted to the Government with recommendation for wage increase as per dearness index; help for drought-affected people; 1998-2000: General Secretary, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee; 2008: Social Gratitude award from Deshbhakt Kisan Veer Social Institution; 2014: Yashwant-Venu Award from Yashwant Pratishthan, Pune; 2015: Efficient MLA Award from Madhavrao Limaye Foundation; Member, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly—1985-90, 1990-95, 1995-99, 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019; Member for Employment Guarantee, Assurances, Public Undertakings and Panchayat Samiti Committees of the Legislature; Minister of State for Catchment Area Irrigation (Excluding Krishna Valley and Konkan Irrigation Board), October 1999-July 2004, Minister for Water Conservation and Mangroves, November 2004-October 2009, Minister for Agriculture, Water Conservation, EGS, and School Education (additional charge) from November 2009-November 2010, Minister for Revenue and Mangroves from November 2010-September 2014; introduced the programme of making the Revenue Department online, decision to measure again the agricultural lands in the State, re-elected as Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

Dr. Nitin Kashinath Raut

Born : 9th October 1952
Place of Birth : Nagpur, district Nagpur
Education : M. A., F. B.M., C.P.L., M.F.A. (Drama), Ph. D.
Languages known : Marathi, Hindi and English
Marital status : Married, wife Smt. Sumedha
Children : Two (one son and one daughter)
Profession : Industry/Business
Party : Indian National Congress (I)
Constituency : 57 – Nagpur (North)
Other information : Working for weaker sections of society through *Sankalp Sanstha*, active assistance in provid-



ing basic facilities to devotees arriving at Deekshabhoomi on the *Dhamma Chakra Pravartan Din* ceremony; organisation of free health check-up camps, *Sankalpratna* and *Bheemjyot Yatra* organised during 1988 and 1989, respectively; a huge rally at Kasturchand Park, Nagpur on the 100th Birth Anniversary of Dr.

Babasaheb Ambedkar; active participation in Marathwada University Namantar Andolan, participation in the 1989 Dalit Sahitya Sammelan at Chandrapur and 1991 Vidarbha Sahitya Sammelan; organisation of *Asmitadarsh* Silver Jubilee Festival and Sahitya Sammelan, helped affected people at Makardhokda, Nagpur, in communal riots during 1990, help to flood-affected people from Movad and Nagpur in 1991, *Sanvidhan Bachao Rally* on 19 April 2000; working in the political field since 1970, participated in *Jail Bhao* agitation when Late Indira Gandhi was arrested; in-charge of Nagpur North Parliamentary Constituency since 1991; participation at the open session of the All India Indian National Congress Committee held in Kolkata, Bengaluru and New Delhi; Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1999-2004, 2004-2009, 2009-2014; Member, Scheduled Castes Welfare Committee; Member, Statutory Committee, Reservation Act; Member, Statutory Committee for Thefts of Forest Produce; Member, Statutory Committee, Employment and Self-Employment of Legislature; Minister of State for Home, Prisons, State Excise and Labour; Minister for EGS and Water Conservation, 2014; held Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Departments; re-elected to Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in October 2019.

(Ref: *Brief introduction to Life of 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Members*)

ROADMAP OF NEW MAHARASHTRA

The roadmap of a new Maharashtra has the farming and common labour class at its centre. It ensures a clean, transparent and decisive leadership. The new roadmap will not only present the economic situation of the State before the people, but will also be committed to improve it. Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari stressed on this point in his address at the joint sitting of the State Legislature.

In Maharashtra, 70 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture and allied activities for sustenance. Keeping this in mind, the Government has decided to lay emphasis on taking necessary steps to lead the State on the path of sustainable development.

The Government will take all steps to ensure that the farmers are free from crop loans and anxieties. It will initiate action to redress

the situation of the rural credit sector and give immediate relief to farmers. Sustainable water supply schemes will be implemented in the drought-affected areas of Marathwada and Vidarbha for ensuring remunerative prices for the produce of farmers.

RESERVATION TO SONS OF SOIL

Law will be enacted ensuring 80 per cent reservation in private sector jobs for the 'sons of the soil'. The process of filling of the vacancies in the State will be initiated. The security of women will be given top priority and they will be provided equal opportunities. Efforts will be made to see that girls from economically backward families get free higher education. Emphasis will be laid on improving quality of education at the primary and secondary levels. To ensure human development of the comparatively backward sections of society, special funds will be provided. Emphasis will be laid on health, education and subsistence sectors.

EMPHASIS ON INFRASTRUCTURE

Special attention will be paid to en-

hance the underlying facilities for developmental programmes and ensure conservation of environmental resources.

Within this spectrum, the progress of the lowest common denominator of society—economically—will be given priority. Special centres will be set up to provide meals at ₹10 to economically weaker sections.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

New policies will be formulated for attracting investment in the information technology field for generating employment opportunities for local educated youth. Educated unemployed youth will be given scholarships. Hos-

tels will be constructed in all district headquarters and prime cities in the State for working women. Facilities to Anganwadi Sevika and Asha workers will be improved. The Government will strengthen eight lakh self-help groups in the State.

HEALTH FACILITIES

One Rupee Clinic at taluka level for diagnosis and medical tests will be started. Super-specialty hospitals and medical colleges will be set up in a phased manner in all districts. Citizens will be provided health insurance cover, hence various health insurance programmes will be integrated. Facilities and better licensing services will be given to attract more investment in the industrial sectors.

SECURITY

All the police stations will be connected to the National Cyber Crime complaint registering portal. Police officers and other police personnel will be imparted training for making them more capable in investigation of cyber-crimes.

CULTURAL

The headquarter of Marathi Bhasha Bhavan will be established in Mumbai and the sub-centre of Marathi Bhasha will be established in Airoli in Navi Mumbai.

OTHER

Provisions for strengthening the social security to senior citizens will be undertaken. Strict action will be taken against those violating the food and drugs laws. People's participation in the plastic ban drive will be increased and implemented successfully. Integrated shore line field management project for disaster management under the National Clean Air Programme will be implemented. Strict actions will be taken against illegal and non-scientific fishing in coastal areas, and traditional fishermen will be given protection.

Various State-wide programmes will be organised for propagating the thoughts and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi among the youth on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary. It has been reiterated that the people of 865 Marathi-speaking villages on the border of Maharashtra-Karnataka will be given justice and their rights will be protected. This issue will be fought vigorously in the court. ■



OUR REPRESENTATIVES

Winners of Maharashtra Assembly



Adv. K. C. Padavi
Indian National Congress
1 - Akkalkuwa (ST)



Rajesh Udesing Padvi
Bharatiya Janata Party
2 - Shahada (ST)



Vijaykumar Gavit
Bharatiya Janata Party
3 - Nandurbar (ST)



Shirishkumar Naik
Indian National Congress
4 - Nawapur (ST)



Manjula Tulshiram Gavit
Independent
5 - Sakri (ST)



Kunalbaba R. Patil
Indian National Congress
6 - Dhule Rural



Shah Faruk Anwar
AIMIM
7 - Dhule City



Jaykumar Rawal
Bharatiya Janata Party
8 - Sindkheda



Kashiram V. Pawara
Bharatiya Janata Party
9 - Shirpur (ST)



Latabai C. Sonawane
Shiv Sena
10 - Chopda (ST)



Shirish M. Chaudhari
Indian National Congress
11 - Raver



Sanjay W. Sawkare
Bharatiya Janata Party
12 - Bhusawal (SC)



Suresh D. Bhole
Bharatiya Janata Party
13 - Jalgaon City



Gulabrao R. Patil
Shiv Sena
14 - Jalgaon Rural



Anil B. Patil
Nationalist Congress Party
15 - Amalner



Chimanrao R. Patil
Shiv Sena
16 - Erandol

Elections 2019 from 288 Constituencies



Mangesh R. Chavan
Bharatiya Janata Party
17 - Chalisgaon



Kishor Patil
Shiv Sena
18 - Pachora



Girish D. Mahajan
Bharatiya Janata Party
19 - Jamner



Chandrakant N. Patil
Independent
20 - Muktainagar



Rajesh P. Ekade
Indian National Congress
21 - Malkapur



Sanjay R. Gaikwad
Shiv Sena
22 - Buldhana



Shweta Vidyadhar Mahale
Bharatiya Janata Party
23 - Chikhli



Dr. Rajendra B. Shingane
Nationalist Congress Party
24 - Sindkhed Raja



Sanjay Raymulkar
Shiv Sena
25 - Mehkar (SC)



Akash Fundkar
Bharatiya Janata Party
26 - Khamgaon



Dr. Sanjay S. Kute
Bharatiya Janata Party
27 - Jalgaon (Jamod)



Prakash Bharsakale
Bharatiya Janata Party
28 - Akot



Nitinkumar Tale
Shiv Sena
29 - Balapur



Govardhan M. Sharma
Bharatiya Janata Party
30 - Akola West



Randhir Sawarkar
Bharatiya Janata Party
31 - Akola East



Harish Pimpale
Bharatiya Janata Party
32 - Murtizapur (SC)



Amit S. Zanak
Indian National Congress
33 - Risod



Lakhan S. Malik
Bharatiya Janata Party
34 - Washim (SC)



Rajendra S. Patni
Bharatiya Janata Party
35 - Karanja



Pratap Adsad
Bharatiya Janata Party
36 - Dhamangaon Railway



Ravi Rana
Independent
37 - Badnera



Sulbha Sanjay Khodke
Indian National Congress
38 - Amravati



Adv. Yashomati C. Thakur
Indian National Congress
39 - Teosa



Balwant Wankhade
Indian National Congress
40 - Daryapur (SC)



Rajkumar Patel
Prahar Janshakti Party
41 - Melghat (ST)



Bachchu B. Kadu
Prahar Janshakti Party
42 - Achalpur



Devendra Bhuyar
Swabhimani Paksha
43 - Morshi



Dadarao Yadaorao Keche
Bharatiya Janata Party
44 - Arvi



Ranjit Kamble
Indian National Congress
45 - Deoli



Samir Trimbakrao Kunawar
Bharatiya Janata Party
46 - Hinganghat



Dr. Pankaj Bhoyar
Bharatiya Janata Party
47 - Wardha



Anil Deshmukh
Nationalist Congress Party
48 - Katol



Sunil Kedar
Indian National Congress
49 - Savner



Sameer Meghe
Bharatiya Janata Party
50 - Hingna



Raju Parwe
Indian National Congress
51 - Umred (SC)



Devendra Fadnavis
Bharatiya Janata Party
52 - Nagpur South West



Mohan Mate
Bharatiya Janata Party
53 - Nagpur South



Krushna Khopde
Bharatiya Janata Party
54 - Nagpur East



Vikas Kumbhare
Bharatiya Janata Party
55 - Nagpur Central



Vikas Thakre
Indian National Congress
56 - Nagpur West



Dr. Nitin Raut
Indian National Congress
57 - Nagpur North (SC)



Tekchand Sawarkar
Bharatiya Janata Party
58 - Kamthi



Ashish Jaiswal
Independent
59 - Ramtek



Raju Karemore
Nationalist Congress Party
60 - Tumsar



Narendra B. Bhondekar
Independent
61 - Bhandara (SC)



Nanabhau F. Patole
Indian National Congress
62 - Sakoli



Manohar G. Chandrikapure
Nationalist Congress Party
63 - Arjuni Morgaon (SC)



Vijay B. Rahangdale
Bharatiya Janata Party
64 - Tirora



Vinod S. Agrawal
Independent
65 - Gondia



Sahasram M. Korote
Indian National Congress
66 - Amgaon (ST)



Krushna D. Gajbe
Bharatiya Janata Party
67 - Armori (ST)



Dr. Deorao M. Holi
Bharatiya Janata Party
68 - Gadchiroli (ST)



Dharamraobaba Aatram
Nationalist Congress Party
69 - Aheri (ST)



Subhash Dhotre
Indian National Congress
70 - Rajura



Kishor Jorgewar
Independent
71 - Chandrapur (SC)



Sudhir Mungantiwar
Bharatiya Janata Party
72 - Ballarpur



Vijay Wadettiwar
Indian National Congress
73 - Brahmapuri



Bunty Bhangdiya
Bharatiya Janata Party
74 - Chimur



Pratibha Dhanorkar
Indian National Congress
75 - Warora



Sanjivreddy Bodkurwar
Bharatiya Janata Party
76 - Wani



Dr. Ashok R. Wooike
Bharatiya Janata Party
77 - Ralegaon (ST)



Madan M. Yerawar
Bharatiya Janata Party
78 - Yavatmal



Sanjay D. Rathod
Shiv Sena
79 - Digra



Dr. Sandeep P. Dhurve
Bharatiya Janata Party
80 - Arni (ST)



Indranil M. Naik
Nationalist Congress Party
81 - Pusad



Namdev J. Sasane
Bharatiya Janata Party
82 - Umarkhed (SC)



Bhimrao R. Keram
Bharatiya Janata Party
83 - Kinwat



Madhavrao Patil-Jawalgaonkar
Indian National Congress
84 - Hadgaon



Ashokrao S. Chavan
Indian National Congress
85 - Bhokar



Balaji Kalyankar
Shiv Sena
86 - Nanded North



Mohanrao M. Hambarde
Indian National Congress
87 - Nanded South



Shyamsundar Shinde
PWPI
88 - Loha



Rajesh Pawar
Bharatiya Janata Party
89 - Naigaon



Raosaheb Antapurkar
Indian National Congress
90 - Deglur (SC)



Tushar G. Rathod
Bharatiya Janata Party
91 - Mukhed



Chandrakant R. Nawghare
Nationalist Congress Party
92 - Basmath



Santosh Laxmanrao Bangar
Shiv Sena
93 - Kalamnuri



Tanhaji Mutkule
Bharatiya Janata Party
94 - Hingoli



Meghna Sakore-Bordikar
Bharatiya Janata Party
95 - Jintur



Dr. Rahul Patil
Shiv Sena
96 - Parbhani



Ratnakar Manikrao Gutte
Rashtriya Samaj Paksha
97 - Gangakhed



Suresh Warpudkar
Indian National Congress
98 - Pathri



Babanrao Dattatrya Lonikar
Bharatiya Janata Party
99 - Partur



Rajesh Tope
Nationalist Congress Party
100 - Ghansawangi



Kailas Gorantyal
Indian National Congress
101 - Jalna



Narayan Kuche
Bharatiya Janata Party
102 - Badnapur (SC)



Santosh Raosaheb Danve
Bharatiya Janata Party
103 - Bhokardan



Abdul Sattar Abdul Nabi
Shiv Sena
104 - Sillod



Udaysing Rajput
Shiv Sena
105 - Kannad



Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde
Bharatiya Janata Party
106 - Phulambri



Pradeep Jaiswal
Shiv Sena
107 - Aurangabad Central



Sanjay Pandurang Shirsat
Shiv Sena
108 - Aurangabad West (SC)



Atul Moreshwar Save
Bharatiya Janata Party
109 - Aurangabad East



Sandipanrao Bhumare
Shiv Sena
110 - Paithan



Prashant Bansilal Bamb
Bharatiya Janata Party
111 - Gangapur



Ramesh Bornare
Shiv Sena
112 - Vaijapur



Suhas Kande
Shiv Sena
113 - Nandgaon



Mohammed Ismail Abdul Khaliq
AIMIM
114 - Malegaon Central



Dadaji Bhuse
Shiv Sena
115 - Malegaon



Dilip Manglu Borse
Bharatiya Janata Party
116 - Baglan (ST)



Nitin Arjun Pawar
Nationalist Congress Party
117 - Kalwan (ST)



Dr. Rahul Aher
Bharatiya Janata Party
118 - Chandvad



Chhagan Bhujbal
Nationalist Congress Party
119 - Yevla



Adv. Manikrao Kokate
Nationalist Congress Party
120 - Sinnar



Diliprao Bankar
Nationalist Congress Party
121 - Niphad



Narhari S. Zirwal
Nationalist Congress Party
122 - Dindori (ST)



Adv. Rahul Dhikle
Bharatiya Janata Party
123 - Nashik East



Devyani Pharande
Bharatiya Janata Party
124 - Nashik Central



Seema Hiray
Bharatiya Janata Party
125 - Nashik West



Saroj Ahire
Nationalist Congress Party
126 - Deolali (SC)



Hiranman Khoskar
Indian National Congress
127 - Igatpuri (ST)



Vinod Nikole
CPI (Marxist)
128 - Dahanu (ST)



Sunil Chandrakant Bhusara
Nationalist Congress Party
129 - Vikramgad (ST)



Shrinivas Vanga
Shiv Sena
130 - Palghar (ST)



Rajesh Patil
Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi
131 - Boisar (ST)



Kshitij Thakur
Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi
132 - Nalasopara



Hitendra Thakur
Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi
133 - Vasai



Shantaram Tukaram More
Shiv Sena
134 - Bhiwandi Rural (ST)



Daulat Daroda
Nationalist Congress Party
135 - Shahapur (ST)



Mahesh Prabhakar Chaugule
Bharatiya Janata Party
136 - Bhiwandi West



Rais Kasam Shaikh
Samajwadi Party
137 - Bhiwandi East



Vishwanath Bhoir
Shiv Sena
138 - Kalyan West



Kisan Kathore
Bharatiya Janata Party
139 - Murbad



Dr. Balaji Kinikar
Shiv Sena
140 - Ambarnath (SC)



Kumar Ailani
Bharatiya Janata Party
141 - Ulhasnagar



Ganpat Kalu Gaikwad
Bharatiya Janata Party
142 - Kalyan East



Ravindra Dattatray Chavan
Bharatiya Janata Party
143 - Dombivali



Pramod R. Patil
Maharashtra Navnirman Sena
144 - Kalyan Rural



Geeta Jain
Independent
145 - Mira-Bhayandar



Pratap Baburao Sarnaik
Shiv Sena
146 - Ovala-Majiwada



Eknath Shinde
Shiv Sena
147 - Kopri-Pachpakhadi



Sanjay Kelkar
Bharatiya Janata Party
148 - Thane



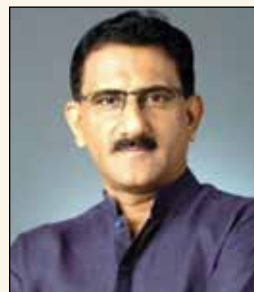
Jitendra Awhad
Nationalist Congress Party
149 - Mumbra-Kalwa



Ganesh Naik
Bharatiya Janata Party
150 - Airoli



Manda Vijay Mhatre
Bharatiya Janata Party
151 - Belapur



Sunil Dattatraya Rane
Bharatiya Janata Party
152 - Borivali



Manisha Ashok Chaudhary
Bharatiya Janata Party
153 - Dahisar



Prakash Rajaram Surve
Shiv Sena
154 - Magathane



Mihir Chadrakant Kotecha
Bharatiya Janata Party
155 - Mulund



Sunil Rajaram Raut
Shiv Sena
156 - Vikhroli



Ramesh Korgaonkar
Shiv Sena
157 - Bhandup West



Ravindra Waikar
Shiv Sena
158 - Jogeshwari East



Sunil Prabhu
Shiv Sena
159 - Dindoshi



Atul Bhatkhalkar
Bharatiya Janata Party
160 - Kandivali East



Yogesh Sagar
Bharatiya Janata Party
161 - Charkop



Aslam Ramzanali Shaikh
Indian National Congress
162 - Malad West



Vidya Jaiprakash Thakur
Bharatiya Janata Party
163 - Goregaon



Dr. Bharati Lavekar
Bharatiya Janata Party
164 - Varsova



Ameet Bhaskar Satam
Bharatiya Janata Party
165 - Andheri West



Ramesh Latke
Shiv Sena
166 - Andheri East



Adv. Parag Alavani
Bharatiya Janata Party
167 - Vile Parle



Dilip Bhausaheb Lande
Shiv Sena
168 - Chandivali



Ram Kadam
Bharatiya Janata Party
169 - Ghatkopar West



Parag Shah
Bharatiya Janata Party
170 - Ghatkopar East



Abu Asim Azmi
Samajwadi Party
171 - Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar



Nawab Malik
Nationalist Congress Party
172 - Anushakti Nagar



Prakash V. Phaterpekar
Shiv Sena
173 - Chembur



Mangesh Anant Kudalkar
Shiv Sena
174 - Kurla (SC)



Sanjay Govind Potnis
Shiv Sena
175 - Kalina



Zeeshan Baba Siddique
Indian National Congress
176 - Vandre East



Adv. Ashish Shelar
Bharatiya Janata Party
177 - Vandre West



Varsha Gaikwad
Indian National Congress
178 - Dharavi (SC)



Captain R Tamil Selvan
Bharatiya Janata Party
179 - Sion Koliwada



Kalidas Kolambkar
Bharatiya Janata Party
180 - Wadala



Sada Sarvankar
Shiv Sena
181 - Mahim



Aaditya Uddhav Thackeray
Shiv Sena
182 - Worli



Ajay Vinayak Choudhari
Shiv Sena
183 - Shivadi



Yamini Yashwant Jadhav
Shiv Sena
184 - Byculla



Mangal Prabhat Lodha
Bharatiya Janata Party
185 - Malabar Hill



Amin Patel
Indian National Congress
186 - Mumbadevi



Adv. Rahul Narwekar
Bharatiya Janata Party
187 - Colaba



Prashant Ramsheth Thakur
Bharatiya Janata Party
188 - Panvel



Mahendra Thorve
Shiv Sena
189 - Karjat



Mahesh Baldi
Independent
190 - Uran



Ravisheth Patil
Bharatiya Janata Party
191 - Pen



Mahendra Dalvi
Shiv Sena
192 - Alibag



Kumari Aditi Sunil Tatkare
Nationalist Congress Party
193 - Shrivardhan



Bharat Gogawale
Shiv Sena
194 - Mahad



Atul Vallabh Benke
Nationalist Congress Party
195 - Junnar



Dilip Dattatray Walse-Patil
Nationalist Congress Party
196 - Ambegaon



Dilip Dattatray Mohite
Nationalist Congress Party
197 - Khed, Alandi



Ashok Raosaheb Pawar
Nationalist Congress Party
198 - Shirur



Adv. Rahul Subhashrao Kul
Bharatiya Janata Party
199 - Daund



Dattatray Vithoba Bharane
Nationalist Congress Party
200 - Indapur



Ajit Anantrao Pawar
Nationalist Congress Party
201 - Baramati



Sanjay Jagtap
Indian National Congress
202 - Purandar



Sangram Anantrao Thopte
Indian National Congress
203 - Bhor



Sunil Shankarrao Shelke
Nationalist Congress Party
204 - Maval



Laxman Pandurang Jagtap
Bharatiya Janata Party
205 - Chinchwad



Anna Dadu Bansode
Nationalist Congress Party
206 - Pimpri (SC)



Mahesh Kisan Landge
Bharatiya Janata Party
207 - Bhosari



Sunil Vijay Tingre
Nationalist Congress Party
208 - Vadgaon



Siddharth Anil Shirole
Bharatiya Janata Party
209 - Shivajinagar



Chandrakant (Dada) Patil
Bharatiya Janata Party
210 - Kothrud



Bhimrao Dhondiba Tapkir
Bharatiya Janata Party
211 - Khadakwasala



Madhuri Satish Misal
Bharatiya Janata Party
212 - Parvati



Chetan Vitthal Tupe
Nationalist Congress Party
213 - Hadapsar



Sunil Dnyandeve Kamble
Bharatiya Janata Party
214 - Pune Cantonment (SC)



Mukta Shailesh Tilak
Bharatiya Janata Party
215 - Kasba Petha



Dr. Kiran Yamaji Lahamate
Nationalist Congress Party
216 - Akole (ST)



Vijay Alias Balasaheb Thorat
Indian National Congress
217 - Sangamner



Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil
Bharatiya Janata Party
218 - Shirdi



Aashutosh Ashokrao Kale
Nationalist Congress Party
219 - Kopergaon



Lahu Natha Kanade
Indian National Congress
220 - Shrirampur (SC)



Shankarrao Y. Gadakh
Shetkari Party
221 - Nevasa



Monica Rajeev Rajale
Bharatiya Janata Party
222 - Shevgaon



Prajakt Prasadrao Tanpure
Nationalist Congress Party
223 - Rahuri



Nilesh Dnyandeve Lanke
Nationalist Congress Party
224 - Parner



Sangram Arunkaka Jagtap
Nationalist Congress Party
225 - Ahmednagar City



Babanrao Bhikaji Pachpute
Bharatiya Janata Party
226 - Shrigonda



Rohit Rajendra Pawar
Nationalist Congress Party
227 - Karjat, Jamkhed



Laxman Madhavrao Pawar
Bharatiya Janata Party
228 - Georai



Prakash Sundarrao Solanke
Nationalist Congress Party
229 - Majalgaon



Sandeep Ravindra Kshirsagar
Nationalist Congress Party
230 - Beed



Balasaheb Bhausaheb
Nationalist Congress Party
231 - Ashti



Namita Akshay Mundada
Bharatiya Janata Party
232 - Kajj (SC)



Dhananjay Panditrao Munde
Nationalist Congress Party
233 - Parli



Dhiraj Vilasrao Deshmukh
Indian National Congress
234 - Latur (Rural)



Amit Vilasrao Deshmukh
Indian National Congress
235 - Latur (City)



Babasaheb Patil
Nationalist Congress Party
236 - Ahmadpur



Sanjay Baburao Bansode
Nationalist Congress Party
237 - Udgir (SC)



Sambhaji Patil-Nilangekar
Bharatiya Janata Party
238 - Nilanga



Abhimanyu Dattatray Pawar
Bharatiya Janata Party
239 - Ausa



Dnyanraj D. Chougule
Shiv Sena
240 - Umarga (SC)



Ranajagitsinha Patil
Bharatiya Janata Party
241 - Tuljapur



Kailas Ghadge-Patil
Shiv Sena
242 - Osmanabad



Tanaji Jaywant Sawant
Shiv Sena
243 - Paranda



Sanjaymama Shinde
Independent
244 - Karmala



Babanrao Vitthalrao Shinde
Nationalist Congress Party
245 - Madha



Rajendra Vitthal Raut
Independent
246 - Barshi



Yashwant Mane
Nationalist Congress Party
247 - Mohol (SC)



Vijaykumar Deshmukh
Bharatiya Janata Party
248 - Solapur City (North)



Kumari Praniti Shinde
Indian National Congress
249 - Solapur City (Central)



Sachin Kalyanshetti
Bharatiya Janata Party
250 - Akkalkot



Subhash Deshmukh
Bharatiya Janata Party
251 - Solapur (South)



Bharat Bhalake
Nationalist Congress Party
252 - Pandharpur



Adv. Shahajibapu Patil
Shiv Sena
253 - Sangole



Ram Vitthal Satpute
Bharatiya Janata Party
254 - Malshiras (SC)



Dipak Pralhad Chavan
Nationalist Congress Party
255 - Phaltan (SC)



Makrand Laxmanrao Jadhav
Nationalist Congress Party
256 - Wai



Mahesh Sambhajiraje Shinde
Shiv Sena
257 - Koregaon



Jaykumar Bhagwanrao Gore
Bharatiya Janata Party
258 - Man



Balasaheb Patil
Nationalist Congress Party
259 - Karad (North)



Prithviraj Dajisaheb Chavan
Indian National Congress
260 - Karad (South)



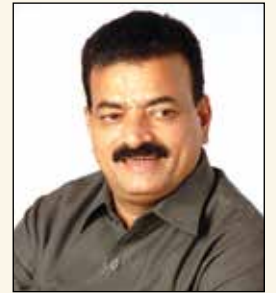
Shambhuraj Shivajirao Desai
Shiv Sena
261 - Patan



Shivendrasinh Bhonsale
Bharatiya Janata Party
262 - Satara



Yogeshdada Kadam
Shiv Sena
263 - Dapoli



Bhaskar Bhaurao Jadhav
Shiv Sena
264 - Guhagar



Shekhar Govindrao Nikam
Nationalist Congress Party
265 - Chiplun



Uday Ravindra Samant
Shiv Sena
266 - Ratnagiri



Rajan Prabhakar Salvi
Shiv Sena
267 - Rajapur



Nitesh Narayan Rane
Bharatiya Janata Party
268 - Kankavli



Vaibhav Vijay Naik
Shiv Sena
269 - Kudal



Deepak Vasanttrao Kesarkar
Shiv Sena
270 - Sawantwadi



Rajesh Narasingrao Patil
Nationalist Congress Party
271 - Chandgad



Prakash Abitkar
Shiv Sena
272 - Radhanagari



Hasan Miyalal Mushrif
Nationalist Congress Party
273 - Kagal



Ruturaj Sanjay Patil
Indian National Congress
274 - Kolhapur (South)



P. N. Patil
Indian National Congress
275 - Karvir



Chandrakant Pandit Jadhav
Indian National Congress
276 - Kolhapur (North)



Dr. Vinay Kore (Savkar)
Jan Surajya Shakti
277 - Shahuwadi



Raju Jaywantrao Awale
Indian National Congress
278 - Hatkanangle (SC)



Prakashanna Awade
Independent
279 - Ichalkaranji



Rajendra Shamgonda Patil
Independent
280 - Shirol



Dr. Suresh Dagadu Khade
Bharatiya Janata Party
281 - Miraj (SC)



Dhananjay Alias Sudhir Gadgil
Bharatiya Janata Party
282 - Sangli



Jayant Rajaram Patil
Nationalist Congress Party
283 - Islampur



Mansing Fattensingrao Naik
Nationalist Congress Party
284 - Shirala



Vishwajeet Patangrao Kadam
Indian National Congress
285 - Palus-Kadegaon



Anilbhai Babar
Shiv Sena
286 - Khanapur



Sumanvahini R. R. Patil
Nationalist Congress Party
287 - Tasgaon-Kavathe
Mahankal



Vikramsinh Sawant
Indian National Congress
288 - Jat



Bharat Ratna
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

MAHAPARINIRVAN DAY SPECIAL

THE BEACON OF KNOWLEDGE

Love for books of some of the great personalities is a known fact. It is common knowledge that many great souls were passionate about books and the written word. The legendary Cicero is said to have been ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of books. Macaulay once said that if someone were to make him a king and then ban him from reading books, he would choose to abdicate the throne. Walter Scott is said to have wept bitterly at the idea of having to separate from his book cupboard at the time of death. Sane Guruji would often say, "He who touches my books, touches my heart." Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's thoughts were on the same lines, for he believed that books brought meaning to life. He had to suffer and overcome acute sorrow and face infinite obstacles on the path of acquiring knowledge. Such obstacles have rarely been faced by other epoch-making men, and this is what makes Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's success far more glorious than theirs.



Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was a voracious reader right from his childhood. He would save the money given to him by his father for sweets (food) and buy old books to read. He would not remain away from books even for a minute. He began his reading in true earnest in the campus of his college. He was more inclined to read books that were not a part of his set curriculum. His father would express his strong dislike about this, with the constant refrain of "Study now, read the others later". Bhimrao would counter him with, "Baba, I never fail in my exams and pass every year. Then why do you constantly taunt me about my studies?"

In America, Dr Ambedkar allowed himself to get swept away in the diligent pursuit of knowledge. There he resolved, "I shall spend the rest of my life studying with dedication." With this impactful objective, his future life charted out its course. At Columbia University, he studied sociology, economics, anthropology, history and, particularly, public finance. He subsequently earned his MA and PhD degrees. A scholarly American professor once said, "The voracity which Ambedkar showed as he went about acquiring knowledge was even more impressive than his array of degrees, and it has no parallel in America." Another professor had this to say, "I have not seen a brilliant student like Ambedkar in my entire life."

For his future course of study, Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar secured admission to London University and decided to write a thesis for his D.Sc. He got himself into the London School of Economics and Political Science, and regularly went to the library. In the library, where he would pull out a preferred volume for himself and sit down to read. Until the library closed, he would be seated with single-minded concentration, often clocking 18 hours of unbroken consideration and contemplation. In the morning, he would eat what the mess served. Since money was scarce, he would travel miles on foot. In the afternoon, he would seek contentment in books instead of lunch. He would politely but persistently ask for rare books at the library. To find his favourite books, he would wander through bookstores and peek through open bookstores. He would knock at the doors of closed stores and at night, go back to his studies after eating a small meal. Such was the asceticism of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar! He worshipped knowledge with all his heart and thereby acquired his D.Sc. degree.

THE KARMAYOGI OF KNOWLEDGE

When it came to knowledge, Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was a true *karmayogi* (the one who performs action without attachment to the result thereof). Before he submitted a research paper on "Who were the Shudras and how they came to be the Fourth Varna," he read the *Rigveda* ten times. He had a great desire to become accomplished at Sanskrit. He mastered the language with diligence. He had an unusually good command over English. Once, his eyes developed some infection and the doctor advised him to stop reading. He was so sad that his eyes filled with tears. He said, "As long as I am reading, I am alive. If my reading stops,

I will not be able to live for too long."

Regarding his bibliophilic nature, Dr Ambedkar would always say, "There is no joy equal to spending a lifetime in the company of books. Books teach me, show me a new path. They bring me happiness." Once, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya asked for a rare book from Dr Ambedkar for the Benares Hindu University and was willing to pay ₹5 lakh for it. Dr Ambedkar refused him saying, "If you take my books away from me, it will be like taking my life away from me."

In America, Dr Ambedkar fell slightly ill. At that time, its principal from Mumbai wrote to him, enquiring about his illness. A newly printed batch of books had just arrived in Mumbai. Dr Ambedkar promptly wrote back, saying, "I will

A HOME FOR BOOKS

In Mumbai, Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar constructed a house for his favourite books. It was called *Raja Griha*. This place was home to 25,000 books. Acharya M. V. Donde said, "Dr Ambedkar considers books to be his lifeline. He cares for them the way one would care for one's life. It is worth paying attention to the fact that he has dedicated an entire floor of his house for his private library and reading room. He designed his house with the singular thought of ensuring that his books would stay systematic. The house has a large hall with a gallery as big as an assembly zone. Its cupboards are full of books and are surrounded with chairs. One finds stools and small tables dotting the lanes between the shelves lined endlessly with books. In addition to owning this vast collection, I have personally observed how Babasaheb was unerringly able to remember where a particular book was kept, its colour, its cover specifications and the cupboard where it belonged." Babasaheb would purchase books from the main depots and libraries in addition to old volumes from market. His favourite shop was the Bhandarkar Depot of Pune. In fact, during his tenure in Pune, he often studied at the library of the Servants of India Society, founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale. When he was at Ratnagiri, he paid a visit to the Tilak Dnyan Mandir.





DILIGENCE FOR READING

Years ago, Nepal had been destroyed by a massive earthquake. So, on 20th November 1956, a Global Buddhist Forum was organised at Kathmandu. Babasaheb was specifically invited to that conference. V R Ranpise, the erstwhile Editor of *Bodhisattva*, recalls the event and says, "It was early morning. You can imagine how cold it must have been in Nepal in November! We were surrounded by the towering white peaks of the Himalayas, in whose valley Kathmandu lays. It was a lovely sight! On one such cold morning, we paid a visit to the *vihara* along with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar. Next to the *vihara* were many sculptures. Amongst those, the sculptures of the Tathagata stood out, grand and splendid! Dr Ambedkar spent a lot of time here and collected information about every gesture of those sculptures from the guides.

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was seated for a while on the chair in the sunlight. Meanwhile, the car that had dropped us got delayed on its return journey. We were stepping out of the *vihara* and to our left we spotted the Paramita library for tourists. We went there without fail. Upon seeing the rich literature of Buddhist knowledge in Nepali and Newari languages, Dr Ambedkar was overjoyed. He was very keen to bring Buddhist literature written in the Newari language to India, but unfortunately that was not to happen.

Even while drafting the constitution of the country and working extensively in the areas of politics, socialisation and uplift of untouchables, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar continued to read with diligence. He was aware of the fact that working extensively in the social and political domains could distort one's humanitarian values over time, so he would resort to books in order to keep his thoughts and ideas under control. He embraced books that enriched his knowledge level. He breathed his last while slowly caressing a volume of *Buddha and His Dhamma*.

return to India soon. I have to read those books. Please bring them to my study, that's all." He didn't mention a single word about his illness, which goes to show how single-minded he was in his love for books.

RAILWAY SALOON

The one place which Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was most fond of was the Railway Saloon. The underlying objective behind it was "Reading books with coherence". On 25 April 1948, Dr Ambedkar went to Uttar Pradesh for a session of SKF. Then, Sarojini Naidu was the Governor of the State. She went to receive him at the railway station. She said to him, "Doctor, I have come to take you to the Raj Bhavan. Please accept my invitation." To this, Babasaheb humbly replied, "Sister, when I travel, I stay at the Railway Saloon. That is also where I read and write. My books, which are as dear to me as life itself, also live there. I cannot leave them and go anywhere. I cannot sit in peace without these dear friends. How can I come with so many friends to your guest room?" Naidu replied, "This is true, Babasaheb. Wherever I look, I can see your friends crowding around you. Your study is indeed comparable to that of a stalwart. Mother India is proud to have a knowledgeable son like you."

Rohini Kabir, the sister-in-law of Babasaheb's wife, once told him, "You are so good looking and charismatic. Your face shines with the light of intelligence. You have been bestowed

with such excellent gifts that I sometimes feel you have some divine power backing you." To this, Babasaheb laughed heartily and replied, "Oh Rohini, there is no divine power backing me. I have studied extensively with single-minded dedication. The charisma you see springs from that study. If you study with the single-mindedness as I did, you will also become clever. You read only to induce sleep! Sit reading until midnight today, then pull on till 2 am tomorrow. I can guarantee you that you will not feel sleepy at all."

UNBRIDLED DEDICATION TO BOOKS AND TEXTS

This incident dates back to the times when Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was the member of the drafting committee of the Constitution of India. The then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, sent a list of books to Babasaheb with the idea that having a valuable set of books in English close at hand would benefit Babasaheb. They were rare indeed, but steeply priced as well. Panditji had sent a cheque along with the set. There was a blank portion on the paper that had the list of books written on it. On that portion, Babasaheb wrote, "Thank you, Panditji, for specifically sending me the list of books and the amount to purchase them. However, I already have these books. Having understood the importance of these books, I had purchased these long back." The list and the cheque were returned to Panditji. The small incident highlights Babasaheb's unbridled dedication to books and texts. ■

AN UNPARALLELED JURIST

Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was an accomplished lawyer. He had earned name and fame as an advising barrister at the Mumbai High Court. With his erudite thoughts and arguments, he helped light up many lives with prosperity and joy. Here are some touching incidents from his life, says Milind Nagpurkar.

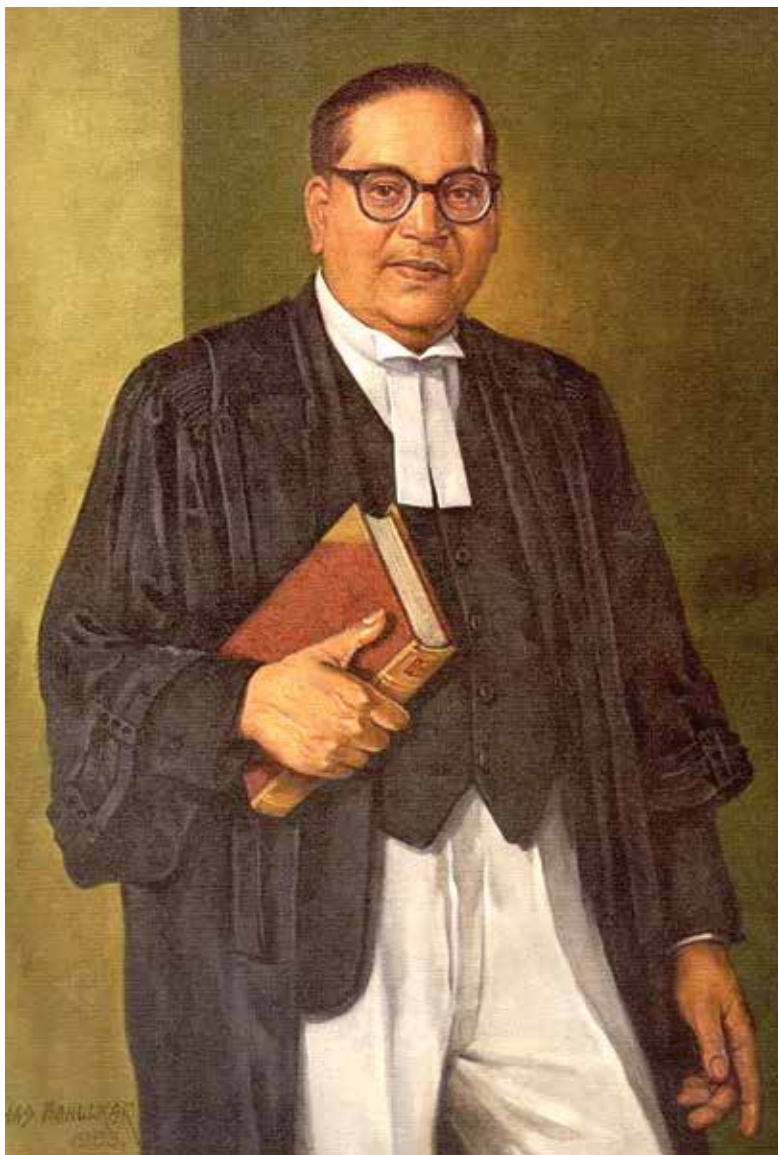
Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, a great revolutionary and Bharat Ratna, is very well-known for being the architect of the Constitution of India and the lifeline of the disadvantaged downtrodden sections. The world-renowned universities of England and America have been his think tanks. There is a place called Madurankulia in Sri Lanka, which has a 'Dr Ambedkar Community Centre' that propagates his thoughts and values. In Japan, there is a place called Koyasan, which is considered to be the birthplace of ancient Japanese Buddhist philosophies. Koyasan has honoured Dr Ambedkar by erecting his statue.

Dr Ambedkar was a lawyer par excellence. He would stun people with his flawless capabilities of cross-examination. He revealed the truth in court, case after case, and brought justice to many needy people. Without studying the intricacies of a case, he would never fight it in the court. He would happily spend his nights studying the same, much to the boredom of his team. Due to his rigorous study and application, many judges would pass appreciative remarks about him in the copies of their verdicts. He was an unusually sharp-minded man with an impressive command over English, and the judges would be awed by his arguments. He had become a part of the Mumbai High Court as an advising barrister.

BITTER EXPERIENCE

Many courts have become holy and pure just because Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar stepped into their premises. He fought many cases out of a sense of social duty. In London, while studying for his Bar exam, he endured extreme hardships. After becoming a barrister, he returned to Mumbai. When he began practising in the High Court, he was at the receiving end of untouchability. That was a bitter experience for him. If he was seated at a particular table in the Bar library, that table would be avoided by the lawyers of the upper castes.

If we examine Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's life, we get to see many aspects of this towering personality. When he went to Kolhapur after passing his Bar exam, Rajarshi Chha-



trapati Shahu Maharaj organised a grand procession for him in the city. Those days, Dr Ambedkar was living in the *Dabak chawl* of Parel. Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj even visited the place to congratulate Dr Ambedkar. It's no surprise that Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj was taken aback to see an accomplished lawyer like him living in such modest conditions. He began to speak about it. He said, "Babasaheb,

AUSPICIOUS START TO JUDICIAL FIGHT

In one instance, there was a First-Class Sub-Judge named Pandit in Nashik. He said, "Today, in my Mumbai court, there was a young barrister, who examined the witnesses and cross examined them with unusually good skill while sticking to the issue at hand. He seemed to be a very hardworking, scholarly man of high calibre." In the future, it was in Nashik that Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar got his first case (the 1923 case of Laxman Jadhav, Adgaon). It was from here that his judicial career started. Laxman Jadhav had mortgaged his farms with a *Marwari*. Babasaheb ensured that Laxman Jadhav's farms were returned to him.

by living in this small house, you have become a big man indeed! Please accept my congratulations." To this, Babasaheb replied, "I have lived in this chawl for years and studied in a house bustling with family members and children. However, they were no obstacle to me. Once I concentrate on my studies, my ears do not register anyone's words."



PIERCING CROSS EXAMINATION

Shankar Rao More and Shankar Rao Jedhe were two senior freedom fighters. In one of their speeches in Pune, they had criticised the renowned thinker, Anna Saheb Bhopatkar. Bhopatkar filed a case against them in the Pune court. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar was a fierce political adversary of both More and Jedhe, yet they asked him to represent them. On the day of the hearing, Dr Ambedkar grilled Bhopatkar

with his cross examination. While answering the questions, Bhopatkar broke into a sweat and was abjectly humiliated. His cross examination was incomplete and a new date was announced. However, the scholastic Bhopatkar was reduced to such dregs that he withdrew the case before the second hearing.

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of our Constitution had fought four cases in Thane court. In particular, he represented the convicted Brahmin who had been jailed for the *satyagraha* at Chirner in the Panvel region of Thane. In another instance, he fought for eight murder convicts and ensured that they were declared free of all charges.

DECLARATION OF INNOCENCE

The Thane court started in January 1803. In Mahad, for *Chavdar Talao*, a *satyagraha* took place. The Alibaug court declared five people guilty and sentenced them to four months of rigorous imprisonment. The appeal in that case went to the Thane court. To argue that case, Dr Ambedkar first came to Thane on 24th September 1927. The Zilla court had stuck to the decision of the lower court. In the Manikpur village of Vasai, some farmers died. A court case against Alep DiPrete, Shukriya alias Francis, Baskio Damel

and a teacher named Jesulusa was going on in the Thane court. On 13th October 1928, Dr Ambedkar came to argue the case on their behalf. They were all declared innocent.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT WAS AVOIDED

Due to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Shiv Appa Patil from the Hotagi area of Kolhapur district was spared of



A HELPING HAND

In south Satara district, there is a village called Nangole in the Miraj taluka. An unsupported widow named Lingobai lived there. While she was living in Mumbai, her husband, Maruti Landge, suddenly passed away. She went to Babasaheb to see him at Raja Griha. Babasaheb lent her a helping hand by filing a case against the company where her husband was employed. On the day of the hearing, Lingobai's innocent son, aged two and a half years, fell seriously ill. She placed the child at Babasaheb's feet and beseeched him to cure the child, saying, "Please save my child, he is the light of our family." Babasaheb said to her, "He is not only the light of your family, but also the seed of our downtrodden society." Babasaheb lovingly patted and caressed the child and ran his hand over the child's head while bottle feeding him. Babasaheb put everything on the line to win this case and secure justice for Lingobai.

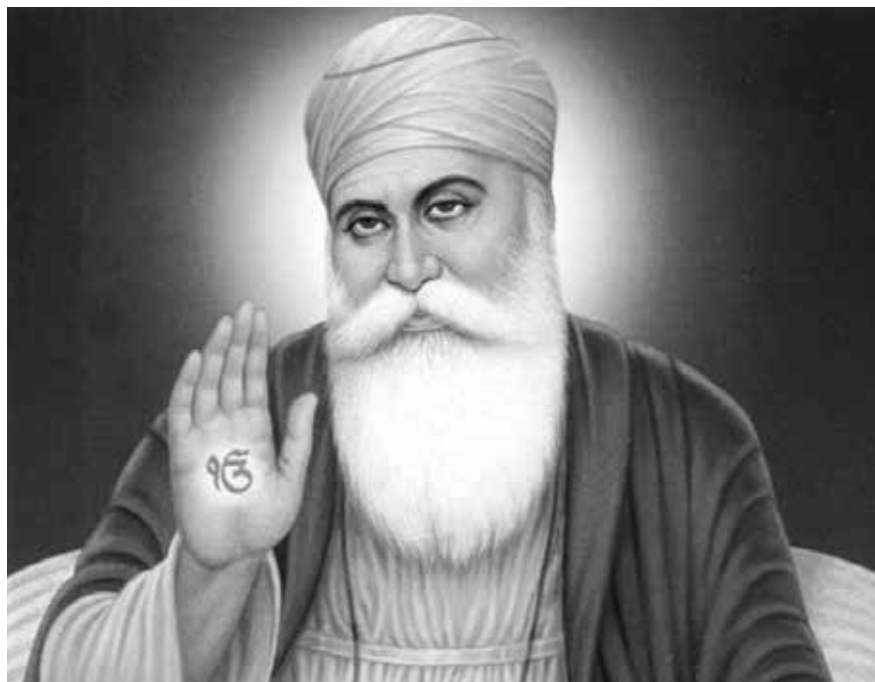
capital punishment. This incident dates back to 1936. Guru Nath Patil was a former MLA at the time. His brother, Siddhamappa Patil, said, "The British announced that my father was to be hanged until death in connection with a murder case. It was only due to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar that my father could walk away free. That is why, even today, we worship Dr Ambedkar before worshipping the family deities. We have diligently followed this tradition since the past 72 years.

"There was a lot of talk about the fact that Dr Ambedkar would be fighting the case. A very large crowd of people had thronged the Bijapur court precincts to see Babasaheb and hear him argue the case. After my father's acquittal, my brother Guru Nath, sister Hirabai and I were born. Without Babasaheb's intervention, we may not have been born to see this world. The Patil family's success in the political sphere can be attributed solely to Babasaheb. We will always remain indebted to him. It seems as though God came to our rescue in the form of Babasaheb and saved our family. We regard him as our God. On 14th April (his birth anniversary) we come together as a family and pray before his image."

ERUDITION OF ARGUMENTS

In 1940, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar went to Nagpur to fight the case of a man named Baba Mukta Van Das. He was to be hanged. When the hearing was on, the entire precinct of the court was filled with people. They wanted to see Dr Ambedkar and hear his erudite arguments and cross examination. The court was packed beyond capacity. Upon witnessing the enormous gathering, Babasaheb said, "This is a court, not a political rally." He was successfully able to get Baba Mukta Van Das acquitted. The decision to hang him to death was overruled.

Probably this next event dates back to 1950. A man named Bansi Lal Ramteke had been appointed as the ticket collector at Mumbai station, presently known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. Ramteke hailed from the village of Rajnandgaon. He had been jailed on some charges. Babasaheb took up the case and went to see Ramteke in jail. He said to Ramteke, "I can get you acquitted, but my fee is high. What can you give?" Bansi Lal replied, "Babasaheb, I can give my life for you if it comes to that." Babasaheb said, "I don't want your life. Use this life to spread the teachings of Buddha." Subsequently, Ramteke left his job as a ticket collector and began spreading the word of the *dhamma* all over. On Dr Ambedkar's Jayanti and Buddha Jayanti, he would organise spectacular processions giving rich tributes to the legends. ■



THE MESSAGE OF ONENESS

*When saying the name of Guru Nanak, a spiritual light and messenger of God, Sikh brothers and sisters express their utmost respect and call him Sri Guru Nanak Devji. For centuries, scholars and historians have been studying his teachings, as the path shown by him suggests direct access to God with no need of rituals or priests, says **Paramjot Singh Chahel**.*

Faith in God is necessary to build an efficient society and nation. It is understood that if there are several Gods, then there ought to be multiple ways to worship them. Conversely, if there is only one divine God, then there can be multiple paths to understand and attain Him. Great men have shown us these different ways. It is said that one must realise the soul through spirituality and God through worship. There are several ways to find out the relation between the soul and Super Soul (God). The founder and first guru of Sikhism, Sri Guru Nanakji searched God in humans. He said that God is present in this very cosmos.

SATYA AND SAT

Sri Guru Nanak Devji gave the message of *Satnaam*—the holy name of the Lord. The word is based on *Sat*, which is similar to *Satya* (truth). If one analyze the two words, one can spot a minor difference. The difference is similar to the one be-

tween water and dihydrogen monoxide (H_2O), which only the scientists or learned can understand.

Scientists study in depth. They conduct several experiments. Through their studies, they have concluded that water is not a single entity, but made of two elements. It is because water is a mixture of two gases, namely, hydrogen and oxygen. When these two gases combine, water is formed.

Satya and *Sat* are essentially the same and cannot be analysed, but if we try to understand them in depth, the differences between the two can be understood. *Sat* is something that is present in existence, of which, we can have an experience. At the same time, one cannot touch *Satya* or truth. It cannot be physically experienced. Let us understand this better with an example.

Stand in front of a mirror. Your reflection will appear in the mirror. However, you are not that reflection. That reflection and you are separate. The reflection is real, but cannot be experienced. On the other hand, you are *Sat* (truth), and your experience can be felt.

Similarly, numbers in mathematics are real. Yet, they do not provide an existential experience. We cannot touch them. Again, you are *Sat*. Your existence can be experienced. This makes those numbers and us different entities.

We see a dream in our sleep. It is real, but we cannot experience it. Once, you are awake, the dream is over. It means that even though a dream is real, then too, it cannot be experienced. You are *Sat*, you can be experienced.

A painter paints a painting. The painting is different and the painter is different! After creating a painting, even though the painter becomes separate, then too, the painting remains. It does not disappear. An experience of the painting can be felt; similarly, an experience of the painter can also be felt.

A sculptor creates a sculpture. The sculpture is different and so is the sculptor. However, having created the sculpture, the sculptor becomes separate from the sculpture; even then, the sculpture is not destroyed. An experience of the sculpture can be felt and that of the sculptor too!

The same is not true in the case of the dancer. As soon as the dance stops, that dance is over. It becomes past. As long as the dance is going on, till that time, the dance and the

dancer, both, are seen. But, the moment the dance stops, the dancer remains and the dance vanishes. In reality, dance and dancer, both, are one!

Painter and his painting are separate. Sculptor and sculpture are different and so are numbers in math and man.

God is the dancer and this world is his dance. Both are one. Design and the designer, both, are one. The creation and the creator are one. Sri Guru Nanak Devji says that if these two are actually one, then there is no need to renounce the world to seek it. There is no need to renounce the throne. There is no need to renounce wife and children. There is no need to maintain the vow of celibacy. There is no requirement for any rule, fast or *roza* (fasting). There is no need to perform penance by standing in a river on one leg. There is no need to live in the forest. There is no need to torment the body by performing abstinence from food.

GOD AND MAN

Guruji put emphasis on establishing a relationship between God and human being. He simplified and clarified the relationship between the two. He said that God and humans are one; and since they are one, a human being can establish a relationship with Him, even while staying in this world.

That which has existence is *Sat*. This world is *Sat*. *Sat* can be experienced. On the contrary, *Satya* (truth) can be seen, but, it cannot be experienced!

Guru Nanakji travelled around the world and after sitting in the river water for three nights, he attained Him. When he came out of that water, he began to look at this world from His eyes.

Further, when Guruji uttered the mantra after God's order, he began it with the number '1' of maths, and the first word that he spoke was *Satnaam*!

On the one hand, people walk on the path of devotion. They even perform devotion or penance by retreating to the forest. They renounce their family. They abdicate the throne. They seek 'soul-realisation' through penance by going away from the world and worldly matters. They torment the body. They get absorbed in devotion by giving up food and starve. Thinking that this world is a temptation and an illusion, they look for ways to be free. On the other hand, some people perform penance by standing in the waters of a river on one leg. Applying ash on the body, they chant on a string of beads. Some seek God by renouncing clothes. They perform worship and rituals. Worship and devotion have become the path to attain soul as well as the Super Soul.

SATISFACTION AND PEACE

Be it Gorakhnathji's *prasad* (food offered to God) or Guru Nanakji's *langar* (community kitchen), both talk about the path of liberation from ego. You have to raise your hand and ask for food inside a *langar*, as it is a *prasad*. The food cooked in the house is a meal, but, if the same food is offered to God in worship, then it becomes *prasad*. The food remains the same!

DEVOTIONAL SERVICE

The world automatically lags behind in performing worship like a realised one or a Buddha (The Enlightened One). Lord Buddha realised that the ego in the mind of a human being is the biggest roadblock on one's path. It is possible to attain God only after destroying this ego. Hence, Lord Buddha ordered to ask for alms by holding a bowl in the hand. If you ask for alms, then your ego is destroyed. It is to let go of 'I, me, myself'. This 'I' is an obstacle in your path. The day your ego vanishes, you attain God. Understand this from the example of a coin. One side of this coin has your image, while the other side has the God's image. The coin is one, but it is the only obstacle on the path between you and the Almighty. The coin means wealth, power and ego. If it is destroyed, then, you and God will become one. Guruji constantly urges us to destroy our ego.

The path of Lord Buddha and Guruji is but one. Both of them talk about destroying our ego. Guruji provides guidance to destroy the ego in an easy and simple manner. Like, by donating food instead of asking for alms, providing food to the people, organising *langar* and *bhandara*, serving the animals, and serving the Guru. Do all this by staying in this world. Live in society. Stay in good company. When providing service in a *langar*, destroy the ego that discriminates between castes. Quit the discrimination between superior and inferior. Bridge the gap between languages. Nobody is untouchable. Nobody is inferior. Nobody is rich and nobody is poor. Everyone is equal. Nobody is an emperor, nobody is a king and nobody is rich. As these differences and your ego being better than the rest disappear, you will move closer to Him.

Even in Guruji's *langar*, big donors give donations and expect that their names will be written in golden words. Their names will be glorified. Their photos will get published in a book. The impact of Guruji's words is on a decline. Be it *bhandara* or *langar*, we have to give up our egos. Then, there will be satisfaction and peace. When your ego is destroyed, then you will experience Him closer to you. Guruji used to say, "Do service, become a servant, become a slave, become a worker, and fall at the feet of the Guru. Accept his orders and do not keep any doubt in your mind. Everything is dependent upon his will and order. You are nothing. Destroy your ego. Destroy this ego that comes between you and God. This ego can be reduced with the help of a Guru. It is because of this ego that you think you are everything and God is nothing. Once this ego is destroyed, you realise that God is everything and you are nothing!"

Satnaam is the holy name of the Lord. Shri Guru Nanak Devji gave us the name of the Lord and the path to attain Him.

—Retired Judge; Member, Gurudwara Board, Nanded



The stall of Maharashtra Tourism at the World Travel Market 2019, London.

MAHARASHTRA TOURISM IMPRESSES LONDON

*Maharashtra Tourism participated in the recent World Travel Market exhibition in London. A platform to meet the world, the event helped the Department reach out to tourists and tourism-related professionals and inform them about the tourism attractions and facilities the State has, says **Irshad Bagwan**.*

Maharashtra Tourism was in London for the World Travel Market (WTM) exhibition, 4-6 November 2019. Many countries participated in the exhibition with the objective of attracting tourists, scholars and professionals by spreading awareness about their tourist attractions and services available in the destinations. Maharashtra opened a vista of tourism wealth for tourists and tourism professionals across the world. Smt. Vinita Ved-Singhal, Tourism Secretary, Maharashtra, Ramdas Khedkar, Deputy Director, Tourism and others represented Maharashtra in the exhibition.

B2B MEETINGS WITH COMPANIES AND OPERATORS

A dialogue was established with more

than 50 tourism institutions, professional companies and media agencies through the medium of B2B meetings. The State Tourism Secretary had a dialogue with global travel companies, tour operators, experts from tourism-archaeology-heritage areas, trekkers, wildlife enthusiasts, professionals from jungle safari and cruise tourism field, tourists and journalists alike.

The B2B meetings were held with representatives of tourism companies such as Yvonne Peach from Iceland Traveller; Sasha Aaru from Snap Production; Keith Jenkins, CEO, iambassador Travel Network and CMO Nicholas Montmagny; Alexander Kolis from World Show Media; David Keej, archaeology expert from Heritage News Media; Ravi Sharma, Editor, Sampan Media; Emanuel Farugia, Tour Leader, Villager Tour Malta;

Paulo Costa, Business Development Director, F1H20; Sudhir Patil, Director, Veena World; Tapani Kowhanin, Manager, Tobago Tourism Agency; Ruchit Thakkar, Managing Director, Saffron Dreams; Hasmukh Gohil, Chairman, Sun Trading Europe Limited; Rahul Laud, Associate Editor, *Asian Light*; Julian Matthews, Chairman, TOFTigers Initiative; Rakesh Patel, CEO, and Akshay Loomba, Head of Sales, Bharat Army Travel; Anna Au Yeung, Global Head, Destination Marketing, Travelport; Lokesh Bagga, Assistant Vice President, Le Passage To India; Ruchit Uppal from Twitter; Karan Surti, Ontime Hospitality Services; Sahu Namita and Rachna Gulati from Mediascope; Rishi Jain from Jain Aviation Consultants; Vinod Nalawade from Reed Exhibitions; and other tourism company representatives.

MEDICAL AND SOCIAL TOURISM

Comprehensive efforts were made to promote religious/spiritual tourism by providing information to foreign tourists about various mosques, churches, Buddhist caves, and other places of faith. Presentations about Ramayan Circuit and Buddha Circuit from Maharashtra were made for foreign tourists. Various tourism professionals and institutions showed willingness for further discussions, which are now being pursued through the Tourism Department.

MAHARASHTRA TOURISM STALL

Union Tourism Secretary Yogendra Tripathi inaugurated the Maharashtra Tourism Stall on the first day of the event. During the three-day event, thousands of tourists, tourism professionals and tourist companies visited the stall. Among many Indian officers who visited the stall were Jyoti Prakash

Panigrahi, Tourism Minister, Odisha, Sachin Jadhav, Director of Tourism, Odisha, Smt. Rashmi Verma, Tourism Secretary, Delhi, and others.

LADOO AND CHAKLI

Tourists, amateur traveller companies as well as higher-ups from various countries were given video pen drives with information about various tourist locations of Maharashtra as a souvenir at the Maharashtra Tourism stall. A tourism map of the State and informative brochures were also distributed.

Delicacies such as *ladoo* and *chakli* from Maharashtra placed at the stall were relished by the visitors. Maharashtra's food culture was explained to tourists, who also responded well to the culture programme organised in front of the stall. The tourism professionals also responded enthusiastically to these programmes.

MAHARASHTRA @ WTM

- B2B meetings with more than 50 tourism institutions and companies
- Discussions with various travel companies and groups
- Display of tourism wealth of Maharashtra
- Thousands of foreign tourists and professionals visited the stall
- Presentations of cultural programme in front of the stall
- Presentation of Maharashtra cuisine
- Visit to other stalls to gain information about some of their experiments
- Pen drives with English language videos distributed to amateur tourists, traveller companies and senior officers from various countries
- Distribution of Maharashtra tourism map and brochures

GLOBAL BOOST FOR MAHARASHTRA TOURISM

While speaking about the exhibition, Maharashtra State Tourism Secretary, Vinita Ved-Singhal said that tourists world over are attracted to India, and the State of Maharashtra has a variety to offer. "We have tried to seize this very attraction through the WTM Exhibition in London," she said.

The topic of tourism development in Maharashtra was discussed with eminent traveller companies, tour operators, adventure groups, wildlife tourism organisations, cruise professionals, publicity institutions, Indo-philos, club owners and student associations. All of them have shown a huge interest in Maharashtra Tourism. Smt. Vinita Ved-Singhal said that this will provide a huge acceleration to Maharashtra Tourism. "We shall project Maharashtra tourism on a global platform through such media and foreign tourist initiatives to attract tourists in large proportion," she said.



Maharashtra Tourism Secretary, Vinita Ved-Singhal meeting the visitors at the WTM 2019 exhibition in London.

Press conferences were organised for media reporters from London and other parts of the world.

STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL STALLS

Maharashtra team visited stalls of other countries that participated in the exhibition and gathered information about their various experiments. These included tourism leaders such as Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Egypt, Russia, Malta, Switzerland, France, Greece, Finland, Norway, USA, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Gulf countries such as UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar, and others. Besides, the exhibitions from countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Canada, South Africa, Kenya and others were visited to study their specialities. In addition, various stalls such as Incredible India from the Government of India, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Odisha and others were visited to note their exceptional points.

—Departmental Liaison Officer
(Tourism), DGIPR

MAHA PLANTATION DRIVE GETS RECOGNITION

*Maharashtra Forest Department has been awarded the JSW-Times of India Earth Care Award for the Plantation Management Information System for making optimum use of Information Technology for its 50-Crore Plantation Drive. It recognises the Department's efforts to solve complex climate change challenges. The digital forest governance project of the Department adopted an integrated approach to afforestation with IT interventions, from plantation planning to post-plantation survival monitoring, says **Dr Surekha Mulay**.*

In Maharashtra, a plantation management information system (PMIS) was developed exclusively for the 50-crore plantation drive that recognised the efforts of the Maharashtra Forest Department to implement climate-friendly practices. Both, people's participation and PMIS played a crucial role in the success of the drive. Former Forest Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar made a valuable contribution to the success of the campaign.

Efforts were made to involve every section of society, from sarpanch, gram sevaks, Zilla Parishad CEOs, Municipal Commissioners, Divisional Commissioners, Mayors, District Collectors, all departments of Government to the representatives of social organisations, entrepreneur-business groups, construction companies and celebrities from film and theatre industry.

People were appealed to plant and nurture trees through various cultural programmes; the campaign received an overwhelming response.

APPRECIATION BY THE PRIME MINISTER

During the mega drive, people from cities as well as villages planted trees in large numbers to make the campaign a success. The Forest Department's computerised system, PMIS, ensured near real-time monitoring of the massive plantation drive and of the survival rate and vegetation condition.

According to data of PMIS, more than 1.5 crore participants planted 58 crore trees at some 5.81 lakh plantation sites. The notable thing about the drive was that more than 27 crore saplings were planted on land other than forest sectors. These included the campuses of schools and colleges, vacant places in cities and villages, and parallel sides of roads, lands belonging to railways and alongside rivers and canals, places under Defence Ministry and farms, and others. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated the initiative in *Mann Ki Baat* programme.



Principal Secretary, Forests, Vikas Kharge accepting the award alongwith Principal Chief Conservators Umesh Kumar Agrawal and M.K. Rao.

The Forest Department accepted the prestigious award on behalf of each and every contributor of the campaign. With their participation, the people of Maharashtra made the project a big social movement. Societies like NIC and KPMG too gave their valuable contribution.

PERFECT IMPLEMENTATION

Tree plantation and afforestation is a key element to reduce the risk of global warming. Changes in seasons, frequent droughts, global warming, dry and polluted rivers, reduction in water table level are some of the challenges that are affecting humankind and posing a threat to our future. The tree plantation drive is an ambitious step taken by the State Government towards environment-friendly practices.

As per GR dated the 15th August 2015 every school and college should plant at least 20 saplings, resulting in plantation of 30 lakh trees on one day. On 1st July 2016, the pledges of planting two crore trees was made. About six lakh people participated in this mission.

Following the success of these earlier missions, the Maharashtra Forest Department next prepared a working plan to

plant 50 crore trees in the next three years. The Department decided to implement the campaign in three steps, i.e. plantation of 4 crore, 13 crore and 33 crore trees in the State.

The State Forest Department wanted to implement this campaign on a very large scale; and utilising only forest land would not be enough to ensure the success of the task. Therefore, the Department decided to implement tree plantation on other than forest lands as well, like the areas surrounding rivers, roads, farms, and water conservation projects like Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan. The Department signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Defence, and Railways, Urban Development and Road Transport Departments. As part of this MoU, the respective Departments gave consent to plant saplings on the vacant land under their sectors. Besides, tree plantation was conducted simultaneously on national highways. As part of the mission, attempts were made to increase green cover near river beds, vacant places, and infertile and fodder lands.

All Departments of the State Government and their branch offices, school and college students, social organisations, people from business and film industry united to make this campaign a grand success. The most remarkable aspect about the campaign was that it saw participation and response of people from every section of society.

MISSION TREE PLANTATION

The resolution to plant four crore trees in 2017 was accomplished with actual plantation of 5.43 crore trees. In 2018, the target of 13 crore trees was completed with the plantation of 15.88 crore trees. About 16 and 36 lakh people participated in these missions, respectively. As mentioned earlier, the Forest Department implemented the campaign in three steps: first by planting two crore trees, second by planting four crore trees, and third by planting 13 crore trees, respectively. The *Limca Book of Records* too appreciated the Maharashtra Government's mission and honoured the Forest Department with a certificate three times.

The Forest Department next passed a resolution to plant 33 crore trees during July-September 2019. Under this drive, 35,13,76,361 saplings were planted through the participation of 95,19,635 people. The Maharashtra Forest Department made optimum use of information technology (IT), which helped to create faster, efficient and people-oriented administration, under a unique initiative to digitally record the trees planted. These developments and ease in work culture led to higher success rate and better public participation. The use of IT gave transparency and reliability to the campaign. An app, My Plant was developed by the Department to register the exact number of planted saplings. Information about more than five lakh saplings planted has been registered in this app. An independent command room has been developed at the Nagpur office of the Forest Department for this task.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Maharashtra Forest Department is honoured with the Earth Care Award 2019 under the category of Innovation in Climate Change. The award is a joint initiative of JSW and The Times of India Group. The department bagged the award for the digital forest governance for the 50 Crore Tree Plantation drive. The award included ₹3 lakh, a memento and a certificate.

For the selection of the winner, there was a committee of 11 members under the president-ship of noted scientist Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar. The committee paid a visit to the tree plantation site and observed the work. The forest department answered queries raised by the committee members and gave detailed representation of the campaign. The committee verified the work of the department, such

as replicable initiatives and interventions on the greenhouse gases (GHG) emission reduction, natural resource conservation, reduction in the intensity of climate change influence, and large involvement of people from every level of society.



MOTIVATIONAL SCHEMES

The resolution of tree plantation alone could not have made this mission possible. There was a need to involve a large number of people for its success. Hence, the Forest Department implemented schemes like Vanyukta Shivar, Rop Aplya Dari, Kanya Van Samruddhi Yojana, Vansheti, Bhausaheb Fundkar Falbag Lagwad Yojana, Atal Bamboo Samruddhi Yojana, and many fruit production programmes to motivate people. The Department planted fruit-bearing trees in large numbers under the campaign to aid the farmers.

AUGMENTATION IN GREEN COVER

The Earth Care Award is an honour not only for the Forest Department, but also for the people of Maharashtra, who celebrated tree plantation as a festival in the last three years. According to the forest survey, there is a considerable increment that took place in green (tree) cover in the State. The green cover increased by 273 sq. km on other than forest land. The water-rich areas in forest and bamboo sector have increased by 432 sq km and 4462 sq km, respectively. At present, Maharashtra has 20 per cent of forest cover. To increase it to 33 per cent, there's an urgent need to plant more than 400 crore trees. Hence, people in the State should voluntarily cooperate and actively participate in the tree plantation mission with more energy and efforts.

—Senior Assistant Director

CLIMATE CHANGE CALLS FOR AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT

*When the temperature of air increases, the air pressure reduces and the winds flow from areas of high pressure to low pressure bringing moisture-laden air. Water molecules are formed in areas with lower pressure, thus, bringing rain. In cases where the temperature remains less than average, the air pressure increases and leads to a drought-like situation. Such a shift in climate is termed as climate change. Unseasonal rains in some areas of the State and the resulting agricultural losses are now a regular feature. Hailstorms and unpredictable rainfall during the months of February, March, April and May also bring losses, says **Prof. Deepali Mutkule**.*

Climate change experts from the global organisation, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Al Gore and Rajendra K. Pachauri had mentioned in their special report on Global Warming that the temperature around the Earth has increased by 0.5 degrees Celsius after 1955. The report suggested 1998 to be the hottest year in the 20th century and proved that the temperature on the planet has been rising fast.

Climate change, an increasing number of vehicles on the road, rising industries and air-conditioned buildings emit greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane that warm the planet. Methane gas is also emitted through ruminating animals. Excessive use of nitrogen fertilisers leads to the increase of nitrous oxide. While on the one hand air pollution is constantly increasing, on the other the forests and plants that use carbon dioxide are being decimated on a large scale.

Humans have so far destroyed 60 million hectare of forests in Asia. This means that a potent, natural way of decreasing carbon dioxide by converting it into oxygen has been wasted. This has led to a rise in the proportion of carbon dioxide in the air. The carbon dioxide gas traps the energy and heat of sunlight, and is believed to be the reason for the rise in Earth's temperature. That is the reason its increase in the atmosphere is called global warm-

ing. When the temperature of the air increases, the air pressure reduces and the winds flow from higher pressure areas to lower pressure areas, bringing moisture-laden air with it. Water molecules are created at locations with lower pressure, resulting in rain and heavy rain.

In areas where the temperature remains less than average, the air pressure increases and leads to water scarcity. This phenomenon also

falls under climate change. Unseasonal rains in some areas and the resulting agricultural losses are now a regular feature. Unpredictable hailstorms and rains during the months of February, March, April and May also bring agricultural losses.

ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT

Change in crop system: Reducing the area of cotton crop and replacing it



with pigeon pea, soybean, maize, beans and chilli may help in addressing climate change.

The area under cotton cultivation has been rapidly increasing in Maharashtra. This is largely due to Bt cotton seed. Farmers have been told that the yield of this genetically-altered variety of cotton would be higher. Hence, the area under its cultivation is on increase. In practice, the cotton cultivation takes about 7 to 7.5 months. The monsoon period lasts for around four months. Thus, the period of rains and cotton do not match, and creates a serious issue with the increase in the area under cotton crop.

About 94 per cent of the area under cotton is dry farming type. Due to the lack of adequate water supply during its cultivation, the average productivity of the crop in the State is just 2.93 quintals per hectare. As the expenses on production are higher and the productivity is meagre, the income is less than the expenditure, thereby placing cotton farmers under financial stress and severe financial debt. It is, therefore, necessary to reduce 40 lakh hectares of area under cotton to 20-30 lakh hectares. Cultivating crops such as pigeon pea, soybean, maize, beans, chilli on this land is thus important to bring about perennial agricultural production.

Using soil separator and water channel system: As a remedial measure, it is necessary to increase the use of soil separator and water channel systems and train the farmers in the seeding of both soybean and beans on the wide soil separators. This is likely to result in higher production per hectare.

Closed beds for rabi crops and jowar: Large-sized beds should be prepared to store rainwater. The size of the bed should be according to the slope of the soil. While preparing beds, levelling should be carried out by machine and separators, and water channels should be prepared-

MICRO IRRIGATION

If drip irrigation is used, water up to 50 per cent can be saved. It will then be possible to double the present area under horticulture. For this, it is necessary to implement a water supply system through a closed pipe. If liquid fertilisers are used in water-scarce areas through drip irrigation, it will be possible to reap higher production and attain savings of up to 50 per cent.



Emphasis should be laid on cultivation of crops such as capsicum, gerbera, carnation, rose, tomato and others in a poly-house. Every farmer should establish a poly-house on a minimum of 10 guntha or 1,000 sq. metres of land, with a drip water supply and liquid fertilisers bringing out the best quality of agricultural produce. This will increase both production and productivity.

by a plough, keeping an appropriate distance. In this way, the beds can be prepared at a lower cost. As the rainwater percolates in the soil, it proves to be useful for the growth of jowar. The production increases by 30 per cent per hectare. It is essential to use this method of water conservation at the source for rabi crops and jowar.

Increasing area under gram for rabi harvest: Gram crop can be taken up in areas where rainfall is low and water is scarce. Horticultural gram should be sown where 2 waters are available. Dry farming gram should be sown in October and water channels should be prepared. The rainwater will penetrate the ground through these channels and productivity of the village will increase.

Following Intercrop system: Intercrop system is definitely better than the single crop method. The intercrop provides a bonus production. In dry farming areas, it is beneficial to take up crops such as millet + pigeon pea (2:1); soybean + pigeon pea + green gram or black gram in the horticultural areas; sugarcane + potato/peanut, sugarcane + gram, sugarcane + onion, and sugarcane + cabbage are other possible combinations of intercrops.

Using covers: Under dry farming conditions, it is possible to reduce the speed of evaporation. Similarly, covers are necessary during the summer harvest in fruit farming.

Use of light reflectors: With spraying of eight per cent kaolin and resorting to light reflection, the speed of evaporation can be reduced. The method should be used for horticultural crops during water scarcity periods.

Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan, a boon: The Government of Maharashtra has started to resolve its water shortage challenge by constructing link dams and lakes in 5,000 villages per year under the Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan. This will create huge water conservation and water storage, resulting in an increase in groundwater level, which will then resolve drinking water and animal fodder issues in dry farming areas.

—Assistant Professor, Agricultural Meteorology, Smt. K. S. K. (Kaku) College of Agriculture, Beed.

OBSERVANCE OF MAHAPARINIRVAN DAY



The Coordination Committee for Mahaparinirvan Day has appealed to the disciples arriving for the 63rd Mahaparinirvan Day of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar (5-6 December 2019) to follow the below-mentioned measures.

- As Mahaparinirvan Day is a sad day, everyone should observe the same with seriousness.
- Visitors should meditate on the thoughts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and carry out self-examination.
- While paying homage to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, one should wear white clothes and resolve to lead a virtuous life and remember the 22 Vows.
- Anyone arriving at Chaityabhoomi to pay respects to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar should use the arrival and departure routes decided by the Municipal Corporation.

People should maintain queues in a disciplined manner and peacefully. Any black threads on arm, neck and hands should be removed.

- Disciples arriving from other cities or faraway places should be given priority in the queue.
- Please follow the instructions of volunteers, activists, and Municipal Corporation and Police.
- It is possible that children, senior citizens and women may lose their way in the crowd. Please ensure that the family's complete contact information is available with them.
- Disciples should follow the peaceful way of Gautam Buddha, beginning with the tradition of reciting community prayers. No one should push others, as even a small such incidence could lead to a gruesome stampede.
- Visiting women disciples should not wear flowers in their hair.
- It is advised not to purchase items of entertainment at Shivaji Park ground.
- Literature related to Buddha-Ambedkar, books, CDs, *dharmadhwaj*, badges and *dharmadharma* calendars based on scientific thoughts may be purchased.
- Any type of musical instruments should not be played. There should not be any sloganeering. Old clothes should not be purchased from hawkers selling these in an unauthorised way.
- Do not touch any unidentified object. Police should be immediately informed if you see any such object.
- Beware of people spreading superstitions or fake news.
- Do not smoke. Do not create obstructions for people and traffic by standing in groups on a traffic route.
- No food should be cooked in any stall. Use of inflammable substances should be avoided completely. Dial 101 for fire-fighting system in case of an emergency.
- Fire for cooking or heating should not be lit at night. Care should be taken that the sparks do not spread to nearby areas.
- Every disciple should stay alert. If any suspicious person or thing is found, keep a watch on the person and immediately call the police.
- For any assistance, contact the Police Control Room, Municipal Corporation Cell or volunteers of the Mahaparinirvan Day Coordination Committee.
- The areas reserved for movement of disciples, Chaityabhoomi and Shivaji Park should be kept clean. Waste should not be thrown in the open.

—Nagsen Kamble, General Secretary, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Mahaparinirvan Day Coordination Committee, Mumbai

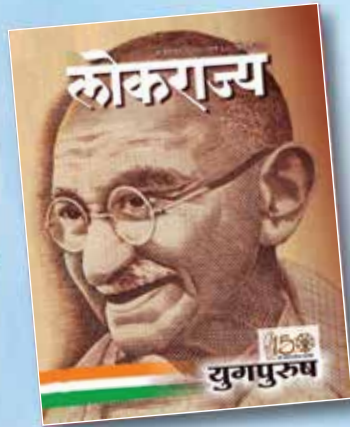


A huge memorial has been built at Mhow, the birthplace of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.



The residence of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in New Delhi at 26, Alipore Road is an important and historic memorial.

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