

CLASSICAL LANGUAGE MARATHI | SHRAMNIRMIT JALSWARAJYA | RAJGAD: THE KING OF FORTS

# Maharashtra Ahead

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# MARATHI

I SPEAK MARATHI, I HEAR MARATHI, I KNOW MARATHI, I RESPECT MARATHI

# MARATHI BHASHA

*Gaurav Din*

**We should have trust in the immense capacity of our mother tongue**

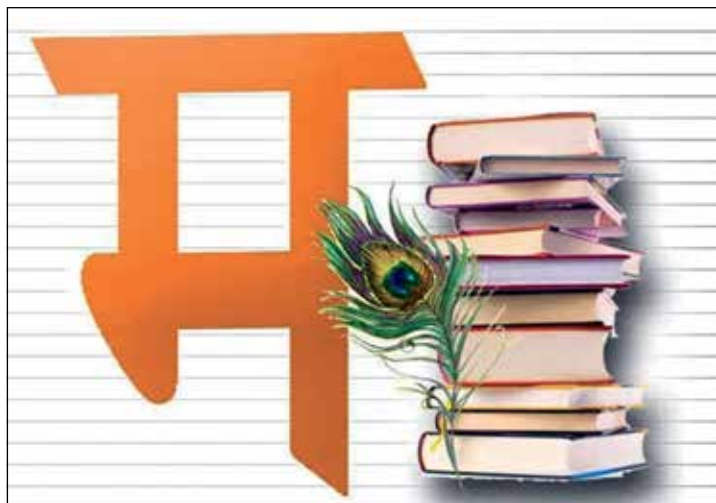
A language never flourishes in imprisonment. Today's prevalent Marathi has also been enriched by absorbing in itself words from many languages and colloquial terms. The language of any lively community or society never stagnates like a pond. Instead, it is like a flowing river, welcoming and absorbing in it streams of new knowledge and thoughts. It can progress only by keeping touch with other progressive languages. Many languages that refused to do so, by sticking to rituals of purity, have died a natural death, and history has many such examples to show. Marathi has, however, kept this sensibility in its long journey of around 15 centuries. It has flourished by absorbing words and terminologies from other languages. That is why I say that, we, its children, who doubt its capability of facing the challenges of new age successfully, are really weak! We are not against any language...and certainly not against English, which has been nurturing us with the love of an aunt! We only wish that our aunt hands over the control of our home to our mother. So, the question that we are facing is not of boycotting English, but of protecting and nurturing our very own Marathi!

A language is not just a compilation of words. It is a force that takes forward society's philosophical and ideological treasure through continuously flowing streams of time, and which eventually gives unity, integrity, dimension and depth to the changing face of society. All the perceptions and inspirations of that society are intertwined in it like a string of beads. So, the danger faced by Marathi is not about its dictionary or its literature, but about Marathi culture, Marathi pride and the future of all Marathi people. A pioneering revolutionary has rightly said that one can sow the seeds of progress or revolution only on the banks of that society's mother tongue. Sant Eknath, a renowned saint of Maharashtra who wrote extensively in the language of the people, has once angrily asked, "Sanskrit is created by God, then is it that Prakrit (people's everyday language) is created by thieves?" We can ask the same question today in connection with English! In those days, the Brahmins controlled society by taking advantage of their knowledge of Sanskrit. Today, sadly, around 4-5 per cent of the people who are experts in English have taken the same position. Are we going to endanger the future of around eight crore people for the vested interests of these 5 per cent people? We need to seriously think about this.

Many scientists, intellectuals and experts have repeatedly told that it is better to teach all subjects in the mother tongue using English terminology, wherever necessary. So, it is to be kept in mind, that protection and promotion of our mother tongue is not a question of Mantralaya or of any Government department, but of the whole of society. If keeping this in mind, the Government solicits the help and support of all sections of society then I don't think that this challenge is insurmountable! Marathi can also very well achieve what other progressive languages of the world have achieved! The only thing that is needed is that we should have trust in the immense capacity of our mother tongue, Marathi, which can even beat the divine elixir (*amrit*) in sweetness!

*—Excerpts from the presidential speech of V. V. Shirwadkar alias poet Kusumagraj at Jagatik Marathi Parishad, Mumbai, August 12-13, 1989.*

V. V. Shirwadkar, famously known as the great Marathi poet Kusumagraj, has contributed a lot to the literary and cultural fields of Maharashtra. He is the second author to win the very prestigious Jnanpith Puraskar after well-known author V. S. Khandekar. To honour his contribution and to pay him respects, his birthday, February 27, is celebrated as Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din by the Government of Maharashtra.



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### CLASSICAL MARATHI, HERE ARE THE EVIDENCE

Based upon the research of great scholars like S. V. Ketkar, Rajaramshastri Bhagwat, V. K. Rajwade, Iravati Karve, K. P. Kulkarni, Datto Vaman Potdar, V. L. Bhawe and R. B. Joshi, it is evident that *Maharashtri* (Marathi) language is at least 2,500 years old. If this 2500-year-long journey of the language is unfolded with evidence, it would undoubtedly prove its classical status. In other columns, we discuss the need to preserve indigenous languages like Marathi and the State Government's initiatives to promote and enrich Marathi.



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### BOOST TO INDUSTRY, PROGRESS TO STATE

For the all-round development of Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has given utmost priority to employment generation. He met with renowned industrialists to discuss problems prevailing in the industrial sector and to bridge the gap between businesses and the Government to ensure that there is an increase in investment in the State. For the State to progress, it is important that all sectors are given equal importance and scope for development.



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### CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, BLESSED TOURISM

Minister Aditya Thackeray has undertaken the responsibility of tourism, environment and protocol departments and has brought a new sense of excitement and trust in the minds of people. The effectiveness of a young mind in handling the reigns of these important departments is clearly visible. In an interview to the DGIPR, he explained the ideas of the youth, new and fresh concepts and their objectives, and the roadmap of development in the near future.



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### A SMALL COUNTRY'S GIANT LEAP

Israel is comfortably located between Africa and Asia, enjoying a splendid climate and a unique diversity of cultures and natural beauty. Good connectivity and convenient proximity between its attractions make the country a favourable destination for a growing number of tourists. The country not only has healthy bilateral relations with India, but also with the State of Maharashtra, which both sides want to make stronger in future.

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Letters should be addressed to  
Directorate General of Information and  
Public Relations,  
New Administrative Building, 17th Floor,  
Opposite Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032.  
Email: maharashtraahead.dgipr@gmail.com

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## Majhya Marathi Maticha. . .

*Majhya marathi maticha.*

*Lava lalatas tila.*

*Hichya sangane jagalya.*

*Daryakhoryatil shila.*

*Hichya kushit janmale.*

*Kale kanakhar haat.*

*Jyanchya durdam dhirane.*

*Keli mrutuwari maat.*



*Nahi pasarala kar.*

*Kadhi magayas daan.*

*Swaru sinhasanapudhe.*

*Kadhi lavali na maan.*

*Hichya gaganat ghume.*

*Aadya swatatrachi dwahi.*

*Hichya putranchya bahut.*

*Ahe samatechi gwahi.*

*Majhya marathi maticha.*

*Lava lalatas tila.*

*Hichya sange jagatil.*

*Maydeshatil shila*

— Kusumagraj



# MARATHI: THE GLORY AND LEGACY LIVES ON!



**Subhash Desai**

Minister for Industries,  
Mining, Marathi Language

*"Amuchya Manamanat dangate Marathi, Amuchya ragaragat rangate Marathi,*

*Amuchya uraaraat spandate Marathi, Amuchya nasanasat nachate Marathi"*

(Marathi enthalls our minds, Marathi colours our souls, Marathi reverberates in our hearts, Marathi flows in our veins)

These are the lines of the acclaimed poet, Suresh Bhatt that perfectly describe the importance of Marathi language.

Marathi is in every breath we take and it is our pride. It is indeed our great fortune that we can speak and hear Marathi.

Many distinguished people have described Marathi's importance. The great saint-poet Dyaneshwar has likened Marathi with *amrit* (nectar). He compares the sweetness of Marathi to that of nectar! Father Stephens too rightfully underlines the importance of Marathi language. He says that it stands out among other languages, like the Sun, Moon or the 12 zodiac signs among the infinite galaxies!

Marathi language has a long and glorious history of over 2,000 years that has been substantiated with lot of testimonies. These proofs are enough to accord the language an elite classical status or the status of a classical language. I am confident that soon our efforts in this regard will show positive results. To us, Marathi language is like the glistening sword of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj—the same sword which proudly furlled the flag at Raigad and shook the very core of the Delhi Empire. It was no wonder then that with such pride in our hearts for Marathi, soon after our Government came to power, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray wrote a letter to the Prime Minister. In the special letter written to him, he appealed and requested the Prime Minister to not delay crowning Marathi language with the classical status it truly deserves.

Since Marathi is our heartbeat, retaining and growing its glory is our top priority. We have already instructed that all the remarks on the files in Mantralaya will have to be strictly written in Marathi else they will be sent back. We will not tolerate a secondary treatment given to Marathi language.

We are committed to strengthen and empower Marathi Language Department for the enrichment of Marathi. We are going to involve many renowned litterateurs and experts for this purpose. Recently, we invited acclaimed writer, Padma Shri Madhu Mangesh Karnik and other experts to discuss this. We will definitely consider valuable suggestions of other people, who equally aim to make Marathi even more glorious. We

are working on a comprehensive policy to enrich the language.

Several unique initiatives will be taken up by the Directorate of Languages, Literature and Cultural Board, Rajya Marathi Vikas Sanstha and Vishvkosh Mandal. All these departments function under the Marathi Language Department. Some of the initiatives include making efforts to bring modern technology and knowledge for creating new literature, language research and enrichment of Marathi language. The impetus will be given to the initiatives launched for promoting Marathi language, such as village of books to *Rangavaikhari*—an inter-college theatre festival based on Marathi literature. We will try to involve maximum Marathi-speaking people from all over the country in our initiatives. We are going to fast-track the much-delayed proposal of building *Marathi Bhasha Bhawan* in Mumbai. I assure you that in near future, a very magnificent *Bhasha Bhawan* will be built that will be the pride of all Marathi lovers.

The glory of Marathi lies in its various dialects. We want to bring these dialects into mainstream so as to expand the scope of Marathi language. We are going to be particularly focused on making Marathi the language of modern technology, skill development and knowledge. We believe that Marathi should not be confined only to books and literature. We want to make it a compulsory subject up to class 10th in all schools in Maharashtra. Everyone living in Maharashtra should know Marathi and all the day-to-day work of the State should be done in Marathi.

The Marathi language is generous and has adapted many words from other languages yet its chastity and originality are intact! One of the features of the language is its all-inclusivity, which all non-Maharashtrians should appreciate. They should embrace the language just the way it has embraced and included everyone in its fold.

Marathi language mesmerises people with its beauty and gives them a true linguistic pleasure. As famous poet Guru Thakur aptly describes, "Marathi is sometimes tender, sometimes sharp

as a glistening sword, sometimes as elegant and beautiful as a *paithani* sari, sometimes its fragrance is as divine as musk, and sometimes it is as mellifluous as if riding the music itself!"

It is the duty and responsibility of every Maharashtrian to help Marathi language get the prestige and honour it deserves. Let us all come together to fulfil this commitment and fly the flag of Marathi higher and higher.

We extend our best wishes to the people of Maharashtra on *Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din*. We also pay our respects to the great poet, *Kusumagraj* on whose birthday and memory we celebrate this day. On this special occasion, we have included some articles on Marathi language in this issue. We hope you will enjoy reading them.

Best wishes to all!

**Subhash Desai**

Guest Editor



**A**t the first meeting of the Marathi Language Advisory Committee, the then Chief Minister had declared that the Government would make efforts to obtain the Classical Language status for Marathi. In these discussions, attention was drawn to the criteria evolved by the Centre to determine the status consisting these points: high antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years; a body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers; the literary tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community; the classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or offshoots.

A point that emerged was that even though Marathi is at the tenth rank in the world, it cannot get the status of a classical language as it is not more than 2,000 years old. The book published in 1933, *Marathi Bhasha Udgam Va Vikas*, by Krushnaji Pandurang Kulkarni, Director, *Marathi Sanshodhan Mandir*, is considered valuable regarding the origin of Marathi language. In the book, Kulkarni says that all *Prakrit* languages, *Apbhramsha* and Sanskrit have helped in their own way to produce Marathi. Various communities speaking various *Prakrit* languages descended from Aryavart (northern parts of Indian subcontinent) to Maharashtra at various periods and settled here. Marathi was born due to their mixed speaking. As the Maharashtra State was formed by small regions like *Goprashttra*, *Mallarashttra*, *Ashmak*, *Kuntal*, *Vidarbha* and *Konkan*, and Maharashtra's populace was formed by various communities, Marathi language was formed by the synthesis of various *Prakrit* languages, especially *Maharashtri* and *Apbhramsha*. As mentioned above, the Maharashtra nation, community and language originated around 600-700 CE (page 168).

#### IN-DEPTH CLOSE OBSERVATION

In this research book, K. P. Kulkarni

## CLASSICAL MARATHI, HERE ARE THE EVIDENCE...



Based upon the research by great scholars like S. V. Ketkar, Rajaramshastri Bhagwat, V. K. Rajwade, Iravati Karve, K. P. Kulkarni, Datto Vaman Potdar, V. L. Bhavé and R. B. Joshi, it is evident that *Maharashtri (Marathi) language is at least 2,500 years old. If this 2500-year-long journey of the language is unfolded with evidence, it would undoubtedly prove its classical status, says Hari Narke.*

reviews this topic in depth. In order to cover all aspects of the subject, he used 32 valuable reference books of scholars in this field. According to him, Marathi's age is reckoned to be around 1300-1400 years. If this is true, then Marathi would not get the status of a classical language. Regarding this, let us try to figure out the picture by referring to books such as *Prachin Maharashtra* Volume 1 and 2 by Dr. Shreedhar

Vyankatesh Ketkar, *Gatha Saptashati* of Hāla's *Saatvahans*, edited by S. A. Jogalekar, *Bruhatkatha* by Gunadhya, and books by Rajaramshastri Bhagwat, Durga Bhagwat, Iravati Karve, V. K. Rajwade, V. L. Bhavé, R. B. Joshi, et al.

H. A. Bhavé has translated in Marathi the great scripture *Katha Saritsagar* consisting of five volumes, each one of which has an analytical preface by the famous scholar Durga Bhagwat. In

these, she mentions that Gunadhya's *Bruhatkatha* is comparable with the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. One point regarding ancient Indian literature is that many books/scriptures are lost and numerous books/scriptures are in disorder. Gunadhya's *Bruhatkatha* is one such book. References about *Bruhatkatha* are found in many old books. Books that are directly or indirectly related to *Bruhatkatha* are available in Sanskrit and Prakrit. These books have originated through *Shaiva* and *Vaishnav* beliefs and a book of Jain belief is also available. Thus, undoubtedly, *Bruhatkatha* was one popular ancient book that was acknowledged by various traditions.

There are two scriptures directly related to *Bruhatkatha*. Both of them are from Kashmir and were obtained in the 11th century. They are in Sanskrit and based on the *Shaiva* belief. Somdev's *Katha Saritsagar* is the first world-famous book and the second is Kshemendra's *Bruhatkatha Manjiri*. Both scriptures are in verse form and the metre is *Anushtubh*. Translations of *Katha Saritsagar* are also available in European languages. However, only one translation of *Bruhatkatha Manjiri* is available in English and that too of some portions only. In the 11th century, Somdev Sharma, a poet in the court of King Anant of Kashmir, composed *Katha Saritsagar* in Sanskrit from the then available *Bruhatkatha* in *Paishachi* language, to please Suryavati, the queen of King Anant. Durga Bhagwat mentions that Somdev says at the beginning of the book itself that he had composed it on the basis of Gunadhya's *Bruhatkatha* and had also written the biography of Gunadhya.

#### ANCIENT MAHARASHTRA

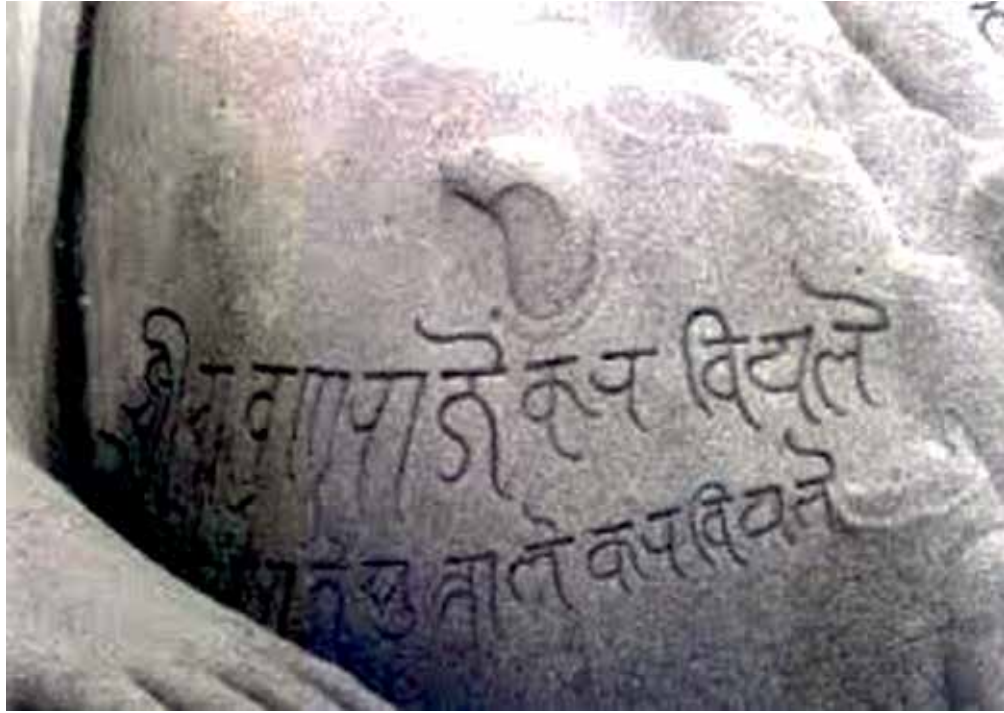
In his book, *Prachin Maharashtra*, Dr. S. V. Ketkar says that *Bruhatkatha* was the foremost well-known scripture in *Paishachi*. It is the protector of history and its distortion post Kuru war. Therefore, a systematic extraction of history from *Bruhatkatha* can be noticed in the said scripture. Many questions have been posed about its interpretation of

history. One is regarding the period of *Bruhatkatha*. As it is a collection of stories from all over India, and stories like *Pratishthankatha* and *Dakshinapathkatha*, *Kundinpur Katha* have been included in it, it becomes a major source in the study of the history of Maharashtra. *Vararuchi* contributed in compiling this collection, and since he is considered the pioneer of Marathi grammar, it has become necessary to mention more about him.

It is our opinion that *Vararuchi's Maharashtra* is from the pre-Buddha period and his grammar precedes the rise of *Pali* or *Ardhamagadhi* languages. The period of the dominance of *Paishachi* directs us to *Vararuchi's* grammar period. *Paishachi* was the language of literature for a few generations before *Vararuchi's* period. *Maharashtri* language was

languages and the word 'Maharashtra' existed. Even so, a bright and major period of Maharashtra's history is the age of *Vararuchi* and *Panini*. *Vararuchi's* period must not have been very far from that of *Panini*, and *Vararuchi* and *Panini* being almost contemporary, an imagination must have been quoted that they were disciples of the same Guru and this came in the legends of scholarly class and must have been included in *Kathapeeth Lambak*. It is our opinion that the period of the composition of *Kathapeeth Lambak* is the beginning of the Mauryan Empire (pages 11-12).

Further, he says that the word 'Maharashtra' and language existed in the period of *Vararuchi*, and this language was at its peak at that time. If the period of *Vararuchi* is considered to be be-



Marathi inscription at the foot of Gomateshwara idol at Shravanabelagola: *Shrichamundaray karviyale Gangaray suttale karaviyale* is recognised as the oldest inscription in Marathi in ancient India.

fully developed in that period and it is clear that it was the major *Prakrit* language. We can say that this period was of course about 200-300 years before *Vararuchi*. Thus, at the time of the evolution of *Prakrit Prakash*, it is quite possible that the grammar of all four *Prakrit*

tween 800 and 600 BCE, Maharashtra's independent language should have developed 200 to 300 years earlier. Thus, the period of Maharashtra's first development leads us to a period before the first millennium BCE, which is the second millennium BCE. It seems that



the union of Maha and Rattha nations happened in the second millennium BCE, which is the reason behind the name of this language. King Ashmak entered the Kuru war and the Ashmaks prevailed since the Kuru war. Attempts were obviously made to associate the union of Mahas and Rathas and the constancy of the Ashmak Empire. The Rathas spread in the Maha's nation and Maharashtra was created before the Ashmak rule started, and thus the Ashmak dynasty emerged from the combined people of Mahas and Rathas, as it seems the history (page 13).

#### HĀLA'S SAPTASHATI

As regards Hāla's *Saptashati*, Dr. Ketkar says that it is a very ancient literary work of Maharashtra. It shows that Haliks were the main *Janapad* at that time. The two regions of Godavari banks and Vindhya ranges appear in literature. The preferred name of the language was *Prakrit* (page 29). Ketkar estimates that the *Apbhransha* language arose in the Saatvahan period as *Bruhatkatha* testifies that *Apbhransha* existed in Saatvahan period.

Durga Bhagwat has edited *Rajaramshastri Bhagwat Yanche Nivadak Sahitya*, and its first volume *Marhathyasambandhane Char Udgar* throws light on this subject. Rajaramshastri Bhagwat says, "The word 'Maharashtra' is quite old. When the Nands were ruling Magadh, that is about 425 years before the Shalivahan Shaka, there was a scholar named Vararuchi. He had written *Prakrit Prakash*, the grammar of Prakrit language, which is *baalhasha* (child language) in Sanskrit plays. The very last formula of this grammar is *Shesham Maharashtraivat*. There is a legend in Buddhism that Ashoka sent some Buddhist monks to Maharashtra



The pillar at Nevas. Saint Dnyaneshwar wrote *Dnyaneshwari* here.

for sermons. Now Chandragupta ruled after the Nands. After Chandragupta, his son Bindusara sat on the throne and thereafter his son Priyadarshi or Ashoka got the throne. Thus, we can say that the word 'Marhatta' or 'Maharashtra' is as old as 2,200 years" (pages 7-8). He further states, "all rules of the *Shourseni* language are similar to Marhati language. This means that in olden times, *Shourseni* was included in what is known as *Baalbhasha*. *Shourseni* was the language of the region Shoursena, that is Mathuramandal. Upper caste men and women characters spoke this language in dramas. *Shourseni* dramas depicted the exact picture of society. Thus, there is no doubt

that when dramas were written in Sanskrit, *Shourseni* was spoken by upper caste characters. Katyayan says that the nature of *Shourseni* language is like Sanskrit and the other is like *Maharashtri* aka very ancient *Marhati*. *Baalbhashas* named *Magadhi* and *Paishachi* emerged from *Shourseni*. *Magadhi* was the earlier language of Magadh region, located around Gaya and Patna.

"*Pishach* is an ancient name found for people living in regions like Punjab. It is written in *Karnparva* that people from Balhik, meaning Balk, Bukhara and Samarkand, are offsprings of Pishachas. *Paishachi* is the earlier language of these people. Katyayan says that *Magadhi* and *Paishachi* emerged from *Shourseni*, and *Shourseni*'s nature is like Sanskrit as well as *Marhati*. Hence, it would not be objectionable to state the principle that all *baalbhashas* have their roots in ancient Marathi. Alankariks say that '*Maharashtri* is the language of gathas'. (गाथा शब्द आलेला 'गै' धातूपासून 'गाथा' शब्दाने प्रायः आया कवि गीति संस्कृतात समजली जाते.) According to the rules of this Alankarik, we can surely say that the language of songs

was 'Maharashtriya' in ancient times. Thus, all *baalbhashas*' nature and the ancient language of songs was 'Marhati'... Katyayan again says that *Shourseni*'s nature is Sanskrit, and it seems that he favoured the interdependence of both Marhati and Sanskrit language. The original word is *Paa-ad* (पाअड). The closest word to this in Sanskrit is *Prakrit*. As *Paa-ad* language is like flowing water and is the life of all, and everyone relates to it and, thus, got a meaningful name, *Paa-ad*, which is understood by all. Sanskrit being the language of religion was called *taktaki aneli* by the Brahmins themselves. Later, it appears that 'Paa-



ad' word was transformed to 'Prakrit' to resemble the word 'Sanskrit'. Therefore, the word 'Prakrit' got the meaning of 'trivial' in Sanskrit; something which is commonly seen. The Vedas have a part called as 'shiksha'. There is an article in it named *Prakrute Sanskrute Chaapi* (in Prakrit language and Sanskrit language). Thus, it is evident that there was a huge sect of people since many years which considered Prakrit as an independent language. Therefore, all the Paa-ad languages like *Maharashtri*, *Shourseni*, *Magadhi* and *Paishachi* became Prakrit, and Katyayan wrote a formulaic grammar of Prakrit languages, named *Prakrit Prakash* for the first time. Amongst all of the above-mentioned five Paa-ad languages, *Maharashtri* was

Pravarsena's *Setukavya*, *Gaudvadh*, Rajshekhar's *Karpurmanjiri* and Gunadhya's *Bruhatkatha* in *Paishachi* language. Gunadhya was Shalivahana's Prime Minister during Nand's period. Nowadays, there are two translations in poetic form available in Sanskrit of this scripture. There is a note about Ashoka sending Buddhist monks to Maharashtra in the *Mahavansh* scripture from Sri Lanka, which is in Pali language and Sinhali script. Rajshekhar came 200 years after Bhavabhooti. He was under the patronage of King Mahipal. He used to call himself 'Maharashtra Chudamani'.

In her book, *Marathi Lokanchi Sanskruti*, Iravati Karve says that before the western Shakas and Saatvahans came here, Sanskrit and Sanskrit-born

not an Aryan name. Can it be the form of 'Lopamunda'? It means princess Lopa of the Munda people. There is evidence in Buddhist literature that the Mudas were in contact with the Naga people. Kosla king Pasnedi desired to have a marriage within the dynasty of Buddha and become his relative. Vidudabh, born in the *Vaasbhakhttiya* family, destroyed the Shaakya lineage. This story is written in Pali literature. This story is from 500-600 BCE. Thus, it seems that Nagas and Mundas were united at that time.

Giving more information about this, Iravati Karve states that Maharashtra's kings, Saatvahans ruled Pratishthan, or Paithan. They promoted Prakrit language and, thus, helped the rise of Marathi. Most of Maharashtra's saint-poets were born in central Maharashtra and determined the form of current Marathi... The most famous kings of Ashmak were Pratishthan's Saatvahans. Before them, there was a king named Narasimha at Pratishthan. This reference is found in Somaswami's *Katha Saritsagar*. Late S. V. Ketkar has written about this story in the ancient history of Maharashtra... Saatvahans did not know Sanskrit. They promoted Prakrit. From legends and some inscriptions, it appears that they had marital relations with Mandlik kings, named Maharathi... One after the other, Saatvahan, Chalukya, Rashtrakoot and Yadav dynasties ruled over Maharashtra. Buddhist rock-cut temples (caves) in Maharashtra are from Saatvahan, Vakatak and Chalukya reigns. All the inscriptions found there are in Prakrit.

It is mentioned in the poetry written in *Lilavati*, an *Apabhhransha* language, that the famous Buddhist scholar Nagarjun was a friend, philosopher and guide of Hāla. The names of Rattha and Maharattha appear in the inscriptions related to them. Their main inscriptions are found only in west Maharashtra... Marathi not only fortified its southern boundaries by matching up with two culturally prosperous nations of Andhra and Karnataka, but also it touched the core of Karnataka. There are many cul-

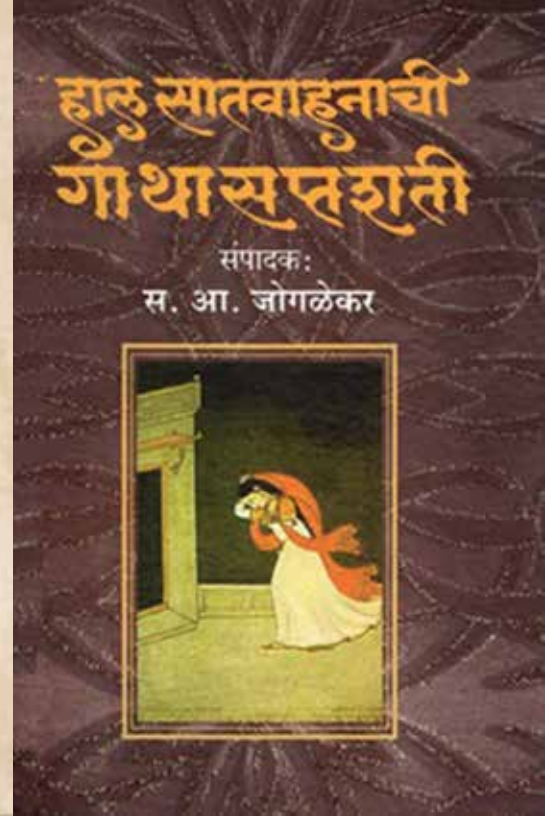
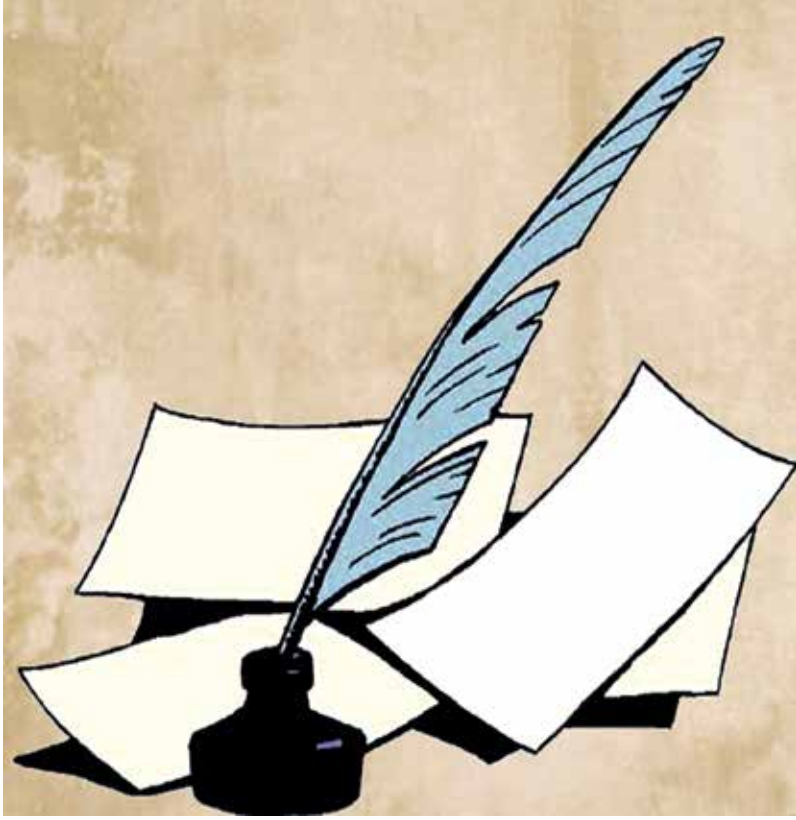


the most ancient and the nature of these languages was like *Maharashtri* aka ancient *Marhati*. *Shourseni* emerged from *Maharashtri*, and over a period of time the two languages, *Magadhi* and *Paishachi* emerged from *Shourseni*. Thus, *Magadhi* and *Paishachi* are the grandchildren of ancient *Marathi*. The real mother of *Shourseni* is the ancient *Marathi* language (pages 12-13).

#### IMPORTANT EVIDENCE

The utmost important evidence in ancient Marathi are *Gatha Saptashati*,

languages had taken firm root in the land of Maharashtra and, therefore, the kings coming from outside picked up Maharashtra (Sanskrit-Prakrit avatar) rather than Dravid language. The poetry of all India culture was composed in Vaidarbhi method, thus, the importance of Vidarbha gets recognised in Sanskrit tradition. Like Aparanta, Vidarbha was a colony of very ancient Aryas (Sanskrit speakers). Both colonies settled in Vanya's region, and not by fighting the Sanskrit Dravids. The first famous Vaidarbhi's name is Lopamudra. This is



tural reasons for this. Famous scholars Bouddhayan and Aapstambha were from south. In the *Bruhatkatha*, there are references to non-Paninian grammar named *Aindranti*, which seem to be composed by people from the south. Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas were followers of Jainism and many important Jain texts were written under their patronage. Pushpadanta's *Harivanshpuran* was written during Rashtrakut tenure at Manyakhed (Maalkhed). It is evident that books in *Maharashtri* were produced under patronage in the core of Karnataka...

The inscription at Shravanabelagola is not the symbol of Maratha's aggressive rule, but it symbolises the promotion of Jain religion. In the medieval era also, Marathi's mother *Maharashtri* was prominent in the south and many excellent texts were produced in it. Poet Kouhal says that his composition in *Lilavati* was written in Marhatta. Experts say that the period of this poetry could be 800 CE. (काव्याचा काळ सुमारे ख्रिस्ताब्द

८०० असावा असे तज्ञांचे मत आहे. शातवाहन हे राजाचे नाव ख्रिस्तिपूर्व दुसऱ्या शतकापासून तो थेट शप्तशती हालापर्यंत आढळते.) One of the queens of Saatvahans (Saatvahans BCE) was a scholar. Once, she jokingly spoke with the king in Sanskrit, which he failed to understand. She laughed and the king felt insulted. He determined to learn a language in six months and learnt Prakrit. This part of the story comes in the beginning part of *Bruhatkatha*, and Vararuchi's name is primarily mentioned there. Prakrit literature consists of the seeds of maturity and self-determination of the Marathi literature. *Bruhatkatha* has no comparison in world literature. The poetry in Hala's *Saptashati* is also folk literature. It is not a composition of some royal poet, but a collection of popular poetry then prevailing in Maharashtra. It does not depict the courtrooms of a king, but depicts the *gaavgada*, Patil, Patil's daughter-in-law, that means it depicts the simple rural life of Maharashtra. The wonderful story in *Lilavati* is about Hala.

In it, there is a depiction of Pratishtan Nagar, which is the life of Maharashtra, and Gola, which means Godavari river, and a description of a Maharashtrian beautiful girl applying turmeric on her body and bathing on the banks. This poet says that his language is from *Marhatta des* (pages 223-26).

In conclusion of Rajaramshastri Bhagwat's research, Durga Bhagwat says that he has proved that old Marathi is older than Sanskrit and the real living language (page 2).

It is evident from the above-mentioned research of great scholars like S. V. Ketkar, Rajaramshastri Bhagwat, V. K. Rajwade, Iravati Karve, K. P. Kulkarni, Datto Vaman Potdar, V. L. Bhawe, R. B. Joshi *et al* that *Maharashtri* (Marathi) language is at least 2,500 years old. If the 2500-year-long journey of *Maharashtri* (Marathi) language is unfolded with evidence, it would undoubtedly prove that Marathi is surely a classical language.

—Reprint from *Lokrajya*  
January-February 2012

**T**oday English as a 'language of knowledge' is dominating the world at all levels. Many linguists have extensively studied and analysed various aspects and dominance of this language in modern times. Dr. Prakash Parab is one such linguistic expert. He says that on the one hand, English is growing rapidly as a medium of global communication due to its imperialist history and being a medium of science, technology, business and others; on the other hand, there are hundreds of other languages or colloquial languages in the world that are on the verge of extinction.

There seems to be an impact of changing economic policies and life struggles on the preferences and styles or forms of languages.

A mother tongue is not merely a medium of communication or means to achieve the community's materialistic growth and development, but it plays a prominent role in its social and cultural space and is indeed its identity and face. Many such views on the local dialects are coming to the forefront, depicting their reality.

While studying Indian languages and dialects, one cannot help but mention the extensive work done by Dr Ganesh Devy in this area. In the book, *The People's Linguistic Survey of India* (PLSI), about 782 Indian languages and dialects were registered in the 1951 census. In the year 1961, this number grew to 1,652. Earlier, Sir George Grierson's *Linguistic Survey of India* (1903-1923) gathered information on the Indian languages of the last decade of the 19th century. It mentions that there were 179 languages and 544 dialects in India at that time. As per 1921 census, there were 188 languages and 490 dialects. These changing numbers show how complex is the business of languages for any country. There is no denying that if a language goes extinct, we lose an entire ethnic culture along with it and also a large treasure of knowledge and generations of wisdom expressed through it.

# DIRE NEED TO PRESERVE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

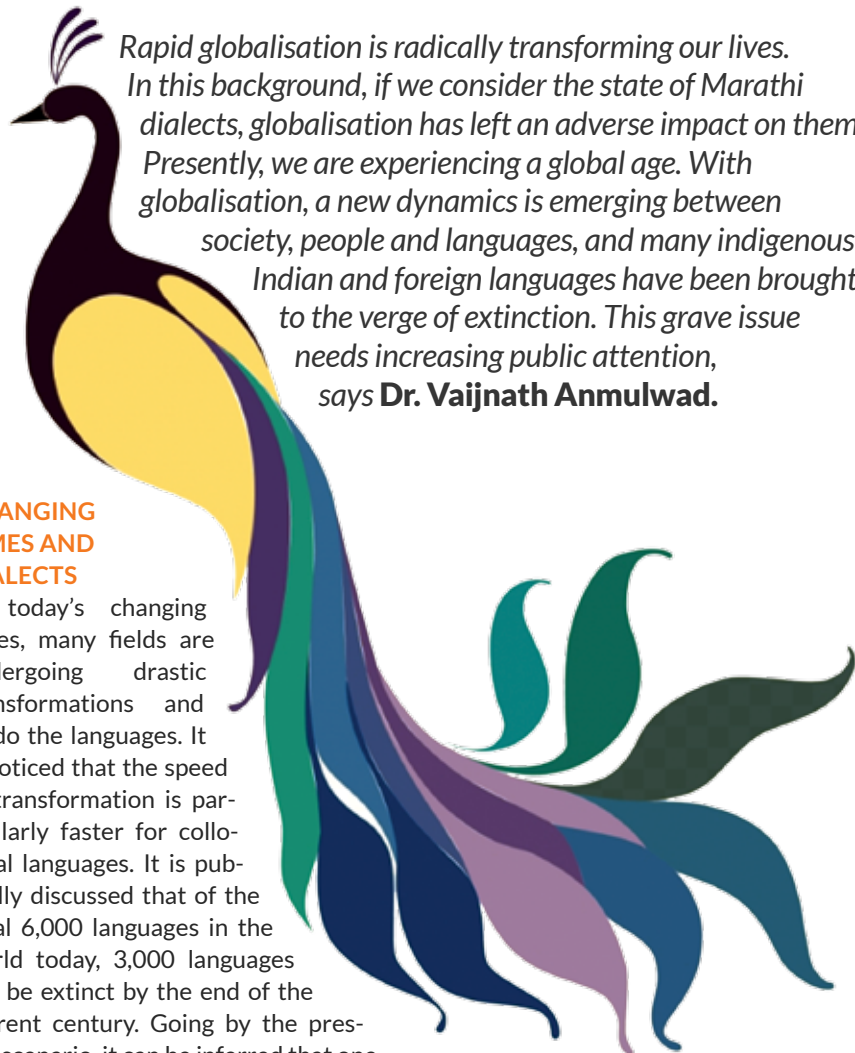
*Rapid globalisation is radically transforming our lives. In this background, if we consider the state of Marathi dialects, globalisation has left an adverse impact on them. Presently, we are experiencing a global age. With globalisation, a new dynamics is emerging between society, people and languages, and many indigenous Indian and foreign languages have been brought to the verge of extinction. This grave issue needs increasing public attention,*  
**says Dr. Vaijnath Anmulwad.**

## CHANGING TIMES AND DIALECTS

In today's changing times, many fields are undergoing drastic transformations and so do the languages. It is noticed that the speed of transformation is particularly faster for colloquial languages. It is publicly discussed that of the total 6,000 languages in the world today, 3,000 languages will be extinct by the end of the current century. Going by the present scenario, it can be inferred that one language dies every two weeks. Today, there are 500 languages with each of them being spoken by less than 100 speakers, while 1,500 languages have only 1,000 speakers per language and 3,000 languages are such that each one of them has only 10,000 speakers.

These numbers indicate how serious the problem of the extinction of colloquial languages is. The possibility of this scenario getting grimmer in the future cannot be denied. For languages to survive, its speakers—the people—have to live. The colloquial language projects the traditional culture of vari-

ous generations. Still, such dialects are rarely studied and instead, more research and study go into the scheduled languages having scripts. Yet, we have to also acknowledge the fact that for any language to develop or decay, its speakers are responsible. Sometimes, a popular language loses its importance due to social neglect. Similarly, not-so-mainstream language can also be revived with proper planning—for example, languages like Hebrew, Konkani and others. In short, we can say that just as economic or natural disasters are responsible for the extinction of a





language, the social and psychological factors are also responsible. Today, of all Indian languages, newspapers are published in only as many as 87, 71 have radio programmes broadcast and 15 languages have movies made in them. This is the present scenario of Indian languages that needs further addition, which is the need of the hour.

### DIALECTS OF MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra has numerous dialects such as *Ahirani, Agar, Kohali, Khandeshi Leva, Sandgadi, Zadi, Tavadi, Pavri, Malvani, Vadhvali, Samdevi* and *Sangameshwari*. These change with the geographical structures.

We also have 23 dialects of Adivasi and 19 dialects of nomadic tribes. Then there are other dialects such as *Nagpuri, Nagari, Kolhapuri, Satari, Marathwadi, Chandgadi* and *Konkani* that are very distinct to their geographical locations.

With changing times, people are gradually losing the ability to express their cultural complex cultural and social concepts in their mother tongues. Our dialects are rich with their unique and extensive vocabulary, traditional wisdom, and beautifully-woven words, and have their own melody and harmony. How can a standard, mainstream language compete with these attributes? However, despite the uniqueness of dialects or mother tongues, people often learn other languages for various reasons. They learn other languages easily as the human brain is naturally wired with an innate ability to learn more than one language. But, nowadays people believe that a foreign language will be more beneficial to them in future than one's own mother tongue. As a result, the condition of scheduled languages and mother tongues or dialects is worsening.

We always tend to differentiate be-

tween a language and a mother tongue and this extreme take pushes regional dialects into a state of crisis. The social and cultural disparity between different sections of society also adds to the problem, and we can clearly see why these languages aren't growing today. Let us examine one of the examples that Dr. Ganesh Devy offers:

"When a section of society or community starts believing that it needs to learn another language for livelihood, the community embraces the new language. Could this process be a reason why we are losing our linguistic legacies so rapidly? Is this thought process giving rise to the extinction of a language? The time has come to think and analyse this because if it truly be the case, then



we have to agree that indeed the future or even existence of many languages is in jeopardy. It is clear that the biggest sufferers of the death of languages would be minorities or weaker sections in social hierarchy—be it at a local level or national."

From this, the state of today's dialects and their speakers is realised. As many scheduled languages originated from dialects, the supporters of scheduled languages should not neglect the dialects. Undoubtedly, with proper conservation and promotion of a dialect, a scheduled language will be further enriched.

Maharashtra has an old tradition of forming 'a language class.' After globalisation, a new English-speaking class has emerged. This class has monopolised all senior jobs. It takes no pride either in its dialect, culture or mother tongue, Marathi. Its children study in English-medium schools, while those who speak local dialects, educate their children in Marathi-medium schools. These people are mostly peasants, farmers or poor labourers.

Advocacy of English and expulsion of Marathi are not in the interests of the poor. In a democracy, is a foreign language more important than a regional language? But today, many people have no hesitation in compromising with democratic values or regional languages just to maintain their dominance in society. This dominance needs to be rooted out.

Conserving a language is not the same as conserving archaic relics! Language needs to be in constant use in day-to-day life to be alive and flowing. It should be our first duty to plan and accelerate the process of qualitative improvement in a language. The State Government has taken some measures to support and develop the language, albeit at a slow pace. Every step is important for the development of Marathi language. The Government is working on initiatives like

setting up a dedicated Department for Marathi Language, Marathi State Development Committee, Committee for Encyclopaedia, Literature and Cultural Board to promote the Marathi language. Various types of literature such as introductory books and an academy for mother tongue are also helping in enriching the language.

The medieval era saw Marathi flourishing significantly through various forms of literature such as *Abhang, Kiritan, Bharud, Dashavatar, Shayari*, snippets and others. Similarly, today, new literature is being created through ru-

## LANGUAGE AND GEOGRAPHY

Regional languages change their forms as per prevailing geographical conditions. For example, people of the coastal regions speak differently, people from mountainous regions have a bit of toughness in their language, while speakers of the cold regions speak more softly. We often say that the language changes every few miles. Actually, it is not only the language that changes, but also geographical terrains such as mountains, hills and plateaus, and the weather conditions, water resources, crops, food habits and tastes add a distinct flavour to the region, which also unknowingly impacts the regional language.

Nowadays, audio-visual media such as movies, plays or TV programmes don't seem very particular about maintaining the chastity of a language. Consider an example of cookery shows in Marathi. Often, they are so loaded with English words that make viewers wonder about the actual language of the show! Though a little sprinkling of English words in the presentation isn't really a problem, the presenter should strike a balance between colloquial terms and the purity of a regional language in which the show is meant to be presented.

It is true that languages flourish when they adopt words from other languages, but overusing them can have an adverse effect. Today, this is the sad state of regional languages.

Due to the heavy influence and dominance of English, many of our indigenous languages are on the verge of extinction. English is a foreign language and of imperialism. By overlooking its origins and its foreign roots, we are trying to develop an organic bond with it by adapting it to our culture.

Today, English dominates various sectors such as knowledge-based industries, science and technology. Even the internet and mobile phones use English as a primary language of communication. English is becoming the language of knowledge and modern world. Of course, the solution does not lie in rejecting English, but in strengthening our indigenous languages. We should preserve and protect our languages by using them more and more in our day-to-day lives, education and businesses. We should also educate the younger generation about the importance of a mother tongue. People should come together and make collective efforts to preserve and promote their languages. Regional Language Communication Centres should be set up everywhere by creating a movement for the language. Only with such consistent and collaborative efforts, the vicious cycle of languages' extinctions will end.

No matter how massive the challenges are before our mother tongues or indigenous languages, there are many ways to deal with them. One of them is to take due pride in our mother tongue!



ral, feminist and tribal literature. Also, street plays, movies, Doordarshan, Akashvani and newspapers are using the language significantly to create re-

gional content. All such initiatives will surely help survive the language. For a language to flow freely, it's important to conserve various cultural identities

such as *Vasudev*, *Potraj* as well as stage properties and costumes of folk plays, paintings and other forms of art. Language and culture can be beautifully enriched through all such efforts. If everyone joins hands at any of these levels to conserve the language, Marathi will not only survive, but also continuously flourish.

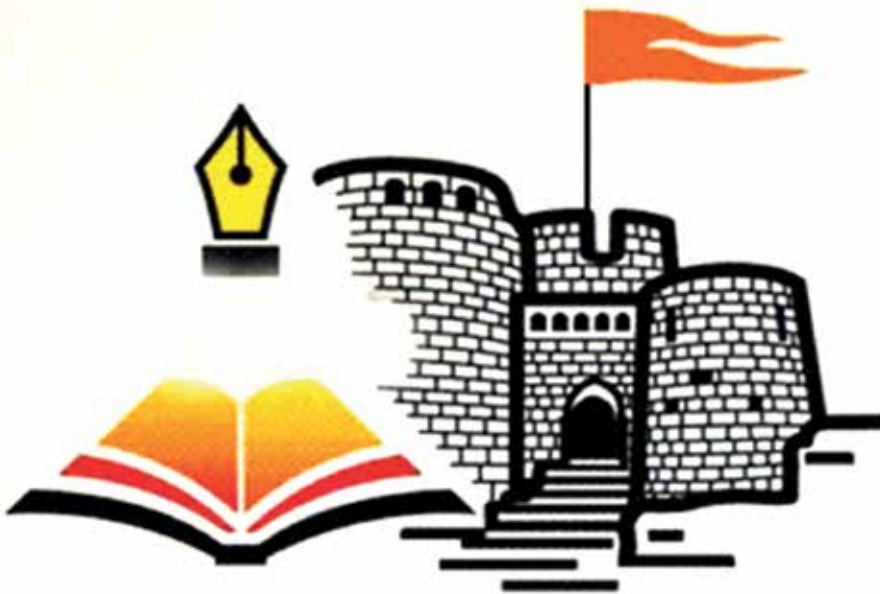
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- 1) A lecture by Dr. Prakash Parab at Pune University's Marathi department between 17.12.2004 and 6.1.2005.
- 2) Dr. Ganesh Devy's *The People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI)*, editor Arun Jakhade, Padmagandha Publication, Pune 2012.
- 3) Dr. Vajinath Anmulwad, Editor, ESOP Publications, Nanded
- 4) Arun Sadhu, *Lokrajya*, February 2014
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—Assistant Professor, Marathi Language Department, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

# FOR GLORIOUS MARATHI

*The State of Maharashtra was formed on May 1, 1960 as per States' reorganisation according to languages. Since then, in order to run the administrative business in Marathi, the Maharashtra State Language Legislation, 1964 was enacted, whereby Marathi language became the State's official language. On July 22, 2010, which marked the Golden Jubilee Year of the State, the Department for Marathi Language was set up to promote and propagate the language. There are also other departments working in tandem with it, such as Rajya Marathi Vikas Sanstha, Directorate of Languages, Maharashtra Rajya Marathi Vishwakosh Nirmiti Mandal, and Maharashtra State Literary and Cultural Board, says Ajay Bhosle.*



**T**he foundation of Marathi can be traced back to 200 years B.C. in the Saatvahaan dynasty. During the next era after that, Sanskrit and Kannada languages received the royal patronage and the growth of Marathi language slowed down. After that, during the Yadav dynasty, the language was revived again. In the meantime, due to the Mughal invasion, the use of Persian language was on rise. Under such circumstances, the Warkari community did an important task of keeping Marathi language alive. During the British Raj, due to the patronage to English language, all regional languages of India faced a sort of crisis. However, after India got independence,

the States were reorganised according to their languages, and in every State, its local language got a boost. In Maharashtra too, the State Government set up *Marathi Vikas Sanstha* on May 1, 1992, to preserve, protect and enrich Marathi language and Maharashtrian culture. In addition, other organisations, such as *Marathi Sahitya Sanskriti Mandal* (Literature and Cultural Organisation), for the growth of Marathi, and *Marathi Vishwakosh Nirmiti Mandal* (Marathi Encyclopaedia Committee), to enrich Marathi dictionary and words, were set up. Many NGOs in Maharashtra are voluntarily working to promote Marathi language.

Various initiatives have been taken

up by the Government to promote Marathi language. Considering its ancient legacy, a committee was set up to help the language get classical status. The committee considered all the factors such as its ancient history, originality and consistency, and the relation between the ancient and contemporary forms of language, and submitted its report to the Government. This report has been sent to the Union Government. The Government is working on a comprehensive policy for the enrichment of Marathi language, considering the circumstances and likely challenges for the language in the next 25 years. The Government has taken an important decision to set up *Marathi Bhasha Bhavan* in Mumbai, which will be an apex body under which all other language field offices scattered all over can work together more efficiently.

The Government is leaving no stone unturned to keep the flag of Marathi flying high with its unique initiatives such as *Marathi Bhasha Sanvardhan Pandharwada* (Fortnight for Conservation of Marathi Language), *Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din* and *Vachan Prerana Din* to name a few. *Marathi Vishwakosh Mandal* (Encyclopaedia Board) has already published 20 volumes with Marathi glossary for all important subjects. These volumes are also available on mobile apps.

For enabling Marathi language to be used more aggressively and effectively in Government offices and judiciary, several glossaries and dictionaries are being prepared. Such volumes are also made available on mobile apps. The Directorate of Languages has so far released about 29 glossaries on different subjects. Ten more glossaries are being worked upon, while 30 are proposed. The *Rajya Marathi Vikas Sanstha* (the Development Department) for Marathi language is using various media such as discussions, seminars and publications to make more qualitative use of Marathi language.

*Rajya Marathi Vikas Sanstha* has taken up several important initiatives such as helping Marathi students living outside



Maharashtra, providing support to organisations outside the State, and for book exhibitions, and research and study of *Modi* manuscripts. It also has initiatives such as programmes for non-Maharashtrians, digitisation of rare Marathi books, and converting the organisation's published materials into e-books.

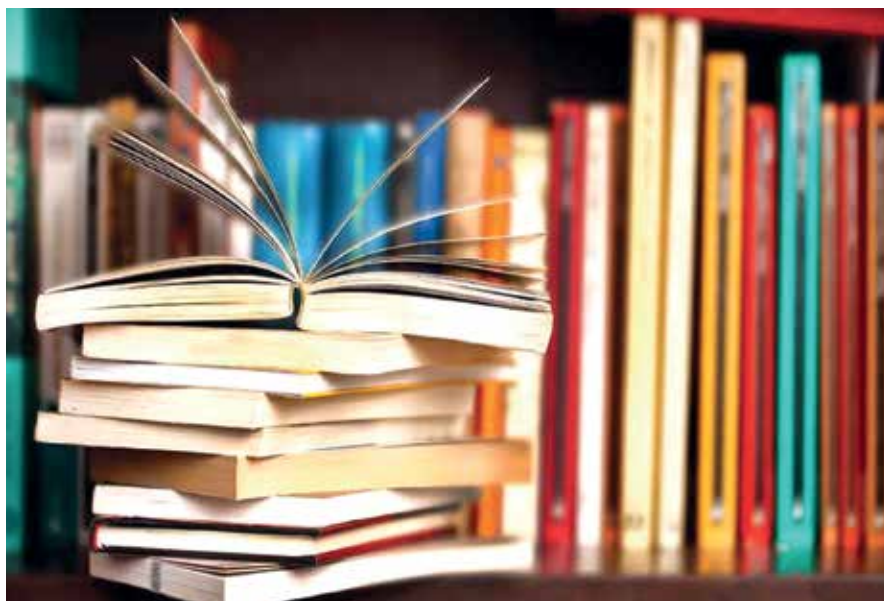
#### LANGUAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This committee has been set up by the Directorate of Languages to plan the policies for Marathi language for the next 25 years and to advise the Government on various new measures and initiatives to enrich the language.

**Efforts to give the classical status to Marathi:** Giving an elite or classical status to any regional language comes under the purview of the Union Government. The State Government had set up a committee of the experts and researchers under Professor Ranganath Pathare to submit its report in this regard. The report submitted by the committee has already been sent to the Centre and is being regularly followed up.

**Marathi Bhasha Sanvardhan Pandharwada:** To preserve and protect the glory of Marathi language, every year, the fortnight from January 1-15 will be celebrated to promote the language.

**Marathi as official language of the High Court:** The following steps have been taken by the Law and Judiciary Department to make Marathi the official language of the High Court under article



348(2) of the Indian Constitution.

**Glossaries in Marathi:** The Directorate of Languages has so far released various glossaries, guides and booklets on various subjects to help in day-to-day Government work and various other Departments of information and knowledge. These include 50 publications, which include six glossaries, nine guides for the Government offices, 29 definition dictionaries, and four terminology dictionaries.

**Latest State Acts released in Marathi:** The website has 602 State Acts uploaded on it, and 329 of them are updated and released in a book form.

**Marathi Encyclopaedia (Volumes 1-20), knowledge centre, website and mobile app:** The Maharashtra State Literature and Cultural Board was set up in 1960. Later, this organisation was split and a separate *Maharashtra Rajya Marathi Vishwakosh Nirmiti Mandal* was set up in 1980. After this wing was set up, it was planned to publish Marathi Encyclopaedia (Volumes 1-20) and Volume 21 (Index). Accordingly, the first volume of Marathi Encyclopaedia was released in 1976, while the last Volume 20 was released in June 2015 and Volume 21 (Index) was released in 2019. Also,

it has released Volume 2 of Biology and Environment (Germination to Glucose) and Part 2 (Diphtheria to Paramecium) in printed, audio-visual and Braille format. The Part 3 has (Pangara to Sexually Transmitted Infections). There are in all 850 submissions of all the three volumes available on the website.

**Knowledge centres:** An approval has been given to set up knowledge centres for modernisation of Marathi encyclopaedias. The *Marathi Vishwakosh Nirmiti Mandal* plans to set up 60 subject-wise knowledge centres in universities and educational and research institutes. Currently, 45 knowledge centres are operational.

**A village of books:** A village of books has been set up in Bhilar, near Mahabaleshwar. It has dedicated 25 public places converted into libraries where tourists can get an enjoyable book-reading experience.

**Rangavaikhari:** In 2018, an inter-college theatre competition, called *Rangavaikhari* was launched. In this, plays based on various literature forms of leading playwrights and writers of Marathi literature are showcased.

**Mobile libraries:** September 14, 2018 was observed as a Vachan Prerana Divas (a day for inspiring book reading), and a mobile library was started for the regular travellers of Deccan Queen and



Panchvati trains on that day.

**Book Publication Scheme:** This is the scheme, which makes available at low prices to curious, connoisseurs and common readers, books that private publishers generally deny to publish. Under this scheme, a series of science books and translations of famous books are published. Also, editing and publishing of various papers and publications related to the history of Maharashtra, and books based on the biographies of architects of Maharashtra are done. The Literature and Cultural Board also does reprinting and has so far published 549 books.

**Schemes for publishing contemporary books:** Considering the scarcity of Marathi books on intellectual and scientific topics, a grant is given to the write-ups that are research-based and unique. The *mandal* sponsors 75 per cent of the publication cost subject to a maximum limit of up to ₹30,000, either borne by an individual or a publishing house.

**A grant to encourage new writers:** Under this scheme, the organisation offers a grant to new writers for publishing their stories, novels, light reading materials, prose, poetry, one-act plays, children's literature, and others. Once the publishers follow the organisation's prescribed guidelines for publishing the books of new writers, the organisation gives them a grant equivalent to 75 per cent of the total cost. So far, 2,197 books of new writers have been published under the scheme.

**Grant to the workshops for new writers:** Various workshops and seminars are organised all over Maharashtra to provide training and guidance to new and upcoming writers. In these workshops and seminars, they can learn and improve their writing and also get guidance from the senior writers. Under this scheme, seven workshops of ₹50,000 each are organised and ₹3,50,000 grant is given every year.

**Grants for literary organisations:**

Under this scheme, every year, a grant of ₹10 lakh each is given to the institutions for promoting Marathi language and literature. Seven beneficiary institutes of the scheme are: Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Sahitya Mahamandal, Vidharbha Sahitya Sangh, Nagpur, Marathwada Sahitya Praishad, Aurangabad, Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, Pune, Marathi Sahitya Sangh, Mumbai, Konkan

been raised to ₹60,00,000.

**Grant for Marathi periodicals:** Under this scheme, 55 periodicals published on various topics in Marathi are given a grant every year.

**State Literature Award Scheme:** Under this scheme, a total of 35 State literature awards are given by the *mandal* in various literature sections. Twenty-two awards are given for the general literature section, six awards to children's literature and six awards are given for the first time publishing section. There is also one Sarfoji Raje Bhosle Brihan Maharashtra Award given under this scheme.

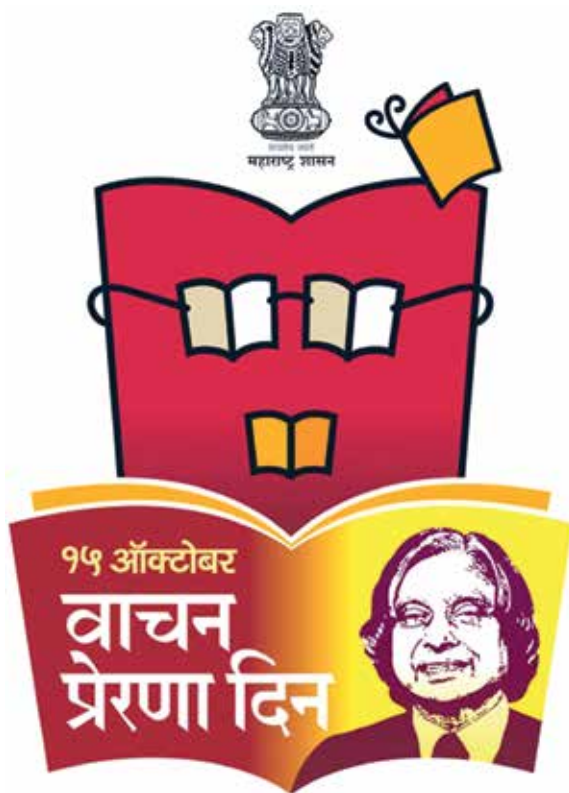
**Lifetime Achievement Award:**

The lifetime achievement award named after *Jnanpith* Award winner and acclaimed writer Late Vinda Karandikar is given to a senior litterateur for one's substantial and valuable contribution to Marathi literature. The award consists of a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a trophy and a certificate.

**Shri Pu. Bhagwat Award**

**Scheme:** Every year, Maharashtra State Literature and Culture Committee gives award to a publication house for its noteworthy and excellent contribution to create good literature. This award is named after Shri Pu. Bhagwat, who has done excellent work in the publication industry. The award carries a trophy, a certificate and a cash prize of ₹3 lakh.

**Scheme for greater projects:** Maharashtra State Literature and Cultural Board's primary objective is to publish more and more excellent quality books in Marathi on various topics, such as Maharashtra's culture, literature, history as also science, modern technology and social sciences. Accordingly, the Board publishes unique, diverse and rare books on various topics such as literature, culture, art, history, science, technology, ideological and social issues. Also, analytical, biographical books and books on scientific and literature research are published by the Board. ■



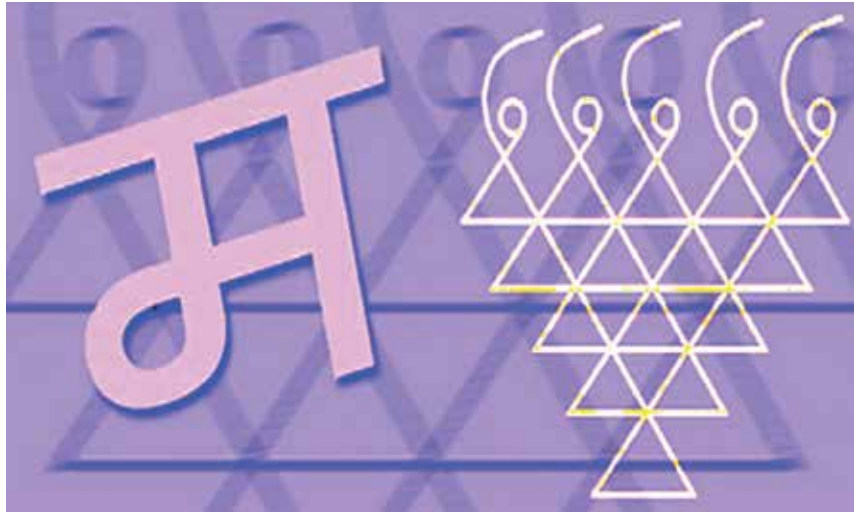
Marathi Sahitya Parishad, Ratnagiri and South Maharashtra and Sahitya Sabha, Kolhapur.

**Grant for Marathi Literary Meet:**

Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Sahitya Mandal organises All India Marathi Literary Meet every year. Since 2018-19, a grant of ₹50,00,00 was being given to the meet. Similarly, a grant of ₹2 lakh each is given every year to other Marathi literary meets organised by non-mainstream and marginalised sections of society, as per the recommendation made under Maharashtra State Cultural policy of 2010 totalling ₹30,00,000 as grants. Since last year, the grant has

# PROMOTING THE STATE'S LANGUAGE

*The matter of granting a classical status to Marathi is being followed up with the Union Government. Steps are also being taken to create awareness about the language in the bordering areas of Maharashtra. Different initiatives will be reviewed by the combined efforts of the various departments under the Marathi Language Department, such as Rajya Marathi Vikas Sanstha, Maharashtra Rajya Marathi Vishwakosh Nirmiti Mandal, Maharashtra State Literature and Cultural Board, says **Dr Vishwajeet Kadam**, Minister of State, Marathi Language.*



**T**he proposal to give classical status to Marathi is pending with the Union Government. The State Government is doing a follow up for this. For this, the help of various eminent experts from the sector is being considered. We are endeavouring to propagate Marathi language by implementing various projects. Many initiatives are being taken with the objective of encouraging Marathi language among the younger generation and developing their interest in Marathi literature by giving them awards. The Marathi film industry has made a great contribution in enriching Marathi literature. Therefore, the Government is also thinking of recognising Marathi lyricists, writers and bloggers. To ensure that Marathi reaches the younger generation, Marathi videos, nursery rhymes and other audio-visuals are being released on YouTube.

## CONSERVING LANGUAGE

All the suggestions given by liter-



**Dr Vishwajeet Kadam**  
Minister of State,  
Marathi Language

ary scholars to protect and conserve Marathi language will be honoured. The State Government will soon implement a law to make Marathi a compulsory subject in English-medium schools in the State for which a meeting of Law and Judiciary Department, School Education Department and Marathi Language Department was recently held. All the points discussed in the meeting will be taken into consideration while making the law. Rules under the Marathi Language Act will be introduced after studying the acts being implemented in Karnataka and other States.

The Marathi Language Department is also trying to improve the quality of Marathi education in municipal schools. A special meeting will also be held about Marathi syllabary and instructions will be issued accordingly to the concerned.

—**Compiled by Nandkumar Waghmare,**  
**Departmental Liasoning Officer**



# BOOST TO **INDUSTRY**, PROGRESS TO STATE

*For the all-round development of Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has given utmost priority to employment generation. He met with renowned industrialists to discuss problems prevailing in the industrial sector and to bridge the gap between businesses and the Government to ensure that there is an increase in investment in the State. For the State to progress, it is important that all sectors are given equal importance and scope for development. The Chief Minister emphasised that sectors such as agriculture, industries and education can go hand-in-hand for the overall development of Maharashtra.*



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray interacting with senior industry leader Ratan Tata on the sidelines of the industrialists' meeting in Mumbai.

## **AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

The Government is focusing on completing the developmental works speedily in Maharashtra so that the standard of living of people can improve.

The Chief Minister assured the industrialists that problems faced by the projects that are important for the State's development will be solved on priority. He also appealed to look that State doesn't belong to only one component, but to everyone, and for which industries should also contribute their

mite for all inclusive development of the State.

## **IMPROVING THE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Due to various reasons, many industries have moved out of Maharashtra in the last few years. The Government is trying to make sure that this does not happen in future and all the businesses stay within the State. Along with this, efforts will be made to bring in beneficial ventures from outside Maharashtra into the State. The Industries Department and other concerned au-

thorities have been directed to prioritise the process of giving permissions and solve all problems related to land and electricity rates, and other infrastructural issues.

## **NEW IDENTITY TO THE CITIES**

Along with industries, tourism development will also be given equal importance. If the highlights of various cities in the State are put on the tourism map, it will help those cities gain popularity and boost tourism. Thus, it will bring about the overall development of the cities.

## DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

With the help of industrialists, municipality schools will be provided quality education, modern methods of learning through latest technology, and medical facilities in remote areas with the help of industrialists.

## AMALGAMATION OF EDUCATION AND INDUSTRIES

While focusing on industrial growth, special emphasis is being given to small-scale and medium-scale industries. Employment generation is encouraged with coordination between education and industries. Thus, the expansion of industries, skill-based education and employment generation are being emphasised.

## EXPECTATIONS OF THE INDUSTRIALISTS

Many ideas such as faster process of getting approvals, decrease in the land and electricity rates, taking bold decisions for the growth of business, optimum utilisation of technology, setting up financial centres in Mumbai, developing smaller businesses along with larger ones, properly implementing the scheme for afford-



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray with industrialists Mukesh Ambani and Anand Mahindra.

able homes, focusing on animal husbandry while developing agriculture, setting up new industrial colonies and special financial centres, boosting projects through special purpose vehicles, boosting tourism and others were suggested.

The industrialists and business tycoons such as Ratan Tata, Mukesh Ambani, Uday Kotak, Anand Mahindra, Adi Godrej, Harsh Goenka, Mansi Kirloskar, Rajesh Shah, Anand Piramal, Ashok

Hinduja, Niranjan Hiranandani, Varun Beri, Mahendra Turakhia, Ravi Raheja, Baba Kalyani, Gopichand Hinduja, Sajjan Jindal, Gautam Singhania, Deepak Parekh, Pirojsha Godrej and Bhavin Turakhia shared their ideas and suggestions with the Government.

## BOOSTING DEVELOPMENT IN MUMBAI

Mumbai being the financial capital of the



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray chaired a meeting with prominent industrialists at Sahyadri Guest House to draw a roadmap towards making the State a trillion-dollar economy by 2025.





The meeting was jointly organised by the Government of Maharashtra and Confederation of Indian Industry to discuss industry-related issues. Seen are Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, industrial leaders Ratan Tata, Adi Godrej, Mukesh Ambani, Baba Kalyani, Gautam Singhania, Uday Kotak, Anand Mahindra and other prominent businessmen. Minister for Industries Subhash Desai and Minister for Tourism Aditya Thackeray are also seen.

country, its infrastructural development is crucial for the development of the entire country. Tourism Minister Aditya Thackeray informed that considering the fact that many foreign tourists visit Mumbai, many infrastructural modification works such as road repairs, building walkways and their beautification have been undertaken to improve tourism in the city. Around 66 per cent of green spaces will be developed by introducing the concept of urban forests so that citizens of Mumbai get clean and pollution-free air. This will not only reduce the carbon footprint, but will also beautify the city. He also informed that emphasis will be given to solid waste management and redress of grievances related to civic amenities through social media. Transport management will also be taken up considering the requirement of the entire city. He informed that the night life policy, environment, electric vehicles and other issues will be emphasised.

#### LOAN FOR 18,000

Industries Minister Subhash Desai has ordered the effective implementation of Chief Minister Employment Generation Programme, which was initiated by the State Government to generate employment and promote self-em-

ployment. Under this programme, 23,000 applications were received by the end of December, out of which 18,000 were found eligible.

So far, 11,422 applications have been sent to the bank for loan approval. The process of loan approval is in progress.

The Chief Minister Employment Generation Programme is receiving an overwhelming response, especially from women who constitute 41 per cent of the applicants so far. The objective of the Government is to benefit around 10,000 people with this scheme. From March, a financial assistance of ₹10 lakh for the service sector and up to ₹50 lakh for medium and large-scale businesses will be given.

#### FOOD-PROCESSING CENTRES

The Chief Minister has announced the setting up of a food-processing centre at Bidkin in Aurangabad on a land of 500 acres. The ground-breaking ceremony will take place soon. Around 100 acres out of the 500 acres will be reserved for women industrialists.

Through industrial development, the Government will prioritise employment generation for farmers and sustainability for industrialists. Businesses born out of coordinated efforts between in-

dustrialists and farmers, such as food processing and oilseed processing will be highly encouraged.

#### SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

The State will see an expansion of various industries which will further lead to a wider scope for business. To make skilled human resources available for this, a skill development centre will be set up in Shendra.

The industrial sector in Marathwada has the potential to create its independent identity globally. There is a clear indication that 'Made in India' brand can be created by going beyond the traditional and experimenting with modern ventures.

#### ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIAL COLONIES

An additional Shendra Industrial Colony will be set up in Aurangabad on a land of 1,000 hectare. Emphasis has also been given to the expansion of industries in Jalna, Osmanabad and Nanded.

A technical hub will be set up in Osmanabad to promote the cotton industry. New industries will be introduced in Marathwada, which will attract fresh investment of about ₹8,360 crore. The burden of service charges on the industrialists has also been reduced. ■



# PEOPLE-ORIENTED LEADERSHIP

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has ensured that the administration should be people-oriented and sensitive. He is insistent upon providing the rights—be it that of a farmer or student or an officer in the administration. To ensure that ordinary citizens are not compelled to make trips to Mumbai every now and then to get their work done, he has announced the start of a unit of the Chief Minister's Secretariat at divisional level and stressed upon its immediate implementation, says **Anirudh Ashtaputre**.

**C**hief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is insistent upon giving proper honour and respect to every person within the administration, irrespective of his/her rank or designation.

He has set a model example during the inauguration of a new, splendid administrative office of the Walwa tehsil in Islampur in Sangli district. According to the norms, after the inauguration, the Chief Minister and all other dignitaries began to inspect the halls of the building. After visiting the assembly hall on the upper floor, the Chief Minister visited the corridor of the tehsildar on the lower floor. Being an important office in the building, Chief Minister went inside the office to have a look. The tehsildar's chair was in front of him. After

sitting in it for a while, he suddenly got up and taking the hand of Tehsildar Ravindra Sabnis brought him to the chair and said, "Aren't you the tehsildar? Then, this chair belongs to you. You sit here." Sabnis, who was shocked as the Chief Minister spoke so warmly in the presence of District Officer Abhijit Choudhary and other Ministers and Ministers of State, politely replied to the Chief Minister that he cannot sit. The Chief Minister, however, had already made up his mind. "This is your building and you are going to supervise the work as a chief over here, hence it is your chair. I myself want to place you in this chair with my own hands," he said. Sabnis was left with no other option and he finally sat in the chair. "You are at this important position. I have

myself placed you. Hence, do your job perfectly," said the Chief Minister, patting Sabnis on the back.

There was an old neem tree outside the building premises. The residents of Walwa consider the tree as a witness of the National Freedom Movement. They didn't allow it to be cut, though it was later replanted elsewhere. This information about the tree had already been given to the Chief Minister. After waiting at the site of the tree for a while, the Chief Minister said to the accompanying entourage of officers-workers, "Work like this tree, provide ample shadow, and receive love like this tree. Most importantly, understand the people who come to you."

Ravindra Sabnis said, "After inauguration, the Chief Minister left. But, since that day, whenever I sit in my chair in this new hall, I get this feeling that the State's Chief Minister is standing beside me."

During the winter session held at Nagpur, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had taken a decision to establish a unit of the Chief Minister's Secretariat at the office of the Divisional Commissioner to bring people orientation, transparency and mobilisation. Within a few days, this unit was started in all divisional offices of the revenue commissioners across the State.

**Procedural action to be taken on applications:** The applications and appeals received at this unit will be immediately forwarded to the concerned machinery at the regional level for proper implementation, and an overview will be taken upon the exact nature or status of the procedural action taken on these applications and appeals on Lokshahi Din.

**Acknowledgement receipt-Review:** The person who brings applications and



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the new administrative office of Walwa tehsil in Islampur, Sangli, and enthroned Tehsildar Ravindra Sabnis; also seen is MP Dhairyasheel Mane.

## SANTOSH SABALE GETS RELIEF FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER

Santosh Sabale hails from Rajewadi of Maan taluka in Satara district. He pays for his education by selling chickpeas and groundnuts in Mumbai. He was given relief by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, when he told Sabale to, “try sincerely; you will be provided with all the help that you need.”

Santosh Sabale works from 10 pm to 5 am, selling chickpeas-peanuts at Chowpatty, while studying political science. His aim is to clear the competitive exams and become an administrative officer. After his story was published in the newspapers, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray ordered the officials to contact Sable. Accordingly, Sable, who goes to the university after his night shift, was sent a message to visit the Mantralaya. There he met with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray who earnestly inquired about him. Hearing his account, the Chief Minister praised him for his dedication to study and promised to help him. “Work sincerely towards your education, and you will be given the assistance you need,” he said. Then he gave instructions to the Social Justice Department to immediately provide the assistance he requires for his studies.



The Chief Minister seen in discussion with Santosh Sabale, from Rajewadi, Mann taluka of Satara, who studied by selling peanuts in Mumbai.

Sable, who was filled with joy, thanked Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray for personally looking into the matter and for warmly inquiring of him. He said he is now inspired to go further in his educational pursuit.



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray understanding the plights of a farmer.

appeals for submission to this unit will be given a receipt of acknowledgement. The applications that are required to be acted upon at the regional level will be immediately sent to the concerned regional officer under the supervision of the Divisional Commissioner. Those applications that require action to be taken at the Government level and contain topics that are related to policy matters will be presented before the Principal

Secretary in the Chief Minister's Secretariat. Information regarding the applications sent to the regional officers and the action taken upon them as well as information on pending applications will be presented in the unit of Chief Minister's Secretariat before the fifth day of every month.

## A NANDED FARMER GETS RELIEF

Following the oath ceremony, Chief Min-

ister Uddhav Thackeray, amidst a hectic schedule, had taken note of the pain of one farmer. Dhanaji Jadhav, hailing from Nanded district, was deeply distressed and had come to Mumbai to end his life, but returned with renewed hopes after a conversation with the Chief Minister. The demand of the farmer, to update records on the 7/12 document of land ownership, that had been pending for several years was finally fulfilled. A big transaction of Dhanaji Jadhav had been blocked as the process of updating could not be done due to loan records pertaining to the land. When he got a chance to meet the Chief Minister, he told him about the land deal and loan. The Chief Minister immediately instructed the concerned department to look into the matter. Accordingly, Arun Dongre, the district officer of Nanded, coordinated with the revenue department, Dhanaji Jadhav as well as the concerned bank officer. After investigating the facts, he gave instructions to update the records in the land sale transaction. After the update, loan repayment and farm-related work became easy for Dhanaji Jadhav.

—Public Relations Officer to the Chief Minister

# SALUTE TO THE MARTYRS

Every year, on 17 January, the martyrs of the Belgaum movement are commemorated. The movement was waged in protest against merging Belgaum along with the entire border region into Karnataka. This year, State Minister Rajendra Patil-Yadavkar attended the commemoration and described his experience.

I reached Belgaum on Friday, 17 January, for the commemoration ceremony of the martyrs of the Belgaum movement with a message that the State Government stands in support of our Marathi brothers living on the State's borders. However, we had to resort to alternate means to reach Belgaum and we were successful in this.

I came to Kolhapur on Friday morning. On my way to Belgaum, I heard that vehicles coming from Maharashtra were being thoroughly screened by the Karnataka Police at Kog-noli Toll Plaza. Since we had resolved to reach Belgaum by all means, we boarded an MSRTC (Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation) bus instead of going by a private vehicle.

When our bus reached Sankeshwar bus depot, several Karnataka State police personnel entered the bus and began inspection. I put on a jacket and head cap and pretended to be sick to avoid any suspicion. The Karnataka police could not identify me. I got down there along with the volunteers. We travelled to



Rajendra Patil-Yadavkar

Belgaum from there by a Karnataka State Transport Corporation bus. We then decided to alight at KLE Hospital instead of the main bus depot. We reached there by around 11:30 am.

Afterwards, we travelled by an auto rickshaw via CBT and reached Hutatma Circle. It was noon by then. Police were already present there. When I paid my respects to the martyrs, the police personnel took me into custody. However, we were successful in conveying our message that Maharashtra shows solidarity with our Marathi brethren living in border areas.

Mangesh Chivte, who accompanied me, read out a message for our Marathi-speaking brothers of the border areas. The message was written by State Minister Eknath Shinde, who was appointed as a coordinator by the Maharashtra Government. Eknath Shinde made an assertion through the message that we are committed to a unified Maharashtra, including Belgaum and other border areas. Later, the Belgaum police escorted us back to the Maharashtra State borders.

—Ajay Jadhav, Departmental Liaisoning Officer

## NATIONAL BRAVERY AWARDS



Atharva Lohar, for contribution to art and culture, and Devesh Bhaiyya, for his scholastic achievement, from Maharashtra were conferred with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar at the hands of President Ramnath Kovind. The President of India awarded the children in a grand ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi organised by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. Union Minister for

Women and Child Development Smriti Irani, Minister of State Debasree Chaudhuri and Secretary Rabindra Panwar were present on the occasion. Last year, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, introduced the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Puraskar. The 49 awardees this year are winners in the fields of art and culture, innovation, scholastic, social service, sports and bravery. These children will participate in the Republic Day parade on Rajpath in New Delhi.

## THE YOUNG SAVIOUR

Zen Sadavarte of Parel, Mumbai and Akash Khilare of Aurangabad district are among the winners of National Child Bravery Award (2019). The awards were given to 22 children from 12 States across the country. This was announced by Geeta Siddharth, President, Indian Council for Child Welfare during a press conference. ■





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# CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, **BLESSED** TOURISM



Minister **Aditya Thackeray** has undertaken the responsibility of tourism, environment and protocol departments and has brought a new sense of excitement and trust in the minds of people. The effectiveness of a young mind in handling the reigns of these important departments is clearly visible. In an interview to the Directorate General of Information and Public Relations, he explained the ideas of the youth, new and fresh concepts and their objectives. He also spoke in detail about the roadmap of development in the near future. Here is an excerpt from his interview.







times, we have experienced all types of natural calamities, from drought for four years to floods and the very recent unpredictable and untimely rainfall. The adverse effects of climate change can be seen in both rural and urban areas. There have been wildfires in some areas, while temperature has gone down to -60 degrees in some places. Pollution has increased. There is a fear that like wi-fi hotspots, people might have to share oxygen hotspots with each other. We are all equally respon-

tory body. People have not been able to relate to the department. I want to establish a direct connection between the people and the environment. I wish to change the identity of this department from just a regulatory to a fully-functioning unit, which will have the participation of students, youngsters and women, and turn its initiatives into people's movements. The initiatives will begin from creating awareness in schools, conducting various activities in colleges, and several environment conservation programmes in

### SHAKESPEARE'S HOUSE IN ENGLAND

In his interview, Aditya Thackeray also mentioned about his visit to Stratford-upon-Avon, the village in England where Shakespeare lived. Because of this, thousands of tourists visit the village every day. These tourists fill up the restaurants, cafes, souvenir shops, theatres, buses and cabs of the village. Locals get employment through this. This, in turn, boosts the economy of the village, State and the country. This is the power of tourism. Even we have many such places, which can attract tourists in large numbers. An entire area can develop because of a single tourist spot.



**T**ourism, environment and protocol are some of the lesser popular departments, but have a great scope for those who want to work for it. Aditya Thackeray said that efficient functioning of the environment department is crucial to ensure that our generation stays fit and healthy, at least till the age of 50-60. "There is only one Earth. We must take care of our planet. In recent

sible to protect and conserve our planet, the beginning of which is by keeping our surroundings clean. I aim to turn the work of the Environment Department into a people's movement, and this is the reason I voluntarily asked for this department."

While defining the role of the Environment Department in this process, Aditya Thackeray said that the department has so far been functioning as just a regula-

offices. Recently, we had a pledge-taking ceremony for environment conservation in schools for which we received an overwhelming response. Now, it is important to implement the pledge taken."

### A SENSE OF BELONGINGNESS

If every individual pledges to keep one's surrounding of around 10 feet clean and pollution free, we can see a drastic improvement in society's overall conditions.

Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan has also appealed to the people to associate with this vision. Everybody should have a sense of belongingness and believe that “this is my home, my city” for their village, town or city. This sense of belongingness is necessary as it will not only encourage you to keep your surroundings clean, but will also urge you to stop others from spoiling the environment. A revolution can be brought about if the entire population of 125 crore acts on this.

#### WHERE THERE IS A WILL...

Aditya Thackeray said that environmental conservation might feel difficult, but it isn't impossible. The successful implementation of waste segregation in Mumbai is a good example. In September 2017, around 10,000 metric tonnes of waste was collected daily. This was estimated to rise up to 14,000 by 2019. However, during the same time, the decision of waste segregation was introduced in the city. Housing societies were encouraged to practise waste segregation. To encourage solid waste management companies, it was decided that composting pits will no longer be included in the FSI given. These initiatives were extremely successful, and the waste collected was brought down from the estimated 14,000 metric tonnes to merely 6,500 metric tonnes. It is important that individual housing societies take initiative and implement waste segregation practices.

#### FREEDOM FROM PLASTIC

The issue of plastic ban has become very crucial. On this challenge, Aditya Thackeray said that not all plastic is bad plastic. “We use plastic chairs, they are necessary. Using plastic chairs reduces the use of wooden chairs, thus reducing the need for wood and tree cutting. However, single-use plastic is extremely harmful for the environment. During the Mumbai floods of 2017, it was observed that plastic bags had blocked all the streams, causing water to accumulate and overflow. Similarly, use

and throw plastic items such as plates, spoons, bowls and straws are harmful for the environment. It is important to stop using these items completely. In addition, it is important to encourage people to use cloth bags and reward them suitably. The Government has implemented a law three years ago

#### THE GRANDEUR OF PANDHARI WAARI

“Pandharpur's *Waari* is one of the biggest traditions of Maharashtra. I had accompanied Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray when he did the aerial photography of the *Waari* in a helicopter. I was so overwhelmed by the scale of this pilgrimage that I kept my camera aside and kept looking at the procession. Driven by devotion and dedication, lakhs of Warkaris walk together, stay together, pray together and celebrate the festival together. This tradition is worth showcasing to the world. The same applies to Ganeshotsav. Such festivals are celebrated in Japan, Spain as well and are attended by tourists from all over the world. Even we can attract tourists around our festivals,” said Aditya Thackeray.



to regulate the use of plastic. Even restaurants and shops have stopped using plastic carry bags. People have started using paper and cloth bags. This should be encouraged further so that we are free from single-use plastic in the near future.”

While talking about pilgrimage sites, Aditya Thackeray said that these places and the rivers flowing nearby have a high religious value in our lives. However, conserving the rivers is of utmost importance. He added that it is important to conserve all rivers and not only those near religious places. For that, he has ordered the department to prepare an exclusive plan. “Various departments such as urban development, rural development, environment, industries, water supply and sanitation have to work together for it. However, efforts only at the Government level are not enough to conserve and clean rivers. We need people's initiatives and participation for the same. Nowadays, people don't value nature as they did in olden times. This needs to change and we must conserve every element of nature—air, soil, trees, water, flora and fauna,” he said.

People will have resort to electric vehicles in the near future to reduce air pollution. We, as a society, also need to use non-conventional energy sources more. Air pollution will be curbed only if we are able to bring 100 per cent electric mobility. We also need to have stricter rules and regulations to be followed by industrialists, and creating green zones and mandates for waste water and solid waste management.

#### PROTOCOL AND TOURISM

According to Aditya Thackeray, the main reason for taking on the reins of Protocol Department was to boost tourism in Maharashtra. “Through protocol, we can be connected to foreign consulate generals, diplomats and top officials globally. This gives us the opportunity of introducing a new Maharashtra to the world and attracting more and more people to Maharashtra. It is important to maintain foreign relations to promote tourism.



## MUMBAI, 24 HOURS!

Speaking about Mumbai 24 Hours concept, Aditya Thackeray said, Mumbai is an international city. Cities like New York, London, Singapore and Hong Kong function 24 hours. The nightlife of London alone contributes about 5 billion pounds to the economy. Tourists from around the world, diplomats and celebrities keep visiting Mumbai. It is necessary for all services to be available to them 24 hours.

The common man in Mumbai works during the day and, therefore, deserves a social life and means of entertainment after returning from work. He should be able to watch a movie, relax in a café or eat at any restaurant at any time suitable for him. This idea has been implemented in non-residential areas so that no disturbance is caused to locals. Permissions have been given only to those entities that have safety measures such as CCTVs, fire safety, parking and food safety, among others. This idea is being implemented in malls and gated mills.

The idea of Mumbai 24 Hours should be thought of as an important step towards generating employment and boosting economy. Currently, there is an employment for about five lakh in the service sector in a single shift. With the introduction of Mumbai 24 Hours, there will be three shifts and employment creation up to 15 lakh. Through this, more revenue will be generated, trade will increase, there will be an increase in public transportation, supply chain will be strengthened and economy will get a boost. Mumbai 24 Hours will attract more tourists who would want to stay in Mumbai for a



longer period of time. Different arenas such as public transport, shopping, restaurants and cafes, and theatres will benefit from this. Various supply chains, from vegetables to fuel stations, will get a boost. In terms of housing, Mumbai 24 Hours is equivalent to providing double the FSI! This idea was taken from Indore where the Sarafa market from the morning turns into a Khau Galli in the night.

The coordinated efforts of both the departments—Protocol and Tourism—can boost tourism. The economies of various countries like Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland and England are completely dependent on their tourism. There are a few countries that attract tourists all-round the year. Even we must think about the climatic conditions, weather and seasons suitable for tourism in Maharashtra and work towards it,” he said.

Aditya Thackeray mentioned that tourism is his favourite department. He informed about the various steps that need to be taken to attract more tourists from around the world. It is important to focus on the service sector, especially when there is a high level of unemployment and when the country’s GDP is falling. Emphasis on tourism is crucial for this. Maharashtra has a lot of scope in terms of tourism. There are many forts in the State that

are extremely popular among tourists. It is important to promote these places, encourage trekking, and give information about it in an attractive manner. There are around 350 forts in Maharashtra. To bring these forts on the global tourism map, it is important to provide proper services, facilities, roads near these forts, and focus on their conservation and beautification.

### USING AR AND VR TECHNOLOGY

Maharashtra is one of the most important States of India. It has the highest share in the country’s GDP. We have to make conscious efforts to highlight a few aspects of Maharashtra globally. Forts, temples, *Wari* tradition, festivals, Konkani coastline, eco-tourism, forest tourism, heritage tourism, green tourism, and spiritual tourism are the few specialties of tourism in Maharashtra that can be showcased to the world. There

are a few UNESCO world heritage sites in the State. Information about these sites can be provided in an attractive manner through AR and VR (augmented reality and virtual reality). These are not challenges, but opportunities of success.

### LIVING LIKE THE LOCALS

While promoting tourism in Konkani, it is important to ensure that the natural habitat of the region is not disturbed. Hotels and restaurants suitable to local surroundings can be set up. The hotels will provide all modern amenities, but will have a local ambience.

“Tourism, Environment and Protocol Departments are related to each other. I aim to bring about overall development of the State with coordinated efforts of these departments,” said Aditya Thackeray.

—Compiled by Irshad Bagwan,  
Departmental Liaisoning Officer

# HAIL THE **VALOUR** OF KANHOJI ANGRE





Own the cavalry and you shall rule the earth, own the navy and you shall rule the whole sea." Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj realised this truth and built an armada for the *Swarajya* (self-rule). He built various sea vessels such as Gurab, Galbate, Tarande, Taru, Shibad, Machva, Pagar and Vaghor. Chhatrapati Sambhaji Raje expanded this armada to defeat the Siddhi, Dutch and Portuguese armies. Many brave warriors contributed to Shivaji Maharaj's mission of setting up a strong armada. Kanhoji Angre was one of them.

A tableau, presented at Shivaji Park on January 26, depicted Kanhoji Angre's contribution to *Swarajya*. It unfolded the story of *Swarajya*'s saffron flag flying in the sea under

Kanhoji Angre's leadership and the way he controlled the British, Dutch and French army from the sea. Kanhoji Angre made a great contribution by manufacturing weapons and with improved ship building at Colaba, Vijaydurg and Suvarndurg. No one could make a movement without his permission. He also controlled maritime traders. His valour is best described in Marathi by "*Latevar svar houn, tufana-cha vara pivun, ghadle he armar Shivbache, hatavar shir gheun, Swarajyache lene leun, ladhle he Sardar daryache* (riding the waves, fighting the storms, Shivba' navy was shaped; these sea-knights fought with tooth and nail for *Swarajya*), fitting Kanhoji's chivalry very well.

The famous art director, Nitin Chandrakant Desai created the tableau that honours and praises Kanhoji Angre's valiance. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's horse-mounted statue has been installed on the ship, and a live show on Kanhoji Angre's work was presented to the audience in the Republic Day celebrations. Sixty artists participated in the parade. ■





# DEVELOPMENT OF MARATHWADA, A PRIORITY

*During his Marathwada tour, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray took key decisions on many issues. He assured necessary measures to give impetus to industries in Marathwada. He also emphasised on agro-based vocations and said progress of farmers, labourers and youth is the Government's focal point, says **Sanjeevani Jadhav-Patil**.*



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray instructing officials during the Marathwada tour. Also present was Minister for Industries Subhash Desai.

**S**teps on the road to passion, imprinting them in the desert...

It would not be out of place to introduce Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray, with these words. Keeping himself busy all the time, he is exercising his skill of handling extremely sensitive issues with deftness—a case seen during his first Aurangabad tour, where he announced the most appropriate remedial mea-

sures for Marathwada.

The region of Marathwada has been facing increased intensity of drought for the last three-four years. In 2019, unseasonal rains played havoc in the region and presented a huge challenge. As half of the talukas of Aurangabad, Osmanabad, Beed and Latur received rainfall, the others went completely dry. The administration and farmers struggled to

find a solution, as the rains lashed and blasted the region again around Diwali. The farmers, who were eagerly waiting for rain, now faced new hardships with their fields converting into ponds after excessive rainfall, leading to crop failure. Uddhav Thackeray had already observed and experienced these conditions in his earlier tour before becoming the Chief Minister.

In this dire situation, a huge conso-

## OPEN DIALOGUE



Plan of Shendra-Bindkin Industrial area, an imaginary picture.

In order to listen to Marathwada District Level Machinery and of people's representatives, a tour was organised. On 9 January, the Chief Minister landed at Aurangabad Airport at 11 am and travelled by car to Kalagram, Garware Complex area where he inaugurated the Advantage Maharashtra Expo organised by Marathwada Association of Small Scale Industries and Agriculture. The Chief Minister visited the stalls and inspected the products from various industries. He also discussed the difficulties faced by the stall holders participating in the expo.

Assuring the entrepreneurs, the Chief Minister said that the Government is resolved to respond to the hard work and efforts of industrialists and farmers. In his inaugural address, Uddhav Thackeray said that now the Government aims to make farmers debt free-stress free. The Government's first priority is to make employment opportunities available to farmers and sons of the soil through industrial development. He said that coordination between industries and agriculture would boost agro-industries such as food processing and oil seed processing. On 500-acre plot, food-processing centre will be set up soon at Bidkin. A plot admeasuring 100-acres will be reserved for women entrepreneurs, here.

He appreciated Aurangabad entrepreneurs recognising their exemplary work in the industrial sector. He said that the Marathwada industrial sector has the capacity to create its own identity globally. By moving beyond traditional industries, we can introduce Made in India to the world with innovative experiments. Such work is being carried out in the region, and the recent trade exhibition is an expression of the industrial power of Marathwada. He also reviewed the presence of people's representatives.

lation and support came to farmers through the loan waiver announced by the newly elected Chief Minister. The decision announced immediately after taking over the charge of chief minister gave a glimpse of his leader-

ship and sensitivity towards farmers. During his Aurangabad tour, the Chief Minister held review meetings for Latur, Parbhani, Osmanabad and Aurangabad districts and inaugurated the MahaExpo 2020 in Aurangabad.

## DEVELOPMENT OF OSMANABAD

There will be no dearth of funds, assured Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. The registration portal for power connections should remain constantly operative. The number of contractors should be raised to complete the solar project. Mahavitaran at your Doorstep scheme should be implemented more effectively. For the progress of people and all-inclusive development of the district, everyone should endeavour. It is an earnest duty of all, said the Chief Minister.

Before this meeting, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the banner exhibiting Smart City Bus and Smart City Bus Stop under Aurangabad Smart City Project. Aurangabad Rural Police have started a state-of-the-art educational police van to generate legal awareness among women and girls from the area. They have also developed a Police App to make immediate assistance available to women in case of difficulty. Uddhav Thackeray dedicated the app to the people.

After the review meeting for Osmanabad district, the Chief Minister said that funds to resolve issues of



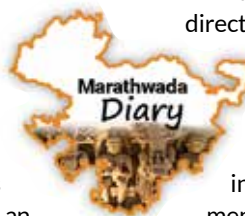
water, roads and waste is important for the health of the people of Aurangabad city and would be made available shortly. He also said that the Government will give priority to making the city free of waste, and that important pending issues of the city would be resolved at the earliest. Independent officers will be appointed for the Smart City project, he added.

### AURANGABAD

Speaking about irrigation, water, roads, health, crop insurance, tourism and other issues at the Aurangabad District Review Meeting, Uddhav Thackeray said that a survey will be conducted to resolve the water issue at Sillod with additional barrages on Purna River. About the Crop Insurance Scheme, he said that a dialogue will be-

for the development of Pathri, under religious sites' development funds. Speaking about medical admission, to give justice to students from Marathwada, the zone system for admission to medical will be evaluated and amended. A follow up with the Union Government for resolving the issue of Parbhani by-pass will be taken up, he added.

Considering the rising demand of drinking water for Parbhani city, Uddhav Thackeray issued instructions to concerned officials for speedy completion of an additional pipeline, underground sewage scheme and work on dams in the district. The leakage at Yeldari Dam will be sealed; left and right canals will be created and ample water will be made available for agriculture. Instructions were



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray assured that the water issue of the drought-affected district will be resolved on priority. He further assured that water planning will be done with usage of available water storage, appropriate use of water needed, and co-ordination of various water schemes. He directed the heads of departments to

resolve the issues faced by the districts on the spot and within specified time. Necessary coordination will be established with insurance companies at Government level and the insurance amount will be credited to the bank accounts of farmers. Schemes that benefit the farmers on a far-reaching basis are being drafted, and a meeting will soon be held on the same. He said that fodder lands will be used for MIDC. He shared

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fresh investments of ₹8,360 crore at Marathwada; a food-processing centre on 500 acres of land at Bidkin; 100 acres to be reserved for women.
- A skill development centre to be established at Shendra.
- A milk powder project to be activated for Latur district farmers under milk collection. The land will be made available for protection of quality breed of Devni cow through International Animal Husbandry Research Centre.
- Legal and technical studies to be carried out in cases of water to be supplied to Marathwada under Krishna Marathwada Irrigation project important for Osmanabad district, Krishna Valley and others. The report has to be sent to Maharashtra Water Conference.
- Approval for the submission of proposal to the Government for starting a sub-divisional office of Agriculture Department at Parbhani.
- Land will be made available for setting up an industrial estate in Parbhani district.

re-established with company representatives so that farmers are no longer required to visit the company office.

### PARBHANI

At the Parbhani District Review meeting, Uddhav Thackeray said that a proposal for setting up a sub-divisional office of the Agricultural Department should be sent to the Government for immediate approval. He also issued instructions to take review of vacant posts and fill up these within a month. While sharing that funds will be provided for the Parbhani District Sports Complex as its condition has deteriorated, he expressed the need to create international level facilities, here. He said funds will be made available

also issued to make the land available for a new industrial estate to accelerate industries. The District Collector was instructed to ensure that slum dwellers in the city were brought within the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

On the second day of the tour, Uddhav Thackeray visited the proposed location of Balasaheb Thackeray Memorial at Priyadarshini Udyan in CIDCO MGM area. He said that not a single tree should be cut for the memorial, but rather trees such as *jamun* and *champak*, where birds can build their nests, should be planted.

### LATUR

In the Latur district review meeting,

that, as he had done in these four districts of Marathwada, he would be visiting the other four districts for review meetings as well.

The recent Marathwada tour was extremely important and path-breaking. The gravity of each of the issues at Marathwada was reviewed, and immediate and long-term remedial measures directed, in accordance with local conditions.

### CHIEF MINISTER CELL SET UP

An independent Chief Minister Secretariat Centre has been set up in Divisional Commissioner Office.

—Information Assistant, Divisional Information Office, Aurangabad



## Key events in Maharashtra in January 2020

### MUMBAI TRANS HARBOUR LINK

The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link project with a length of around 22 kilometres connects Sewri in Mumbai and mainland location Nhava and includes a six-lane (three + three lanes) bridge. The length of this bridge in the sea is 16.5 kilometres and on the land is around 5.5 kilometres. There are interchanges at Sewri in Mumbai city, Shivaji Nagar on the mainland, and near Chirle Village on the National Highway NH-4B. This is going to be the longest bridge on the sea in India.

#### CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT:

- This project is being financed through loan assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- The construction of the project will be carried out through three civil contracts and one intelligent transport system contract. Contractors for three packages were awarded work commencement orders on 23 March 2018.
- The project has economically progressed 19 per cent till December 2019. The work on building foundations of the bridge and columns is in progress. Similarly, segment casting and building a temporary bridge are in progress.
- The project construction period is around four and a half years and accordingly it has been planned for completion by September 2022.



### LAUNCH OF SHIVBHOJAN THALI

The Shivbhojan Yojana was implemented in the State on the occasion of Republic Day. On the first day itself, around 11,417 people from Maharashtra benefitted from this programme.

An initiative of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, the Shivbhojan



Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray (centre) and Minister of Urban Development and Public Works Eknath Shinde during the launch of first girder for the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) mega project in Mumbai. Also seen are Minister for Public Works Eknath Shinde, MP Arvind Sawant, MLA Ajay Choudhari and others.

Yojana has been launched to ensure that the poor and the needy get nutritious meals at an affordable rate. So far, 122 Shivbhojan centres have been started in the State. Through these

## 6,500 AROGYAVARDHINI CENTRES

To carry preventive and instructive health services to people, all the sub-centres, primary health centres and urban primary health centres are being converted to Arogyavardhini Centres stage by stage. Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced that 6,500 Arogyavardhini Centres in the State will be activated by March end. So far 1,169 health sub-centres from 19 districts—with four targeted districts of Gadchiroli, Washim, Osmanabad and Nandurbar and others, namely Bhandara, Chandrapur, Wardha, Satara, Palghar, Nashik, Latur, Pune, Ahmednagar, Nanded, Hingoli, Gondia, Amravati, Sindhudurg and Jalgaon—and 1,501 (rural areas) and 413 (urban areas) primary health centres from all districts, making a total of 3,083, have been converted to Arogyavardhini Centres.

The Health Minister said that during the second stage these centres will be started in districts of Jalna, Beed, Parabhani from Marathwada and the remaining districts. Ayurveda, Unani and nursing degree holders will be appointed to the post of community health officers in these centres. He said that the Government aims at strengthening primary health facilities in Arogyavardhini Centres and villages under them through the services of female health servants, multi-purpose health service providers and accredited social health activist (ASHA) workers. Selected community health officers are being trained for six months. The Health Minister further said that the training for those passing the 2019-

20 Pre-Examination (Ayurvedic: 2,388, Unani: 233 and B.Sc. (Nursing): 1,075, making a total of 3,696 community health officers), has started from August 2019. These trained community health officers are expected to join duties from February 2020. This will help in the activation of 3,500 Arogyavardhini Centres.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the cases of non-contagious diseases.

Therefore, the objective is to increase services in the area of mother-child healthcare and incidence of non-contagious diseases. The Arogyavardhini Centres will provide diagnostic, treatment and allied services to patients in the following 13 areas:

- Prenatal and pregnancy monitoring
- Care for new-born children
- Childhood and adolescent diseases and vaccination services
- Family planning, birth control and essential healthcare
- Contagious diseases: diagnosis, treatment, prevention
- Non-contagious diseases: diagnosis, treatment, prevention
- Mental health
- Ear, nose, throat and eyes common ailments
- Dental and oral hygiene
- Age-related diseases and treatment
- First aid and emergency services
- AYUSH and yoga



**Rajesh Tope**  
Minister for Health

centres, a complete meal is provided to the poor at ₹10. One of the most important schemes introduced by the Government, special care is being taken by the Departments of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection for its effective implementation. So far, two centres in Akola, three in Amravati, three in Buldhana, two in Washim, four in Aurangabad, one in Beed, one in Hingoli, two in Jalna, one in Latur, four in Nanded, three in Osmanabad, two in Parbhani, three in Palghar, four in Raigad, three in Ratnagiri, two in Sindhudurg, three in Parel, three in Andheri, two in Wadala, seven in Thane, two in Kandivali, two in Bhandara, two in Chandrapur, one in Gadchiroli, two in Gondia, seven in Nagpur, two in Wardha, five in Ahmednagar, four in Dhule, seven in Jalgaon, two in Nandurbar, four in

Nashik, four in Kolhapur, 10 in Pune, three in Sangli, four in Satara and five in Solapur have been set up. These centres were inaugurated by the Guardian Ministers of the respective districts.

Under the scheme, meals are provided between 12 noon and 2 pm through the centres, i.e. authorised food stalls, NGOs, women self-help groups, hotels, restaurants and mess. The cost above ₹10 required per meal is being given to the centres by the Department of Food and Civil Supplies as a grant.

## EXPANSION OF CHEMOTHERAPY FACILITIES

Minister for Health Rajesh Tope has announced the expansion of chemotherapy facilities in all district hospitals. After taking over the reins of the

department, he conducted a review meeting at Mantralaya and took a decision to start this service across the State. Presently, chemotherapy facilities are available in 11 district hospitals. Considering the rising cases of cancer, the service will now be made available in all district hospitals to provide relief to patients. The department was given instructions to complete essential technical details with the cooperation of Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai.

Underlining that mission mode work is necessary to make health services in Maharashtra more qualitative, Health Minister Rajesh Tope has said that efforts will be made to acquire additional funds for the department to complete the building works and ensure basic infrastructure in the hospitals.

A network of health institutions is spread across the State and emphasis will be laid on strengthening these, cleanliness and availability of medical officers. Efforts will be made to change the mind-set of people towards health services through available facilities.

With changed lifestyle and the proportion of ailments such as blood pressure, diabetes and heart diseases on rise, it is necessary to increase awareness among people. The Health Minister issued instructions to see that rural hospitals have ample stocks of medicines while filling up the posts of medical officers.

### EXTENSION TO RESERVATION: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

At a special one-day meeting of Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly and State Legislative Council, a resolution was unanimously passed for the concurrence of Constitution (126<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2019 passed by the Parliament for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities in Parliament and State Legislatures as well as provision of representation by nomination for the Anglo-Indian community for further 10 years.

### A HOSPITAL IN EVERY TALUKA

The scope of Mahatma Jotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana will be widened. The scheme has been implemented in 492 hospitals in Maharashtra.

Out of the 355 talukas, the scheme covers 100 talukas; citizens from the remaining talukas have to reach either the district or the nearest taluka to receive treatment under the scheme. In order that the people receive medical treatment in their own taluka, it has been decided to open one hospital in every taluka under the scheme. With this decision, the scheme will now have 1,000 participating hospitals. Health Minister Rajesh Tope has expressed his confidence that this will be accomplished soon so as to provide relief to more patients.

### PREAMBLE TO BE READ ON NATIONAL DAYS

The Preamble to the Constitution of India will be read at all Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads on national days such as Republic Day, Maharashtra Day and Independence Day, beginning 26 January 2020. The Minister for Rural Development Hasan Mushrif said that the initiative has been started to create awareness about the Constitution of India.

Office bearers of these local government institutions will read the Preamble along with citizens. The initiative will not only spread awareness about the Constitution, but also make citizens aware about their rights and duties, strengthening the democracy

agricultural offices at taluka and district level. The movement was inaugurated from Alibaug in Raigad district by the Minister for Agriculture, Dadaji Bhuse. Five hundred such centres have been started across Maharashtra.

The Minister for Agriculture had announced the launch of Shetkari Sanman and Guidance Centres and establishment of farmer coordination committees at taluka level. Dadaji Bhuse said that the department is set to implement the initiative accordingly. A Government resolution has also been announced with the instructions for the guidance cell and committee.

The taluka-level committee will co-ordinate implementation of various Government schemes to maintain sustainability in productivity of agricultural



**Ajit Pawar**  
Deputy Chief Minister

### PAN COMPULSORY FOR GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS

From now on, PAN will be compulsory for every transaction related to the Government. This decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar to stop revenue thefts. With a view to accelerate development projects and improve the financial condition of the State, Ajit Pawar has concentrated his attention on reviewing various divisions to raise revenue. Remedial measures are being taken to stop revenue theft.

Revenue theft through online lottery is huge. A decision has been taken to ban online lottery and continue only with paper lottery. Double taxes are being levied on liquor sold at hotels. This taxation will now be cancelled and the overall rate of tax on liquor in the State will be increased. This is expected to increase the State's revenue.

further. A circular in this regard has been sent to all Zilla Parishads and the initiative started from 26 January in 27,874 Gram Panchayats, 351 Panchayat Samitis and 34 Zilla Parishads in Maharashtra.

### 500 SHETKARI SANMAN AND GUIDANCE CENTRES

To provide farmers a rightful place to present their issues and receive information on various Government schemes, Shetkari Sanman and Guidance Centres have been started in ag-

produce and income. The scheme is being implemented by the Agriculture Department keeping farmers at the core and realising the Chief Minister's objective to relieve farmers from worries. Accordingly, the meeting of the committee will be held once in three months to discuss raising the income of farmers and solving their issues. The meeting will also discuss weather, crop situation, marketing, supply of materials, crop loans, ancillary agricultural businesses, electrical connection, loan proposals from farmers and other issues.



## SAKSHAM CAMPAIGN

To create awareness about the conservation of petroleum products, the Petroleum Conservation and Research Association (PCRA) organised Saksham Abhiyan 2020 (Saksham comes from *Sanrakshan Kshamata Mahotsav*, which means capacity to conserve festival) at Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai. The event was inaugurated by the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Chhagan Bhujbal.

India depends on the import of petroleum products to meet its increasing demand for energy. Under these conditions, thrifty use of energy resources becomes important for our consistent development and environment conservation. State Governments are taking remedial measures by the use of non-conventional fuels as an alternative to petroleum products.

Saksham will run from 16 January to 15 February 2020 with the slogan, Save Fuel, Save Environment.

**State Transport Undertaking Award:** Shri Lad, Chief Manager, BEST bagged the Second Best Transport award and Bandra Bus Depot received the Best Depot award nationally at the fuel conservation campaign. At the State level, the Best Bus Depot award was presented to Murud (Raigad), Panchavati (Nashik), Yavatmal, Shri-

vardhan (Raigad), Pen (Raigad), Parbhani, and PMPML Pune Balewadi bus depots. A PCRA Saksham Sanrakshan Kshamata Mahotsav van was also inaugurated.



On the occasion of the launch of SAKSHAM Abhiyan 2020, Chhagan Bhujbal, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, at YB Chavan Centre in Mumbai. Mahesh Pathak, Principal Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection and Sujit Roy, Regional Coordinator, Indian Oil Corporation taking pledge.

## JAL BHUSHAN AWARD IN THE NAME OF DR. SHANKARRAO CHAVAN

The Government has decided to bestow the Jal Bhushan Award in the name of Former Chief Minister Late Dr. Shankarrao Chavan on a person or persons who have done commendable work in the fields of creating water resources, water conservation and water supply.

The decision was taken on the occasion of the birth centenary year of Dr. Shankarrao Chavan, who made an immense contribution to the formation of the State of Maharashtra and was the Father of Water Conservation in the State. With the slogan, Stop Water, Absorb Water, he aimed for State's freedom from drought. He paved the way for many irrigation projects. It is essential to carry his thoughts to the present generation. The Government

has issued instructions for spreading his work and concepts, and as a part of the mission, Jal Bhushan Awards will be conferred. Apart from this, to provide an impetus to water revolution, a reference volume and a special issue of *Lokrajya* will be published.



A decision has also been taken to establish the Dr. Shankarrao Chavan Memorial near Vishnupuri irrigation project in Nanded city and start a Police Training Centre at Bhokar in Nanded. A library, competitive examination guidance centre, a hostel for boys and girls, and other works have been proposed.

The Government has also instructed the departments concerned to make provisions for funding necessary works.

Dr. Shankarrao Chavan was born on 14 July 1920. His birth centenary year is being observed from 15 July 2019 to 14 July 2020. On this occasion, the Government has taken these decisions. An announcement for a resolution commending the work of Late Dr. Shankarrao Chavan in both Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly has already been made.

## PRESIDENT'S POLICE MEDAL FOR 54 POLICE OFFICERS FROM MAHARASHTRA

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has announced President's Police Medals for 1,040 police officers across the country for their commendable work. This includes 54 police officers and employees from Maharashtra. ■

# KEY CABINET DECISIONS

*Development of any State is based on the decisions taken by its Government and their way of implementation. To begin with, the State Cabinet gives the approval to the decisions made for the welfare of the people and the State. The Cabinet of Maharashtra recently passed some important resolutions. Here are a few of the resolutions.*

## **APPROVAL TO RAISE THE HEIGHT OF DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR STATUE AT INDU MILL**

In a decision taken in the Cabinet meeting, it was decided to raise the height of the statue of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, situated in the grounds of Indu Mill, Dadar, up to 350 ft. In the earlier plan, the height of the statue was to be 250 ft. After this decision, it will now be 450 ft from the ground level, with a foundation of 100 ft.

Advisor Shashi Prabhu presented

the improved concept of the statue at a State Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet has given approval to the estimated expenditure as presented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).

The MMRDA will provide all the required funds for the change and the expenses will be compensated by the State Government. The project is expected to be completed within three years. A work order in this regard was given on 9 February 2018, and 100 per

cent work of its structural planning has already been completed. During the Cabinet meeting, it was instructed to give immediate permissions and approvals for the project.

With the change, the higher statue will require more bronze and iron. It will have the facilities of museum and exhibition. A 6-metre-broad wheel for *pada-pitha* will be in this monument. About 68 per cent of the space will be occupied by the green zone. It will have a lecture room with a capac-



Senior political leader Sharad Pawar, Minister of Social Justice and Special Assistance Dhananjay Munde and Minority Affairs Minister Nawab Malik viewing the concept picture of the memorial of Bharat Ratna Dr BR Ambedkar at Indu Mill.



## CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

Maharashtra Cabinet has given permission to establish a Cabinet Sub-committee to implement the crop insurance scheme effectively in the State.

The implementation will ensure to clear the insurance of rabi season 2019, for which 10 districts have not get any insurance company. This committee will decide practical strategic planning for these districts. It will take decisions regarding crop insurance and fruit crop insurance in kharif season 2020. It will also find a solution for errors in the present insurance scheme.

Maharashtra was implementing the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme taking the field as an important component to give a guarantee of perpetual production to farmers. In 2016, some amendments were made in this scheme and Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme was initiated in the State. The Union Government appointed 18 insurance companies to implement this insurance scheme at district level through e-tender procedure. In this scheme,



ICICI Lombard Insurance, TATA AIG General Insurance, Cholamandalam General Insurance and Shriram General Insurance companies have stopped their incorporation at the national level. Due to some barriers in the implementation, insurance companies are unable to respond properly to the e-tender procedure. Farmers' involvement in

Prime Minister's Crop Insurance scheme has increased and the grant for insurance installment has also been enhanced. Despite all this, farmers are not getting the insurance.

In rabi season 2019 as well, 10 districts of the State did not get insurance companies. The companies did not respond to the tender process. Hence, risk management associated with climate change

is required for these districts on an urgent basis. It is necessary to plan all kinds of preventive measures if such a situation arises in the next kharif season as well. The Cabinet Sub-committee will shoulder all responsibility related to crop insurance.

ity of 400 people and a meditation room for workshops. In addition, an auditorium for 1,000 people will be part of the monument.

## TERMINATION OF APMC EXPERT DIRECTORS' APPOINTMENT

The State Cabinet has decided to cancel the appointment of Expert Directors (Special Invitees) in the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC). The provision in Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act 1963 has also been excluded.

According to this act, from 13 June 2015, a provision was made for the appointment of expert directors. In the recent meeting, all Cabinet members agreed to send a proposal to the Governor demanding an ordinance to cancel the said provision. Considering the decision of the Aurangabad bench of Mumbai High Court, the State

Cabinet has decided to terminate these appointments.

## ONE-MEMBER WARD METHOD IN CITY COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Maharashtra Cabinet, a decision was made to implement one-member ward method instead of a multi-member ward in the City Council. The Cabinet has approved issuing an ordinance for amendment in the related act.

There are some provisions for ward method and the number of members for the election of the city council in Section (10) 2 of the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships Act 1965.

In city councils, the multi-members ward method is in use as per the amendment to this act in 2017. According to this provision, two to three members can be elected in a ward

where such possibilities are more. This method can put barriers in the development of that ward or city. Hence, the one-member ward method should be implemented in the State. To accelerate the development process of the city, the State Cabinet has decided to follow this method. The provision in the multi-member ward method is restricted to initial elections of proposed Maharashtra City Council (Amendment) Act 2019. A draft of an ordinance for necessary amendments in this act will be prepared according to the advice of the Law and Judiciary Department.

## SMART PROJECT

With the help of the World Bank, State of Maharashtra Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) project will be implemented in the State. The project aims at all-round development of agri-

culture and its allied businesses. A presentation done at a meeting of the State Cabinet informed about the project and its effective implementation. For this project, an investment of ₹2,100 crore will be done with the help of the World Bank. The shares of the World Bank and Maharashtra Government will be ₹1,470 crore and ₹560 crore respectively, while ₹70 crore will come from corporate social responsibility. The implementation period of the project will be seven years.

SMART will emphasise on building fundamental facilities of agriculture production marketing. This includes major aspects such as registration of agriculture produce in the market, quality checking, computerised auction of agro production, storage facility, export facility, modernisation and boosting of present facilities, connecting APMC and private market committees through a common platform of e-trading of integrated mar-

ket network. Creation of farmers' producer groups and linking farmers to markets through their active involvement, harvest management of agro production, price upgrading through primary process, help to produce safe food for consumers, and creating income through better, quality farm produce, as well as establishment, empowerment and skill development of self-help groups, village team, ward team, farmers' producer companies, general interest team and farmer interest team will be done through this project.

A value-added chain will be formed to raise the annual turnover of established agriculture societies and connect them with recognised private businessmen. Development of farmers' producer societies, producer groups and other related societies will be done. Department-wise a Market Facilitation Centre will be set up under this project. The centre will work

to improve agriculture marketing systems and include APMCs, farmers' producer groups, rural markets, warehouse corporations and private markets. The distribution centre will be formed through the rural market, and grains-fruits-vegetable market groups will also be established.

### CREATING POSTS

For the posts of Assistant Secretary and Deputy Secretary, the State Cabinet has given approval for the recruitment of candidates from Other Backward Classes, socially and educationally backward categories, Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes, and Special Backward Classes.

This decision can create one post each for Joint Secretary and Deputy Secretary. This department has *akrutiband* of 52 posts. Permission has been granted for 37 permanent new posts in the department and two posts for external resource.

## CURB THE POLLUTION OF NAG RIVER

The Maharashtra Cabinet has decided to guarantee the share price of the Government to acquire the loan required for a project to be implemented to curb the pollution of Nag river.

A coordination committee will be set up for monitoring and implementation of Nag River Pollution Abatement Project. Under the National River Action Plan, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is making efforts to control the pollution of rivers caused by sewage from bankside villages. The National River Conservation Directorate and Centre's Jal Shakti Ministry have sanctioned a proposal of ₹2412.64 crore to curb the pollution of Nag river under the National River Conservation Plan. Nagpur Municipal Corporation will implement the project. Works like the construction of public toilets and sewage treatment plant, removal of wastage, and others will be done under the project.

The shares of Union Government, State Government and Nagpur Municipal Corporation will be 60 per cent

(₹1447.59 crore), 25 per cent (₹603.16 crore) and 15 per cent (₹361.89 crore), respectively.

The Centre is going to acquire loan from Jayaka Society for the scheme. For the pay-off of this loan, the share of the Union Government will be ₹1,460.4 crore (78.34 per cent of the amount) and State Government will be ₹403.9 crore (21.66 per cent of the amount). Out of ₹603.16 crore



(25 per cent share of State Government), the Union Government is taking a loan of ₹403.9 crore from Jayaka Society. The Maharashtra Cabinet has decided to give guarantee for the pay off of the debt of remaining amount in the share of the State Government, i.e. ₹199.26 crore, to Jalshakti Ministry.

Dr. Nitin Raut, Minister for Energy and Guardian

Minister of Nagpur, will preside over the coordination committee, which will be established for control and implementation of the project. Commissioner of Nagpur Municipal Corporation will work as member secretary while Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, Youth Welfare Minister Sunil Kedar and Environment Minister Aditya Thackeray will be the members of the committee.





### SELECTION OF SARPANCH

The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved that the selection of the sarpanch will be from the elected members of the Gram Panchayat. Now there will be no involvement of other people in this process.

Permission has also been granted for some changes in the improved time table related to the description of expenditure. Soon an ordinance will be issued

for these changes in the Maharashtra Gram Panchayat Act.

### PRESIDENT'S SELECTION FOR CITY COUNCIL AND NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL

The selection of the President of City Council and Notified Area Council will be from the elected members. This procedure needs amendment in the Maharash-

tra Municipal Council, Nagar Panchayat and Industrial Townships Act 1965.

At present, the selection of a president is conducted directly from the people. The Cabinet has approved to send a proposal to the Governor demanding the regulation for this amendment, and finalised the draft with the advice of Law and Judiciary Department.

### PH.D. LECTURERS TO GET INCREMENT

The lecturers of non-agriculture universities and affiliated non-government granted colleges who have completed their Ph.D. before 1 January 1996 will get two increments from 1996. This decision has been approved in a meeting of the Cabinet. The Cabinet has given approval for the expenditure of this procedure.

### AMENDMENT IN GOODS AND SERVICE TAX

The Maharashtra Cabinet has decided to make consequential amendment in Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax, 2019. The execution of the provisions in Section

## TRAINING INSTITUTES FOR TEACHERS

According to the Companies Act, there must be a teacher development institute for the teachers and principals of Higher and Technical Education Department. Such institutes will help the teachers adopt the changes made in the modern education system on a national and international level.

The Cabinet has given the approval to set up such an institute. It will be established as an autonomous body under the Companies Act. For this purpose, the share of Maharashtra Government, Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education, and universities in the State will be 40 per cent, 5 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, while the shares of educational societies and industries and volunteer societies

will be 5 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.

The universities and colleges will have to pay membership fees, while corpus fund will be raised from the financial help received from corporate houses. An administrative committee will be established under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to run the institutes successfully. Objectives of the institute are as follows:

- To impart knowledge about modern education methods and the technology used in industries and businesses to teachers who are working in higher education institutes.
- After examining the effectiveness of the training, bring further changes in the training method depending on the academic abilities of the students.
- To develop a new study course based on the employment opportunities available in industries.
- To guide educational institutes in adopting latest changes in the study course.
- To encourage research in the educational field and establish an effective method of learning and teaching to improve the quality of education.
- To send recommendations and advice to the Government about an employment-oriented study course that will be planned after studying the educational methods of developed countries and other States.
- To organise fundamental, regular and revised training.



## AGRICULTURE PRODUCE MARKETING COMMITTEES

The State Cabinet has given approval to cancel the amendment of 2017, giving the right of voting to eligible farmers in the election of Agriculture Produce Market Committee. It has been decided to conduct the election as the earlier procedure in which the selection of committee members used to be from the members of the cooperative societies.

Voting rights to farmers resulted in a big rise in numbers of voters. The APMCs were facing financial burdens while implementing the election process, as they did not get any grant from the Government. Expenses of these committees are completely based on market fee. The High Court expressed reluctance on some committees, as they did not conduct the election on decided time. Therefore, the decision has been taken to cancel the voting right of farmers in the election procedure of APMC. The provision to select 15 farmers' representatives will be as it is.

Out of these 15 members, 11 members will be from the management committee of working service cooperative societies and multi-purpose cooperative societies, and



four from Gram Panchayat members.

According to the provision of 2017, farmers who had 10 R land and who sell their agriculture produce in the APMC can vote in the election of the committee. Now, this provision will be cancelled through the related ordinance.



2, Section 7, Section 10, Section 13 and Sections 14-20 of Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2019 will be done from the date, which will be declared by the Goods and Services Tax Council. The Cabinet has given approval to make an ordinance in this regard.

## REVISED PAY SCALE FOR THE TEACHERS IN SCIENCE UNIVERSITIES

The All India Council for Technical Education has recommended a revised pay scale of Seventh Pay Commission for the teachers in Government and non-government granted degree and diploma courses, chemical technology societies, technical science universities and those in equivalent posts in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technical Science University, Lonere. The Cabinet has approved the decision. ■



*The Shramnirmit Jalswarajya project has the ability to completely block rainwater from being wasted in the premises of the Police Training Academy, Jalna. With three old water storage ponds, 16 new ponds and one well, the capacity to store crores of litres of water has been created within the training centre, owing to which it is able to meet its own needs and those of the newly planted trees, says* **Namdev Dnyandev Chavan.**

**G**lobal warming is causing adverse effects on nature and humankind. Due to the shift in climate, natural resources are depleting day-by-day. It has now become necessary to take strong measures to curb its harmful effects. Various campaigns are being implemented by the State and Union Government as well as the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) towards this goal. Financial aid has also been made available and State police personnel have registered their participation in the mission. Under this, innovative concepts have been implemented in coordination with the Government, semi-government and private organisations within the operational area of the Police Training Academy, Jalna. Consequently, the Shramnirmit Jalswarajya (efforts-led water sufficiency) project has been started with the joint cooperation of all external and internal officers, trainers and their teams at the training centre at the academy as well as the trainees who volunteered.

#### OVERCOMING WATER SCARCITY

A drought-like situation had occurred in the city of Jalna owing to inadequate rainfall. Wells and borewells in the police training centre had dried up. The trainees managed to water the trees in the region by bringing



Due to the water conservation work, reservoirs are blessed with rainwater.

## WATER SUFFICIENCY POWERED BY PEOPLE

water from outside, an exercise that amounted to a minimum of eight tankers per day. Due to water scarcity, the newly-enlisted policemen, prison trainees and Maharashtra Security Force trainees (926 in total) who were being trained at the centre were to be sent elsewhere. With a view to address the problem of frequent droughts, a seven-point programme was drafted:

- There was a ban on cattle grazing. A deep fence was put up on the periphery of the training centre.
- Contour fencing was constructed to block the water in the catchment area.
- Small soil dams, followed by large/medium soil dams were built to block water overflowing from the contour fence.
- Drainage was deepened to block water in soil dams.



■ Harvesting of water in the drainage, rainwater harvesting in apartments, and refilling of borewells were carried out in the region.

■ 35,000 saplings of *neem* and *jatropha* were prepared in the training centre itself and 60,000 trees, under Atal Ghan Van project, were planted in the entire catchment area and on both sides of the drainage. In all, 95,000 trees have been planted and nurtured.

■ On the sides of the drainage, four wells of 40-inch diameter and 80-inch depth have been made.

All of the above were executed step-by-step. The volunteering of Navpratishthan proved to be of immense value. It can be credited for making 95 per cent of the project successful.

### TREE PLANTATION

Under the 33 crore tree plantation project of the Government, trees were planted in various places in the area under the training centre as per the objectives set for the Police Training Academy. Initially, 10,000 trees were planted, including *jatropha*, sesame, tamarind, *neem* and bamboo.

The Sankalp Nursery was created by building a green net in the area behind the administrative building of the police training centre. Empty plastic packs of milk from the eatery were collected. After putting black soil and manure in these packs, 35,000 plant saplings were prepared for various species such as bamboo, *neem* and *jatropha*. With the help of the divisional

forest officer of the Social Forestry Department of Jalna, currently, Atal Anandvan Ghan Van is being implemented on an area of land measuring two hectares of the Police Training Academy. A minimum of 60,000 trees have already been planted, comprising 18 local, indigenous species. To sum it up, this year, planting and nurturing of 95,000 trees is in progress in the region of the academy in Jalna.

### RISE IN WATER STORAGE LEVEL

In the second phase of Jalyukta Shivar Yojana, the height of the sidewalk along the industrial estate was increased. A pond admeasuring 520 metres in length, 60 metres in breadth and 2.5 metres in depth was built.

By completing the work of small dams, contours, trenches and tree plantation in the catchment area and bringing the water from the drain coming from the adjoining territorial limits of the forest department into the dam, a pond was constructed to store water. Similarly, an arrangement was made to store water by building six additional medium-sized soil dams on the small drainage behind the apartment situated between Gate 1 and Gate 2 of the training centre. Thus, 25 ponds were created within this territorial limit.

During the period of retreating monsoon, Jalna city received more rainfall than expected. Due to this, the contour trenches, ponds, small dams, big dams and the deepened drainage became full with water, making the once dysfunctional bore wells and wells in the training centre blessed with water.

The area of the training centre is vast. The officers, workers and trainees themselves rendered volunteer service to build small, medium and big water ponds under the water harvesting scheme. Accolades for the Shramnirmit Jalswarajya project and the volunteer work of the Navpratishthan have come in from many quarters.

—Principal, Police Training Centre, Jalna

### ASSISTANCE FROM NGOS

After seeing the completion of water conservation works in the police training academy, the workers and office bearers of Anand Nagari Multi-Purpose NGO provided the police training centre with their own Pokland machine at an affordable rate for one month. Initially, using the said JCB, the work of widening and deepening of the drainage adjacent to the hostel at Devagiri and Verul was completed. The water flowing outside the training centre region was blocked.

Today, the programme has the ability to completely block the rainwater falling on the premises of the training centre. By renovating three old water storage ponds and creating 16 new ponds and one well, the capacity to store crores of litres of water storage has been created, owing to which the academy is able to meet the needs of the training centre and sustaining the life to trees planted around.



At the training centre, water stock is created by collecting rainwater.

# A SMALL COUNTRY'S GIANT LEAP

*Israel is comfortably located between Africa and Asia, enjoying a splendid climate and a unique diversity of cultures and natural beauty. Good connectivity and convenient proximity between one attraction and the other make Israel a favourable destination for a growing number of tourists, says Anay Joglekar.*

**S**peaking about Israel's point of view and its priority in terms of development, the Consul General of Israel in Mumbai, Yaakov Finkelstein said that Israel has always aspired to be an envoy to all nations. "It may sound pretentious to some, but we see it as our responsibility. It is our desire and courage to make this whole world beautiful by constantly looking for innovation. Due to this, Israel strives to find creative solutions to challenges in the fields of water, agriculture, energy and health, and share it with other friendly countries around the world. At the same time, we use and develop sophisticated technologies for defence, from physical security to cyber-security. Israelis are known for original thinking and entrepreneurship which has got the country the title of The Start-Up Nation. In that respect, many people say Israelis think out of the box; the way I see it—we Israelis just don't see the box!" he added.

That is why Israel has become the Middle East's Silicon Valley for innovation, cutting-edge R&D, cyber-security, smart cities and automotive technologies. It is a leading destination for global multinationals for investing in tomorrow's technologies.

## UNIQUE TRADITION

Israel merges its unique traditions with democratic values to create a Jewish-democratic State, as envisioned by its founding fathers in the proclamation of independence in 1948: "The State of Israel will... foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective



of religion, race or gender." countries, which show growing interest in Israeli technologies, sports activities and bilateral relations. It gives one reason to be optimistic about the future of the region.

## THE CONFLUENCE OF DIFFERENT CULTURES

There are many tourist destinations in Israel. That is why Israel has always attracted the attention of travellers from world over. Given the country's development, modern technology and historical sites, Israel is fast becoming popular on the tourism map of the world.

Asked about Israel's tourism business and opportunities, the Consul

## BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND INDIA

Today, a large number of Indian Jewish communities have migrated to Israel. That is why Israel and India enjoy a strategic partnership, which is at an all-time peak since the mutual visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to each other's country. "Our relations go a long way back, based on the historic ties between Jews and Indians, with the thriving Jewish community here that is approximately 2,000 years old," he said.

Bilateral relations between India and Israel were gradually but constantly evolving till full diplomatic relations were established on 29 January 1992. The good cooperation expands from the G2G (Government to Government) level to the B2B (business to business) level and P2P (people to people) level. Their bilateral trade has increased from \$200 million in 1992 to \$5.8 billion in 2018.

Today, many Indian companies have started investing in Israeli innovation and R&D systems, particularly in the areas of IT, cyber-security, smart mobility, agriculture, water management and smart cities. Tourism and cultural exchanges are flourishing between the two countries. The number of Indian students in Israeli universities is increasing as well. In fact, the highest number of foreign students in Israel is from India.

of religion, race or gender."

Israel strives to live in peace with its neighbours. The country believes that economic prosperity and modernisation in the Middle East, combined with education and dialogue, are the keys to achieve peace. This change that started with Egypt and Jordan is now spreading to other Arab and Muslim

General said, "Israel is comfortably located between Africa and Asia, enjoying a splendid climate and a unique diversity of cultures and natural beauty within a small territory of just about 22,000 sq km. (roughly the size of Manipur). In just about one or two hours' drive, one can change from the golden sandy beaches of Tel Aviv and its vibrant

night-life scene to the magnificent walls of Jerusalem, with its historical sites, to enjoy extreme sports or Bedouin hospitality in the desert, hike in the Galilee mountains, scuba dive in Eilat or relish a unique spa in the Dead Sea, which is the lowest point on earth."

on attractive campaigns and the results are clear: tourism from India registered a 21 per cent growth in 2018. Approximately, 70,800 Indian travellers visited the country from January to December 2018, putting India in the 12th position



Good connectivity and convenient proximity between such attractions make Israel a favourable destination for a growing number of tourists. More than four million tourists visited Israel last year; among these tourists were a large number of Indians who visited Israel both for business and leisure. The recent opening of direct flights to Israel from New Delhi, Goa and Kochi, in addition to the existing long flight from Mumbai, makes it easier and cheaper to go to Israel. "We have an active tourism office in Mumbai which works constantly

in terms of incoming tourism. We expect the numbers for 2019 to be even higher," informed Yaakov Finkelstein.

#### MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Consul General of Israel arrived in Mumbai and took several constructive steps to boost the cordial relations between India and Israel. He called himself fortunate to serve in Mumbai at the time of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's historic visit to India in January 2018. It was the first time an Israeli Prime Minister had visited Mumbai. "The visit accelerated our ongoing cooperation with the western States of India. It gave a great boost to our economic, cultural and technological cooperation. Soon after the visit, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Government of Maharashtra and Israel's national water company to prepare a master plan for the Marathwada Water Grid project. The project will use advanced Israeli water technology to connect 11 dams in the region to make droughts a history."

During the visit, leading figures in Bollywood, including Amitabh Bachchan, Karan Johar, Aishwaraya Rai and Sara Ali Khan gathered to welcome Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a cultural programme called Shalom Bollywood, where Netanyahu invited the fraternity to come and shoot films in Israel. Indeed, recently the first clip shot in Tel Aviv with Jacqueline Fernandez and Sushant Singh Rajput for the movie *Drive* was re-released on Netflix. "We are working with the State Governments and private sector in our region to enhance cooperation in the areas of smart cities, smart mobility, cyber, higher education and start-up ecosystems," said Yaakov Finkelstein.

#### DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

Faced with a conflict and uncertain conditions, Israel is on the path of continuous development. It, thus, becomes necessary for Consul General Yaakov Finkelstein to consider how Israel would develop politically, socially and culturally in the next ten years.

"We are proud that Israel is a fast-growing economy and a very democratic system with an independent press and very noisy political discourse. At the time of our independence, we had a population of six lakh. Today, we have crossed nine million and are expected to have more than 10 million people by 2024. It is not less than a miracle that a country with vast tracts of barren land, scanty rainfall, lack of fertile soil, and security challenges has come such a long way and continues to thrive. We have a very vibrant culture, as Jewish people in Israel have come from more than 70 countries, bringing along their cuisine, music and culture. It has blended very well with the native Israeli culture. In the future, Israel will strive to be the leading centre of cutting-edge research and technologies and find solutions to global problems. I invite you all to come and see this miracle called Israel with your own eyes. I guarantee you'll enjoy the Israeli experience!" he added. ■



# RAJGAD: THE KING OF FORTS



Rajgad, which proudly boasted the honour of being the capital of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for 25 years, is the favourite among fort lovers and admirers of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. There are many amazing facts about the fort, such as it being a witness to several historical events, Belag, armour building as well as its bonds with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Rajmata Jijasaheb that make it so popular. Rajgad shows its sturdiness during summers, beautifies itself with lush greenery during monsoon, and covers itself with a thick blanket of fog during winters. Other forts such as Torna, Pratapgad, Raigad, Lingana, Sinhagad, Purandar, Vajragad, Malhargad, Rohida, Raireshwar, Lohagad and Visapur can also be seen from Rajgad. Hence, to get a glimpse of Swarajya, a visit to Rajgad is a must, says **Sarang Khanapurkar**.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

After conquering the fort of Torana, Shivaraya (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj) laid the foundation of Swarajya (self-rule). Making judicious use of the wealth that he found at the Torana Fort, he constructed the fort of Rajgad on the mountain of Murumbadeva.

Shivaraya built stone *machis* (plateaus), defensive walls and a citadel on the mountain which, owing to its three extremely high, rugged cliffs and huge rock patches in the middle region, made it invincible.

After receiving the honour of becoming the first capital of Swarajya, the fort witnessed several incidents of joy, sadness and tension. It saw the birth of Rajaram Maharaj and the demise of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's wife, Saibai. When Maharaj battled Afzal Khan at Pratapgad, he took off from this fort. When he escaped from Agra, he came to Rajgad. Shivaraya stayed in this fort for 25 years, from 1648 to 1672, and it is from here that he expanded his kingdom, overseeing its administration. It was only later that he shifted his capital to Raigad.

**Padmavati machi:** The flattest surface on the fort is at the Padmavati *machi*. Hence, there are residential units, documentation office, *samadhi* (grave) of Saibai, Padmavati temple, Padmavati lake as well as grain and gunpowder storehouses. The Padmavati lake and secret doorway is at the lower region of the *machi*. There is a rest house, the temple of Lord Shankar and Padmavati temple in the middle. Saibai's *samadhi* is in front of the temple.

**Sanjivani machi:** Sanjivani *machi* lies to the west of Padmavati *machi*. The *machi* has three sections and is spread over an area of 2.5 kilometres. There are 19 bastions within these three sections. The *machis* of Suvela and Sanjivani on Rajgad are also covered with armour externally. There are pathways between these intertwined bastions. Dual *machi* is a feature of Rajgad Fort. There are several water cisterns on this *machi*. One can reach Sanjivani *machi* from Aalu Darwaza also. Since the *machi* is shaped

like the English letter S, the external door outside the Aalu Darwaza cannot be seen from inside; similarly, the internal door cannot be seen from outside.

**Suvela machi:** This *machi* is named Suvela as it faces east. A climb on the side of the Padmavati pond brings one to Rameshwar temple and Padmavati temple. Moving further, one road goes towards the citadel, another one to the left goes towards Suvela *machi* and the third one to the right goes towards Sanjivani *machi*.

Passing through Suvela *machi*, the pathway goes on shrinking and reaches a hilltop. It is called *Duba*. Just around the *Duba* is the Jhunjhar bastion. This bastion divides the *machi* region into

opposite lies the north bastion. The entire expanse of Rajgad Fort can be seen from this place. Adjoining this north bastion is a temple dedicated to sage Brahmarshi. The ruins of buildings, platforms and palaces can be seen at the citadel.

### OTHER PLACES TO SEE

**Padmavati Lake:** This is a remarkably constructed vast lake in the Padmavati *machi*. The walls of the lake are still intact. An arch has been made within the wall to allow passage into the lake.

**Gunjavane Darwaza:** This doorway is a series of three entrances. The first door, though simple, is strong. The second door has a distinctive arch. The en-

nanced a long history. Its construction was very strategically planned and shows the far-sightedness of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The vastness of the fort, gruelling routes, dense forest, huge cliffs, armoured *machi* and the fort structure frustrated the enemy. Many described the fort as 'extremely difficult and unconquerable'. No wonder it was known as the king of the forts!



### HOW TO REACH THE FORT?

Distance from Pune: 48 km. Height from sea level: 1394 feet. On the Pune-Satara Highway, there is a diversion at Nasrapur which further leads to Rajgad. There are Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) buses from various bus-stops, namely Karjat, Pali, Pune and Gunjavane.

### PATHWAYS TO REACH THE FORT

**Gupt Darwaza (secret doorway):** One can reach Rajgad from Vajeghar village. There are railings at a distance of an hour from Babuda zapa. One can reach the fort with the help of the railing.

**Pali Darwaza:** One should take the Pune-Velhe state transport bus going via Velhe and get down at the village of Pabe. After crossing Kanad river, one should reach the Pali doorway. This route comprises of stairs and so is the easiest one. It takes three hours to climb the fort from this route.

**Gunjavane Darwaza:** After getting down at the village of Margasani on the Pune-Velhe highway, one can reach the village of Gunjavane via Sakhar. This route is a bit difficult. So, one should not take this route without a guide.

**Accommodation facility:** One can stay at the Padmavati temple on the fort. Besides, there are lodging rooms for tourists. One should arrange for one's food. Water is available throughout the year as there are water cisterns on the fort.

—The author is a journalist with  
Dainik Sakal

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE FORT

The Rajgad Fort has three platforms or *machis*, namely Padmavati, Suvela and Sanjivani. There is a citadel on a tall rock patch in the middle of the fort. Every *machi* has an independent gate. There is Pali Darwaza (doorway) to reach Padmavati *machi*, Aalu Darwaza for Sanjivani *machi* and Gunjavane Darwaza to reach Suvela *machi*. Besides, there are secret doorways everywhere. Most of the prominent routes on this fort reach Padmavati *machi*. Since Pali Darwaza is the royal entrance, it is wide and tall enough to allow passage for the palanquins. There are steps to reach the watchtower at the Maha Darwaza (or huge gate). There are also two primary gates, namely upper and lower gates. From the watchtower at the upper gate, the entire route below comes into vision. The watchtowers provided protection to the entrance gates. Inside this gate, there are guard posts on both sides. Upon entering the fort from this gate, we reach Padmavati *machi*.

two parts. There is a narrow rock patch at the centre of the Suvela *machi*. From the front, its shape appears to be like that of an elephant. There is an aperture inside this rock patch. Some call it the Tiger's Eye.

At the side of the cliff, there are honeycombs. Many have regretted disturbing the honey bees here. At the last section of the Suvela *machi*, there is a sculpture of Waghjai.

**Citadel:** This is the tallest part of Rajgad. The route leading to the citadel is steep and narrow. The door of the citadel is huge, 6 metres in height, with symbols of lotus and *swastik* engraved upon it. *Machis* are built around the citadel and there are bastions at particular intervals. Upon entering the site, one reaches the Janani temple and *Chandratala* (a pond). To its



graveyard on it is worth seeing. This gate leads to the Padmavati *machi*.

**Aalu Darwaza:** This was the route to reach Sanjivani *machi*. It also links Rajgad Fort to Torana Fort.

### VISITING THE FORT

Rajgad is a beautiful fort that has wit-

# The Cabinet

Minister	Portfolio	Official Address	Guardian Minister
Shri Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray, Chief Minister	General Administration, Information Technology, Information and Public Relations, Law and Judiciary and Departments or subjects not specifically allotted to any other Minister	Mantralaya Main Building, 6th Floor, Room No. 601	---
Shri Ajit Anantrao Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister	Finance, Planning	Mantralaya Main Building, 6th Floor (North)	Pune
Shri Subhash Rajaram Desai	Industries, Mining, Marathi Language	Mantralaya Main Building, 5th Floor(Centre) Room No. 502	Aurangabad
Shri Ashok Shankarrao Chavan	Public Works (Excluding Public Undertakings)	Mantralaya Annexe, 2nd Floor Room Nos. 205-207	Nanded
Shri Chhagan Chandrakant Bhujbal	Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection	Mantralaya Main Building, 2nd Floor (Centre) Room No. 202	Nashik
Shri Dilip Dattatray Walse-Patil	Labour, State Excise	Mantralaya Annexe, 5th Floor, Room No. 507	Solapur
Shri Jayant Rajaram Patil	Water Resources and Command Area Development	Mantralaya Annexe, 6th Floor, Room No. 607	Sangli
Shri Anil Vasantrao Deshmukh	Home	Mantralaya Main Building, 1st Floor, Room No. 101	Gondia
Shri Vijay alias Balasaheb Bhauasaheb Thorat	Revenue	Mantralaya Annexe, 1st floor, Room No. 108	----
Dr. Rajendra Bhaskarrao Shingane	Food and Drug Administration	Mantralaya Main Building, 1st Floor, Room No. 103	Buldhana
Shri Rajesh Ankushrao Tope	Public Health and Family Welfare	Mantralaya, Main Building, 4th Floor, Room No. 403	Jalna
Shri Nawab Mohammed Islam Malik	Minorities Development and Aukaf, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Mantralaya Main Building, 2nd Floor, Room No. 203	Parbhani
Shri Hasan Miyalal Mushrif	Rural Development	Mantralaya Main Building, 3rd Floor, Room No. 302	Ahmednagar
Dr. Nitin Kashinath Raut	Energy	Mantralaya Main Building, 4th Floor (Centre) Room No. 402	Nagpur
Smt. Varsha Eknath Gaikwad	School Education	Mantralaya Main Building, 3rd Floor, Room No. 303	Hingoli
Dr. Jitendra Satish Awhad	Housing	Mantralaya Annexe, 2nd Floor, Room Nos. 201, 202, 212	----
Shri Eknath Sambhaji Shinde	Urban Development, Public Works (Public Undertakings)	Mantralaya Annexe, 3rd floor, Room Nos. 302-307	Thane and Gadchiroli
Shri Sunil Chhatrapal Kedar	Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Sports and Youth Welfare	Mantralaya Main Building, 2nd Floor, Room No. 201	Wardha
Shri Vijay Namdevrao Wadettiwar	Other Backward Classes, Socially and Educationally Backward Classes, Vimukta Jatis, Nomadic Tribes and Special Backward Classes Welfare, Khar Lands Development, Disaster Management, Relief & Rehabilitation	Mantralaya Main Building, 3rd Floor, Room No. 301	Chandrapur
Shri Amit Vilasrao Deshmukh	Medical Education, Cultural Affairs	Mantralaya Main Building, 4th Floor, Room No. 401	Latur
Shri Uday Ravindra Samant	Higher and Technical Education	Mantralaya Main Building, 5th Floor, Room No. 501	Sindhudurg
Shri Dadaji Dagdu Bhuse	Agriculture, Ex. Servicemen Welfare	Mantralaya Annexe, 4th Floor, Room No. 407	Palghar
Shri Sanjay Dulichand Rathod	Forest, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation	Mantralaya Annexe, 6th floor, Room No. 601	Yavatmal
Shri Gulabrao Raghunath Patil	Water Supply and Sanitation	Mantralaya Main Building, Ground Floor (1)	Jalgaon



Adv. K.C. Padvi	Tribal Development	Mantralaya Annexe, 5th floor, Room No. 502	Nandurbar
Shri Sandipanrao Aasaram Bhumre	Employment Guarantee, Horticulture	Mantralaya Annexe, 3rd floor, Room No. 316	----
Shri Shamrao alias Balasaheb Pandurang Patil	Co-operation, Marketing	Mantralaya Annexe, 2nd floor, Room No. 241	Satara
Adv. Anil Dattatray Parab	Transport, Parliamentary Affairs	Mantralaya Main Building, 5th floor, Room No. 503	Ratnagiri
Shri Aslam Ramzan Ali Shaikh	Textiles, Fisheries, Ports Development	Mantralaya Annexe, 4th floor, Room No. 402	Mumbai City
Adv. Yashomati Chandrakant Thakur (Sonawane)	Women and Child Development	Mantralaya Annexe, 5th floor, Room No. 540	Amravati
Shri Shankarrao Yashwantrao Gadakh	Soil and Water Conservation	Mantralaya Annexe, 1st floor, Room Nos.115, 117	Osmanabad
Shri Dhananjay Panditrao Munde	Social Justice and Special Assistance	Mantralaya Main Building, 1st Floor, Room No. 102	Beed
Shri Aditya Uddhav Thackeray	Tourism, Environment, Protocol	Mantralaya Main Building, 7th floor, Room No. 717	Mumbai Suburban

Minister of State	Portfolio	Official Address	Guardian Minister
Shri Abdul Nabi Sattar	Revenue, Rural Development, Ports, Khar Lands Development, Special Assistance	Mantralaya Annexe, 3rd floor, Room No. 340	Dhule
Shri Satej alias Bunt D. Patil	Home (Urban), Housing, Transport, Information Technology, Parliamentary Affairs, Ex. Servicemen Welfare	Mantralaya Annexe, 1st floor, Room No. 139	Kolhapur
Shri Shambhuraje Shivajirao Desai	Home (Rural), Finance, Planning, State Excise, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Marketing	Vidhan Bhavan	Washim
Shri Omprakash alias Bacchu Babarao Kadu	Water Resources and Command Area Development, School Education, Women and Child Development, Other Backward Classes, Socially and Educationally, Backward Classes, Vimukta Jatis, Nomadic Tribes, Special Backward Classes Welfare, Labour	Vidhan Bhavan	Akola
Shri Dattatray Vithoba Bharane	Public Works (excluding Public Undertakings), Soil and Water Conservation, Forests, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, General Administration	Mantralaya Annexe, 7th Floor, Room Nos. 700, 701	---
Dr. Vishwajeet Patangrao Kadam	Co-operation, Agriculture, Social Justice, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Minorities Development and Aukaf, Marathi Language	Mantralaya Annexe, 7th floor, Room Nos. 703, 704	Bhandara
Shri Rajendra Shamgonda Patil-Yadravkar	Public Health and Family Welfare, Medical Education, Food and Drug Administration, Textiles, Cultural Affairs	Vidhan Bhavan	---
Shri Sanjay Baburao Bansode	Environment, Water Supply and Sanitation, Public Works (Public Undertakings), Employment Guarantee, Earthquake Rehabilitation, Parliamentary Affairs	Vidhan Bhavan	---
Shri Prajakt Prasadrao Tanpure	Urban Development, Energy, Tribal Development, Higher and Technical Education, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation	Vidhan Bhavan	---
Kum. Aaditi Sunil Tatkare	Industries and Mining, Tourism, Horticulture, Sports and Youth Welfare, Protocol, Information and Public Relations	Mantralaya Main Building, Ground Floor (2)	Raigad

Reference: [www.maharashtra.gov.in](http://www.maharashtra.gov.in)



## MAHARASHTRA RETAINS TOP SPOT AT KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

**M**aharashtra has achieved the top position in the medals tally at the Khelo India Youth Games. It's a matter of pride that the State has secured this position for the second consecutive year at the competition with 256 medals.

Sports are important for an individual's personal development. However, the games are somehow restricted only to children playing with their friends during summer break or other holidays. The Khelo India Youth Games have, however, showcased the importance of sports in schools and has helped tremendously in entrenching the culture of sports in Maharashtra. At this year's final medal tally, Maharashtra's sportspersons performed brilliantly and earned 256 medals—78 gold, 77 silver and 101 bronze—helping the State rank first. It was followed by Haryana with 200 medals and Delhi with 122 medals. Since the beginning of these competitions, Maharashtra has main-



"It's a matter of pride that Maharashtra has emerged victorious for the second consecutive year in the Khelo India Youth Games."

All support will be given to these young sportspersons to ensure that they keep succeeding and making the State proud."

—Uddhav Thackeray, Chief Minister



"Team Maharashtra's success in the Khelo India Youth Games is commendable. Various schemes and

initiatives will be implemented by the Youth Welfare Department to provide necessary facilities to budding sportspersons."

—Sunil Kedar, Minister, Sports and Youth Welfare

tained an unquestioned supremacy in medal tally.

The Khelo India Youth Games were held in Guwahati, Assam. The team from



"The achievement of Maharashtra sportspersons at Khelo India Youth Games is definitely good news for the fu-

ture of sports in the State. The Government will extend all necessary help to its future players to perform successfully internationally."

—Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister



"The success of young sportspersons from Maharashtra at the Khelo India Youth Games is very encouraging.

To boost the sports culture in the State, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Welfare will take up various programmes."

—Aditi Tatkare, Minister of State, Sports and Youth Welfare

Maharashtra was awarded the trophy at Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor Stadium, Sarusajai. Maharashtra had participated in 19 out of the 20 sports categories, from which swimmers won the maximum 46 medals; 40 medals were won by gymnasts; the State won 31 in wrestling, 29 in athletics and 25 in weight-lifting.

The Khelo India Youth Games are organised to encourage budding sportspersons. It is an opportunity for both school-going students and college youth to prove their mettle. Last year, the games were held at Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi, Pune, where Maharashtra won 227 medals. This year, Maharashtra made the medal count better and held on to its first rank. ■

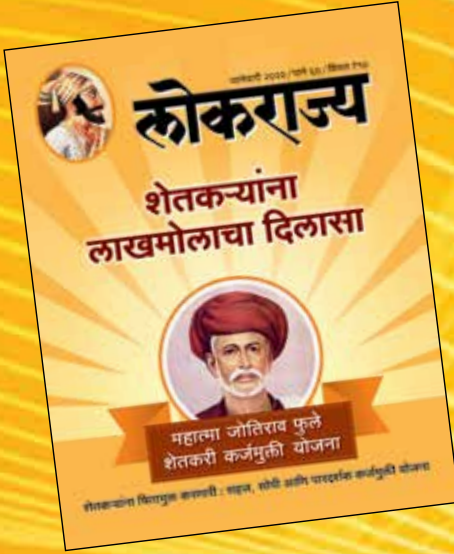


The winning Maharashtra team at Khelo India Youth Games 2020 in Guwahati, Assam.





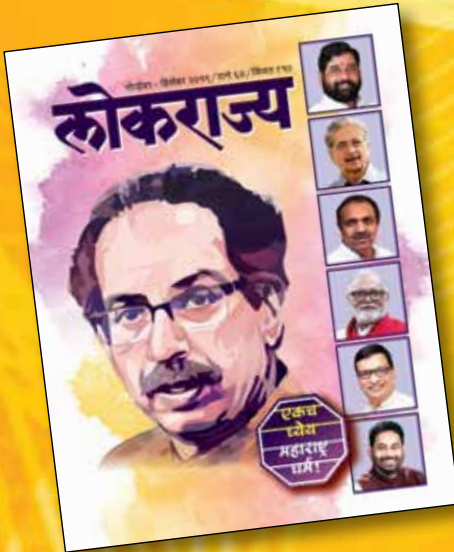
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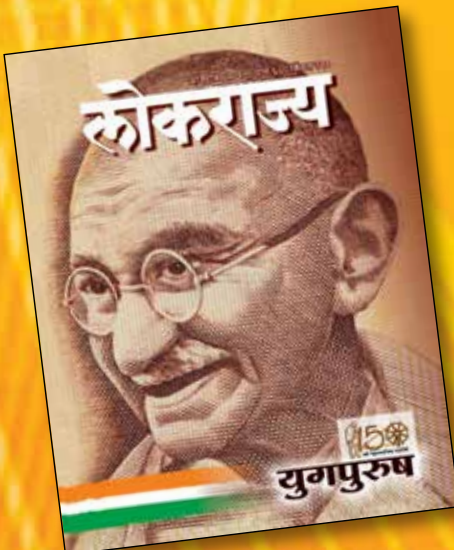
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# Maharashtra Ahead

**Anil Aloorkar**  
Deputy Director (Publications)  
Directorate General of Information and Public Relations  
Lokrajya Branch, Thackersey House, 2nd floor,  
Mumbai Port Trust, near Port House,  
Shoorji Vallabhkhay Road, Ballard Estate  
Mumbai- 400001

